

LEAST: I AM BLESSED – ARTISTS MADE STRONG IN WEAKNESS

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

The LEAST Festival is looking for compelling works of a variety of art forms that are thought provoking, artistic, and excellent. Works offending basic human values, using excessive language or violence, or in general bad taste will be excluded from the festival.

Selected submissions of performance based art forms such as dance, music, and theatre will require performers to make their own travel arrangements at their own cost in order to attend rehearsals and performance dates. In addition, performers will need to bring their own instruments, costumes, and set pieces in most cases.

Selected submissions of non-performance based art forms such as visual art, film, photography, writing, and other art forms will require the piece to be sent or brought to Wheaton Academy two weeks before the festival at the applicant's expense. Some non-performance based art forms will be selected for use in the performance aspect of the festival and others will be selected for the gallery aspect of the festival.

Submitted pieces must be received by October 8th, 2009

Selected pieces will be performed or displayed on October 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 2009 at Wheaton Academy in the festival entitled **LEAST: I AM BLESSED – ARTISTS MADE STRONG IN WEAKNESS**.

Artists whose submissions are selected will receive free admission to the festival.

**** ALL ENTRIES SHOULD STEP INTO THE PROCESS BELOW ****

Consider the Scripture passages and the poem below.

Matthew 5:3

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

II Corinthians 12:7-10

So I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a thorn to keep me in constant touch with my limitations ... At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, "My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness." Once I heard that ... I quit focusing on the thorn and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness ... And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.

A Soldier's Prayer

I asked God for strength that I might achieve.

I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things.

I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy.

I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men.

I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

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Reflect on your own thorn (a personal weakness, an illness, a struggle in a relationship, a disappointment, a sorrow, a life circumstance, etc.) and how God has used it to shape you and bless you in ways you never could have imagined.

Respond to one of the following:

- *What does it mean to be blessed?
- *Choose one word that describes you and consider how it has helped you depend on God.
- *How is your thorn a gift?

****ALL ENTRIES SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING****

A short paragraph (no longer than half a page) about the piece and why the applicant chose it to represent his or her work; the title of the piece and name of the artist who created it, and the names of all performers in the piece.

Specific rules for each medium are outlined below.

DANCE

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

- *What does it mean to be blessed?
- *Choose one word that describes you and consider how it has helped you depend on God.
- *How is your thorn a gift?

Choose from the following:

1. **Narrative Piece** -- Minimum of 3 minutes. Maximum 10 minutes. Must include 2 or more dancers.
 2. **Dance Piece** -- Minimum of 3 minutes. Maximum 6 minutes. Must include 2 or more dancers
- Limit: 2 dance pieces per student

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Technical, artistic, and performance **skill**
3. How well the piece **captures** the viewers' **attention**

All dance pieces must be submitted on either **DVD –R or VHS**. All submissions should be clearly labeled with the names of the performers, title, date, duration, and choreographer of each work, and date and location of taping. Be sure to cue tapes to the appropriate section(s). For DVDs indicate section to be viewed. Use a fixed point of view for your camera. Shoot straight on, leaving the camera in one location. Do not follow one dancer or shoot close-ups. In addition, a copy of the lyrics (typed, double-spaced) should be included with the name of the songwriter and title of the piece on a cover sheet.

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Corbett Burick, LEAST Dance Director, at cburick@wheatonacademy.org

MUSIC

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

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- *Choose one word that describes you and consider how it has helped you depend on God.
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MUSIC (CONTINUED)

Choose from the following:

1. **Instrumental Piece** -- Maximum Length: 5 minutes
2. **Vocal Piece** -- Maximum Length: 5 minutes

Limit: 2 songs per student

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Musicianship, overall performance, creativity, and compositional **skill**
3. How well the piece **captures** the viewers' or listeners' **attention**

Priority will be given to originality, but the music itself is not required to be an "original composition." All music pieces must be submitted on a CD recording with excellent sound quality. However, if there is a performance aspect, the piece must be submitted on either **DVD –R or VHS**. All submissions should be clearly labeled with the names of the performers, title of composition, date, duration and composer of each work, and date and location of taping. Be sure to cue tapes to the appropriate section(s). For DVDs indicate section to be viewed. In addition, a copy of the lyrics (typed, double-spaced), and/or musical score should be included with the name of the composer and title of the piece on a cover sheet.

