



THE MASSACHUSETTS  
EDUCATIONAL  
THEATER GUILD, INC.

## **Q & A – A Talkback Session at Festival**

This is a fantastic opportunity for Directors, Designers and Actors to share information about their rehearsal process and choices during Festival preparations.

*“Your piece was an original work, created by the cast.  
How did you work together in order to create this piece?”*

*“We enjoyed that you chose the character of the other to be played by a male.  
What inspired that decision? In addition, how did the actor enjoy playing a  
role typically played by girls?”*

*“All of the actors in the show seemed very comfortable with creative physical movement –  
how did you prepare for that aspect of the play?”*

Each director will be given some index cards at the start of Festival day. In the time allotted on the schedule, we ask directors to have a dialogue with their cast regarding the shows viewed throughout the day. During this discussion, please use the index cards to write down questions (one per card) that your cast has in regards to the performances seen that day.

We ask that you write AT LEAST one question per show. Please ensure that the questions used are ones that can be thoughtfully answered by the director of the show. This is a great opportunity to sit down with your cast and have a discussion while the shows are fresh in your mind.

When the whole group gathers for the Q & A, the Executive Council member at the site will moderate the discussion and pose selected questions to each director in the order of performance. If the director feels the need to have a student actor or crew member answer a question, then that will be up to the Director in the moment.

Sharing this information in an “Inside the Actor’s Studio” type forum allows the students to be further educated in the various techniques used in order to successfully launch a production. We are also empowering students to examine a piece of theatre from a variety of angles – the eye of a playwright, designer, actor or director.