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THE ALLIANCE THEATRE BECOMES NEW HOME FOR GEORGIA'S POETRY OUT LOUD COMPETITION NATIONAL PROGRAM EXPOSES THOUSANDS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO POETRY

ATLANTA, October 5, 2022 — The Alliance Theatre is pleased to announce a new partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Poetry Foundation, and Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA). The partnership results in the Alliance becoming the new home for Poetry Out Loud in the state of Georgia.

A national program co-sponsored by the NEA and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization and recitation of the written word. The Alliance will coordinate the program with schools across the state before hosting the Atlanta regional semi-finals and state finals at the Alliance Theatre.

“The Alliance is honored to partner with the NEA, Poetry Foundation, and Georgia Council for the Arts. For over two decades, the Alliance has used theatre as a tool for teens to find their voice and share it powerfully,” says Dan Reardon Director of Education and Associate Artistic Director Christopher Moses. “This new initiative allows us to scale that work statewide, encouraging teens to embrace poetry, proclaim it loudly, and perform it with an artful confidence that promises to inspire. We can't wait!”

Started in 2005 as a pilot program in Chicago and Washington, D.C., Poetry Out Loud has grown to involve millions of students from across the country. In 2022, more than 6,000 students participated in the competition, representing nearly 40 counties and over 300 educators in Georgia. The Alliance takes over coordination of the state's program after 14 years of coordination by the Atlanta History Center.

“Poetry Out Loud encourages students to practice lifelong skills that can help them in any future career. They can explore creative expression, learn how to see other people's perspectives, and be more confident public speakers,” said Executive Director of Georgia Council for the Arts Tina Lilly. “The Alliance has been a part of Georgia's arts community for decades, and we're excited to partner with them for this program!”

What is Poetry Out Loud?

Presented by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country.

The program:

- Introduces students to classic and contemporary poetry
- Encourages students to learn about literary history and contemporary life
- Helps students master public speaking skills and build self-confidence

Learn more:

[[Poetry Out Loud Mini-Documentary](#)]

Georgia Schools: How to Get Involved

The Alliance Theatre is thrilled to administer Poetry Out Loud for the state of Georgia in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and Georgia Council for the Arts.

[Online registration](#) is now open. Schools and organizations must register online by Friday, December 16, 2022, to participate in the 2022-2023 program.

Program Structure, Dates, and Deadlines

- Online registration by Friday, December 16, 2022
- Local contests by Friday, January 20, 2023
 - Each school selects one student winner to participate in the Regional and/or State contests
- Regional Semi-Finals:
 - Metro Atlanta: Friday, February 17, 2023, at the Alliance Theatre
 - North Georgia: February 2023 (details to be announced)
 - South Georgia: February 2023 (details to be announced)
 - Virtual Option: February 2023 (details to be announced)
- State Finals: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the Alliance Theatre
- National Finals: to be held May 8-10, 2023, in Washington, DC (details to be announced)

Quick Links

- Find poems, audio and video clips, lesson plans, contest resources, and more at: poetryoutloud.org
- The [Poetry Out Loud YouTube channel](#) also features examples and techniques

Questions?

Contact poetryoutloud@alliancetheatre.org

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About Georgia Council for the Arts

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development whose mission is to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding, programs, and services statewide that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state's cultural heritage, increase tourism, and nurture strong communities. Funding for Georgia Council for the Arts is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. Learn more at gaarts.org.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE THEATRE

Founded in 1968, the Alliance Theatre is the leading producing theater in the Southeast, reaching more than 165,000 patrons annually. Under the leadership of Susan V. Booth, Jennings Hertz Artistic Director, the Alliance received the Regional Theatre Tony Award® for sustained excellence in programming,

Alliance Theatre

YOUR STORY. YOUR STAGE.

education, and community engagement. In January 2019, the Alliance will open its new, state-of-the-art performance space, The Coca-Cola Stage at Alliance Theatre. Known for its high artistic standards and national role in creating significant theatrical works, the Alliance has premiered more than 110 productions including nine that have transferred to Broadway. The Alliance education department reaches 90,000 students annually through performances, classes, camps, and in-school initiatives designed to support teachers and enhance student learning. The Alliance Theatre values community, curiosity, collaboration, and excellence, and is dedicated to representing Atlanta's diverse community with the stories we tell, the artists, staff, and leadership we employ, and audiences we serve.

www.alliancetheatre.org

Our Mission

Expanding hearts and minds on stage and off.

Our Vision

Making Atlanta more connected, curious, and compassionate through theatre and arts education.