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Joel Visker, LEAST Vocal Director, at jvisker@wheatonacademy.org or Steve Willemssen, LEAST Instrumental Director swillemssen@wheatonacademy.org

THEATRE

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

- *What does it mean to be blessed?
- *Choose one word that describes you and consider how it has helped you depend on God.
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Choose from the following:

1. **Original Monologue** – Minimum: 2 minutes. Max: 5 minutes. Minimal sets are generally preferred.
2. **Original Scene** – Minimum: 2 minutes. Max: 10 minutes. Minimal sets/small casts are generally preferred. Limit: 2 theatre pieces per student

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Technical, artistic, and performance **skill**
3. How well the piece **captures** the viewers' or listeners' **attention**

THEATRE (CONTINUED)

All theatre pieces must be submitted on either **DVD –R or VHS**. All submissions should be clearly labeled with the names of the performers, title, date, duration and writer of each work, and date and location of taping. Be sure to cue tapes to the appropriate section(s). For DVDs indicate section to be viewed. In addition, a copy of the script (typed, double-spaced) should be included with the name of the writer and title of the piece on a cover sheet.

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Corbett Burick, LEAST Theatre Director, at cburick@wheatonacademy.org

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VIDEO:

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

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Choose from the following:

- 1. Short film:** min. of 1:30 minutes and max. of 3 minutes
- 2. Public service announcement:** min. of 30 seconds and max. of 45 seconds
- 3. Music Video:** min. 1:00 minute and max. of 5 minutes
- 4. Mini-documentary:** min of 1:00 minute and max. of 6 minutes

Limit: 2 videos per student

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Video editing and compositional **skill**
3. How well the video **captures** the viewers' **attention**

All videos must be submitted on either **DVD –R or VHS**. Please submit a copy. Do NOT send original work. **Do not** add credits to the video. Credits will be added later if your work is selected for the festival. No **name brands** or logos may appear in the video. **Copyright music** should be avoided.

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Matt Hockett, LEAST Video Director, at mhockett@wheatonacademy.org

VISUAL ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

- *What does it mean to be blessed?
- *Choose one word that describes you and consider how it has helped you depend on God.
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Choose from the following:

- 1. Painting or Drawing**
- 2. Graphic design or Photography** -- one or up to five in a series
- 3. Sculpture**

Limit 2 entries per student

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Artistic and visionary **skill**
3. How well the piece or photograph **captures** the viewers' **attention**

Digital work must be submitted digitally three weeks before the show and must include size and media. Accepted works must be ready for installation, including hanging hardware, and shipped with return postage two weeks in advance of the show.

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Jack Burgess, LEAST Art Director, at jburgess@wheatonacademy.org

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WRITING:

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

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Choose from the following:

1. **Prose (short stories and essays):** 1000 word limit
2. **Poetry:** 60 line limit

Limit: 1 prose piece and/or three poems per student

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Writing and visionary **skill**
3. How well the piece **captures** the viewers' **attention**

Students should turn in a hard copy and an electronic copy, which can be emailed as a word attachment with "LEAST Entry" in the subject line to adaniels@wheatonacademy.org or saved in the LEAST Writing folder on the open drive. Each entry should include the following information: Name, Grade, Email Address/ Locker #, Word Count (Prose) or Line Count (Poetry).

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Aimee Daniels, LEAST Writing Director, at adaniels@wheatonacademy.org

OTHER ART FORMS

Each piece should consider the Scripture passages and poem, reflect on your own thorn, and respond to one of the following:

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- *How is your thorn a gift?

Entries will be judged based on:

1. How well it **communicates** the message of LEAST
2. Artistic and visionary **skill**
3. How well the piece **captures** the viewers' **attention**

Other art forms will be considered. Please email LEAST Festival Director for rules of submission specific to the art form.

Submissions and/or questions should be sent to Corbett Burick, LEAST Festival Director, at cburick@wheatonacademy.org