AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE GUIDELINES

Nomination Process

- Honorees can be nominated by ITA members or non-members.
- Announcements regarding the new nomination form and awards criteria will be made via ITA’s ListServe and eFollowspot.
- Nomination forms will be circulated by email and available on ITA’s website.
- Nomination forms can be completed and submitted online or via email or conventional mail.
- If nominations are not received, no award will be given.
- If more than one nomination is received, they will be reviewed by the appropriate Division Representatives and recommendations will be made to the Board.

Types of Awards

Award of Honor:
Recipient consistently meets awards criteria over a period of years and is a model for excellence in the field of theatre arts.

Award of Honor – member
Award of Honor – non-member

Division Awards:
Recipient consistently meets awards criteria and is a model for excellence in a specific field of theatre arts.

College/University Theatre
Community Theatre
Creative Drama
Professional Theatre
Secondary Education Theatre
Theatre for Your Audiences

Anne Thurman Mentorship Award:
Recipient provides extraordinary mentorship to theatre artists and educators throughout the state, helping to cultivate the highest standards of excellence in the field.

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Awards Criteria for all Divisions (except College/University Theatre)

**Leadership:**
Awardees must provide proven and solid leadership among peers.

**Innovation:**
Awardees must develop innovations in the field of theatre.

**Standards of Excellence:**
Awardees must promote and develop highest standards.

**Contributions:**
Awardees must make far-reaching contributions to the field of theatre, and/or to the Illinois Theatre Association.

**Mentorship:**
Awardees must be involved in the cultivation of others in the broader theatre community, and bring theatre arts to new recipients.

**Passion:**
Awardees must instill passion for theatre arts in students or colleagues.

**Development:**
Awardees must encourage individual growth and personal development through theatre arts.

**Advocacy:**
Awardees must be effective advocates for the Illinois theatre community.

Awards Criteria for the College/University Theatre Division

**Acclaim:**
Awardees must be known in Illinois for excellent contributions to the field through any combination of publication(s), creative work, conference presentations, administration, and service to theatre in the state of Illinois.

**Time Tested:**
Awardees must be Associate or Full Professors (including emeritus status) at the time of nomination with noted achievement(s) from at least six years of activity within the state of Illinois.

**Service:**
Awardees must be authentic role models not only to peers, but also students of theatre in the state of Illinois.

**Mentorship:**
Awardees must be involved in the cultivation of the careers of others in the broader theatre community.

**Advocacy:**
Awardees must be effective advocates for the Illinois theatre community.

**Letters of recommendation:**
Three letters of recommendation from students and peers addressing the criteria listed above must be submitted along with the Awards of Excellence Nomination Form.
**Awards Criteria for the Anne Thurman Mentorship Award**

**Mentor:** (Mirriam-Webster Dictionary) A wise and trusted counselor or guide. (Synonyms: coach, teacher, nurturer…)

**History:** Anne Thurman was the quintessential mentor. As a teacher, she demanded excellence from her students. However, those demands were tempered with her willingness to support, advise, and lead her students through the process they needed to succeed. If a student failed, she considered it HER failure! Her mentorship of her students did not end when their class ended. She continued to follow their careers, attend their productions, and support their projects. In addition, she felt that, as a professional, it was her duty and responsibility to be active in her field’s professional associations.

Therefore, the Illinois Theatre Association’s Anne Thurman Mentorship Award should be presented to an individual who embodies the following:

**Excellence** in the teaching of drama/theatre at the K-12 or College/University levels.

A **History** of putting students first: embracing and supporting their needs & triumphs in the classroom and beyond.

**Leadership** in the drama/theatre professional organizations: Illinois Theatre Association and the American Alliance for Theatre & Education.

**Leadership** in the guidance and improvement of the field of drama/theatre education.

**Innovative Contributions** to the field of drama/theatre education.

**Passion** for the field of theatre instilled in students, colleagues, & the community.

**Continued Development/Growth** in the field of drama/theatre arts

**Advocacy** for the continued growth, development, and existence of drama/theatre in education, the community, and the state of Illinois.

See Awards of Excellence Nomination Form on Next Page
Awards of Excellence Nomination Form

Date and Year: __________________ Type of Award: ________________________________

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Organization: __________________________________________________________

Street Address: _________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________

NOMINATOR INFORMATION:

Name: _________________________________________________________________

Organization: __________________________________________________________

Phone Number: _________________________________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________

Attach a formal statement with information that explains why the nominee deserves the award. Refer to the criteria listed for the award when preparing your nomination. Please be specific in listing activities that you feel qualifies the nominee for the award. Also, be specific regarding the length of involvement, such as “since 1983” or “for 22 years,” rather than “a long-time volunteer.” The maximum length of submission should be 3 pages.

Please use this form to make nominations for any of the ITA’s Awards of Excellence. For additional information contact the ITA office at 630-635-2066, or send an email to aimeelynn@illinoistheatre. Fill out this form as completely as possible. Supporting information is important as there may be several nominations for the same award.

Nomination deadline: See the awards page of the website for the deadline date. Awards will be presented at the ITA’s Annual Meeting (date tba), and/or at a date and location determined by the award recipient.

Send to: ITA Awards Committee 123 Mill Pond Dr. Glendale Heights, IL 60139
info@illinoistheatre.org

If confirmation is not received in one week, contact the ITA office.