

PHOENIX

MSAAA NEWSLETTER

**READ ABOUT
JASMINE MURRAY'S
HIT SINGLE**

**LEARN ABOUT HOW
HOUSE BILL 1592
IMPACTED MSA**

**SEE UPCOMING
EVENTS FOR FALL**

President's Note

First of all, congratulations are in order to our newest alums, the class of 2018. They earned a record 10.8 million in scholarship offers. Way to go! It will be exciting to see what they have in store for us in the future as we watch them continue to grow as artists.

The annual reunion that took place in May earned \$421 for the Rising Phoenix Scholarship. Remember, all proceeds for memberships support this scholarship, so please join MSAAA by visiting the school store on the MSA website (www.msabrookhaven.org). With your help, we hope to award scholarships to two current MSA students this year. We can't do it without you!

There are several awesome events geared towards alumni taking place at MSA this year, so make sure you are a member of the facebook group to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

Thanks so much for your support!

Sincerely,

Brianna Moore-Christa
MSAAA President



Do you want to be a contributor? Please send your submission to msartsalumni@gmail.com for approval.



15TH EDITION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Brianna Moore-Christa*
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Contributor

*Representatives are shown with an *asterisk (*).*



ABOUT THE COVER ART

JH Sprenkle

JH Sprenkle is the mind behind the online empire of Al Hatter the dragon king (Art Hat with Albrecht995), a youtube art channel that specializes in mythical creatures, visual psychology, and occasionally weird abstract textures. Her day job consists of freelance stagehand and film work and she often lives in the belly of Baabee, her Honda Odyssey. Part-time road warrior and vagabond extraordinaire, her goal is to draw the dragons of the world, one odd nook at a time.

She's supported the alumni organization through volunteering at past reunion events and created the design for the 2017 Christmas card. Her plan is to continue supporting the organization in whatever might be needed as it continues to grow in the year to come. She's particularly excited at the alumni involvement at Ole Brook and the possibility of expanding alumni involvement to other Mississippi art festivals.

CONTENTS

- 1 Funding Update
- 2 Fall Calendar
- 2 Andrea Jefferson
- 3 Support MSA
- 4 Jasmine Murray

FUNDING UPDATE



Many alumni have expressed concern about budget issues after the deep budget cut for 2017, which impacted not only MSA but also the Mississippi School of Math and Science and the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Together with MSA, these schools make-up Mississippi's special schools, which operate directly under the Mississippi Department of Education rather than a local school district. MSA was the only special school that did not have to make changes to its operational functions due to the budget cuts. MSMS was forced to cut enrollment to offset the cut, while MSD AND MSB reported that some vacant positions would be left unfilled and new teacher positions would be filled by less-experienced teachers who operated on a lower pay-scale.

MSA's cut was lessened in part thanks to the strong support of the Brookhaven community. The Chamber of Commerce annual fundraiser, Taste of the Trust, donated all proceeds to MSA to complete the restoration of Enochs Hall.

MSAAA is pleased to report that House Bill 1592 effectively restored MSA's operating budget, as well as stated that MDE cannot pass further budget cuts on to MSA in the future. This is great news for MSA and for all the special schools in Mississippi. Local political representatives including Sally Doty and Becky Currie were instrumental in helping to secure this bill.

AD SPACE AVAILABLE! FREE FOR YOUR FIRST EDITION

Do you have a product or service to sell? Are you an artist in need of promotion? When it comes to fund raising, MSAAA wants to help support our association by integrating with our members and our local communities in Mississippi through selling ads in our newsletter *The Phoenix Quarterly*. All proceeds go to our Rising Phoenix Scholarship that helps fund a special incoming MSA junior each year. We even have volunteer designers to create your ad. Ads will run for 12 months.

PRICING

Full Page ad: \$50/year per ad

Half Page ad: \$30/year per ad (FREE for your first edition)

Quarter ad: \$15/year per ad

MSA EVENTS

For more information visit the MSA event calendar [here](#).

Visual Art Opening Exhibit Reception | 8/7
6:00 p.m.

MSA Theatre Presents Good Person of Setzuan | 10/4-6

Ole Brook Festival | 10/6

Fall Dance Concert | 11/8-10

MSA Vocal Music Presents Musical Theatre Concert | 11/30
7:00 p.m.

Devised Theatre Showcase | 12/6
7:00 p.m.

MSA Vocal Music Presents Fall Chorale Concert | 12/14
7:00 p.m.

MSA Media Arts Fall Film Fest 12/15
1:00 p.m.

