



AMPHIBIAN STAGE

March 1, 2023

SEEKING TEXAS-BASED MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN/SOUTH ASIAN (MENASA) PROFESSIONAL ACTORS FOR FIRST ANNUAL AMPHIBIAN STAGE SPARKFEST ACTING COMPETITION

Amphibian Stage, a non-profit professional theater based in Fort Worth, invites professional actors to participate in an acting competition. The first-ever competition will take place in Fort Worth from June 8 through 10 and will be strictly for MENASA actors. If selected to compete, you must be available to attend sessions and events on these three dates.

Judges for the competition will be: [Taylor Blackman](#), [Spencer Gualdoni](#), [Kate Moore Heaney](#), and [Sharifa Yasmin](#).

Awards include: \$5000 for first prize winner, \$4000 for second prize winner, \$3000 for third prize winner, and \$1000 for audience favorite.

Schedule:

March 1 through 20 – Submission portal open
April 3 – Ten actors announced for participation in competition
June 8 – Round 1 of competition
June 9 – Round 2 of competition, finalists announced
June 10 – Final round of competition, awards, reception

Details:

If selected to compete, you must be available to attend sessions and events on these three dates.

Amphibian will reimburse up to \$300 in travel expenses to each selected competitor. We will provide private accommodations for all competitors who live 50 miles or farther from Amphibian's building.

Selected competitors will be asked to perform a monologue of their choice for round 1 – not to exceed 3 minutes. For round 2 they will be given a scene and 30 minutes to prepare before performing it for the judges. The judges will give adjustments and hear the scene at least twice by each actor. A reader will be provided. Five actors will be eliminated after round 2. For the final round actors will perform their monologue again, taking into consideration written notes provided by the judges.

Competitors will be asked to secure the rights to the material they perform during rounds 1 & 3 of the competition.

How to submit:

Please fill out the form [HERE](#). You will be required to answer a few questions and submit a headshot, resume, and a video of two contrasting monologues.

About our judges:

Taylor Blackman (he/him) is an actor, writer, producer, director, and professor based in Brooklyn, NY. As an actor, Taylor recently finished the first National Tour of *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. He has also performed with Roundabout Theatre Company, The Movement Theatre Company, The Public Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and New York Stage & Film. Taylor can also be seen on Comedy Central's "Alternatino" and on CBS' "FBI". As a playwright, he is currently under commission with Ensemble Studio Theatre & Roberta P Sloan to create a new scientific play. He has held residency with Hi-ARTS Harlem to develop new works, as well creatively produced readings and workshops of his own work. Taylor recently served as the movement director for a recent production of *Sweet Chariot* that premiered at The Public Theatre's Under The Radar Festival. He holds a professorship with the New

School in the Theatre Department. Taylor is currently working on a new musical titled *Hero*, created by Shariffa Ali and Vuyo Sotashe.

Spencer Gualdoni (he/him/his) is an Associate Casting Director at Tara Rubin Casting. Spencer joined Tara Rubin Casting in January 2020. Prior to TRC, Spencer began his casting career in the summer of 2016 at The Telsey Office where he served as an intern and had the pleasure of assisting on *The Producers* at Paper Mill Playhouse and numerous other theatrical productions and national commercials. Post-graduation, Spencer worked for over three years as the Executive Assistant to Broadway Director + Choreographer Jeff Calhoun. In conjunction with his work with Mr. Calhoun, Spencer also served as the Casting Assistant for the National Tour of *Bandstand* under Kate Lumpkin Casting. During Spencer's time at TRC, he has had the pleasure of working on the Broadway and National Tour of *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of The Temptations*, *Trevor*, *Jersey Boys*, *Les Misérables*, *The Who's Tommy*, *MAMMA MIA!* and *Sing Street* to name a few. Spencer also served as the children's Casting Director for the World-Premiere Production of *The Hours* at The Metropolitan Opera in the Fall of 2022 starring Kelli O'Hara, Joyce DiDonato and Renée Fleming. Originally from Southern Illinois, Spencer received his Bachelor's of Music in Musical Theater from Oklahoma City University. As a teacher and Guest Artist, he has taught with Carnegie Mellon University, Oklahoma City University, Reinhardt University, West Texas A&M University, Broadway Artists Alliance, Broadway Kids Auditions, The Actor's Connection and many more. Spencer enjoys helping aspiring artists hone in on their craft while also examining the ins and outs of preparing for an audition.

Kate Moore Heaney (she/her) is a theatre director, producer, and dramaturg. Kate is the Artistic Associate, Literary at Long Wharf Theatre, Artistic Producer of Noor Theatre, and a founding steering committee member for the Middle Eastern and North African Theater Makers Alliance (MENATMA). She has directed and/or developed new work with The Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, The Playwrights Realm, The Civilians' R&D Group, New York Theatre Workshop, The Amoralists, The Flea, The Shakespeare Society, The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals, and other NYC companies. She has assistant or associate directed with Ibex Theatricals/The New Vic, McCarter Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, Yale Institute for Music Theatre, and The 24 Hour Plays on Broadway. B.A.: Yale. katemooreheaney.com

Sharifa Yasmin (she/her) is a trans Egyptian-American director, actor, playwright and intimacy coordinator. She has completed directing fellowships with The Drama League, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Manhattan Theatre Club, Geva Theatre, and was a Eugene O'Neill national directing fellow. Yasmin's playwriting focuses on the intersection of Queer and Arab identities. Her plays have been produced with the Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Uprising Theatre, Amphibian Stage, Trans Theatre Fest, Women's Theatre Festival, taught at DePaul, Susquehanna, and Kansas Universities, and published in The Methuen Drama Book of Trans Plays. Yasmin was honored as the inaugural recipient of the SCDF Barbara Whitman Award in 2021. She currently serves as a member of The Drama League's Directors Council, and is completing her MFA in Directing with Brown/Trinity Rep. www.sharifayasmin.com

About Amphibian Stage:

Amphibian Stage is a non-profit professional theater based in Fort Worth. Our mission is 'To produce engaging and innovative theater that inspires new ideas, opens new doors and increases our understanding of the vast world around us'. Started in 2000, Amphibian's programs include: Main Stage Plays | New Play Development | Comedy Residency and Festival | National Theater Live | Arts Education – Tad-Poles Stilt Dancing Program and DE-CRUIT for veterans.