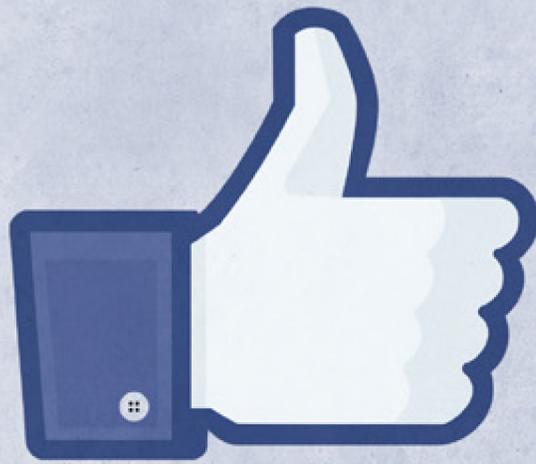
MSA Dance Presents Excerpts of The Nutcracker 12/20-21

STRAY CURLS & DIRTY LAUNDRY



Literary Alumni Andrea Jefferson has published a book, *Stray Curls and Dirty Laundry*.

The book is described as, “an eighteen-year-old’s unleashed shouts. In her debut chapbook, Jefferson unapologetically expresses her disdain for sleazy men, poverty, and racism while still managing to keep things sensual and vulnerable.” Originally from Columbia, Mississippi, Andrea now resides in Baldwin, Louisiana and is currently working on a degree at South Louisiana Community College. *Stray Curls and Dirty Laundry* is available on Kindle through the Amazon website.



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Stay up to date on opportunities, events, and what your fellow alumni are doing by following MSAAA on Facebook! If you are a member of our MSAAA Facebook group, make sure to follow us by checking the “Notifications” box on the top right hand side of our page. You don’t want to miss out on the exciting things that are happening!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/msaaa/>

SUPPORT MSA RENOVATIONS BUY A COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

By purchasing an engraved brick you are given the means by which to become a lasting part of the Mississippi School of the Arts. Each newly engraved brick will be placed in the walkway of Lampton Auditorium at MSA. You will also be contributing to further improvements to the campus and facilities at MSA. Order forms are available at Mississippi School of the Arts or by clicking [here](#).

\$ 100
4”x8” Brick

\$ 250
8”x8” Brick

\$ 500
8”x8” Granite
Custom Paver



FEARLESS: AN INTERVIEW WITH JASMINE MURRAY

Jasmine Murry's Hit Single Reveals Her Battles with Anxiety

By Billy Watkins, published May 24, 2018 and reprinted with the permission of the Clarion Ledger.

Jasmine Murray hopes her hit single “Fearless” connects with those facing a problem that few discuss — anxiety, which often leads to panic attacks.

The 2014 Miss Mississippi knows firsthand how crippling it can be. Anxiety affects nearly 20 percent of Americans over the age of 18.

“I always had a tendency to worry, and I realized it was getting worse a few years ago,” says Murray, 26. “But then it went to a new level, and I started having panic attacks.” On her way to a writing session one day in Nashville, she had to pull her car over when a panic attack struck. “I sat there until it passed,” she says.

That was the day she wrote “Fearless,” which is No. 12 on the latest Billboard Christian chart.

The song helped earn Murray two K-Love Fan Award nominations for Breakout Single and Female Artist of the Year. Winners will be announced Sunday night at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville.

“After the attack passed, I walked into the session with Tony Wood and Jeff Pardo — two great songwriters. One of them said, ‘What do you want to write about today?’ I said, ‘Fear.’

“And then I just lost it. I started crying ... I couldn’t hold it in any longer. I hadn’t shared my struggle with many people. Tony and Jeff immediately started praying for me, lifting me up with Scripture.”

About six hours later, “Fearless” was completed.

The opening lyrics: “I wake up I feel it, those fears are back again/Can't shake them, can't make them/Ever fade, ever end/Am I good enough? Do I measure up?/Feels like a war I can't win”

“I finally realized that I don’t have to walk around with this,” Murray says. “The Lord doesn’t want us to live in fear. He wants us to have power and love and a sound mind. I rest in that Scripture.”

“Sometimes those challenges are important to our journey, our story. It’s amazing to see how the Lord can take something so challenging and turn it into something very beautiful. That song is part of my story now.”

Murray says she is looking forward to this weekend’s K-Love Awards event.

“I was able to attend last year, and it’s a really great place for artists and fans to connect,” Murray says. “I’m honored to be nominated along with artists like Mandisa and Natalie (Grant). I’m fans of theirs, too.”





Without your input and contributions, the twelfth edition of our MSAAA newsletter would not have been possible. *The Phoenix Quarterly* is made by the alumni for the alumni. If you would like to contribute to future editions or have suggestions please reach out to our newsletter committee by emailing us at msartsalumni@gmail.com.

You can download previous editions of *The Phoenix Quarterly* [here](#).

Thanks for reading and be sure to share!



Brianna Moore-Christa
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Secretary

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