
Rules for All Performance Categories

1. After the introduction (slating), time begins with the first word, musical note, or acting action (if it proceeds the first word or note). If a student exceeds the time limit, the judge will notate the time and a final eligibility ruling will be determined.
 - a. Time limits for performance categories:
 1. Monologues: 3 minutes
 2. All other performance categories: 5 minutes
2. For the 2020-21 school year, qualifying students may enter in more than one category.
3. At ITF, entrants must present exactly the same work they qualified with at the chapter/qualifying level.
4. Substitutions are **not** allowed. Entrants who qualified and validated through their chapters or the alternate round are the only ones qualified to participate at ITF.
 - a. In the Group Musical and Group Acting categories, drops will be allowed but no substitutions.
5. Acceptable material:
 - a. **Non-musical** performance categories:
 1. Selections from full-length or one-act plays or musicals, written for the theatre, and published by:
 - Broadway Play Publishing
 - Concord Theatricals (R&H Theatricals, Samuel French, Inc., Tams-Witmark, The Musical Company)
 - Dramatic Publishing
 - Dramatists Play Service
 - Eldridge Publishing Company
 - Heuer Publishing
 - Music Theatre International
 - Playscripts, Inc.
 - Smith and Kraus
 - Stage Partners
 - Theatrefolk
 - Theatrical Rights Worldwide
 - YouthPLAYS
 - Any public domain play written prior to 1925
 2. The only D.M. Larson selection available for use in the program are from the plays listed below. All other D.M. Larson monologues will result in a disqualification.
 - *Beauty IS a Beast* - ISBN-13: 978-1511495967
 - *Big Nose* - ISBN-13: 978-1542471077
 - *Death of an Insurance Salesman* - ISBN-13: 978-1518665547
 - *Ebony Scrooge* - ISBN-13: 978-1537655239
 - *Flowers in the Desert* - ISBN-13: 978-1530169085
 - *Holka Polka!* - ISBN-13: 978-1502445490
 - *Operation Redneck* - ISBN-13: 978-1540824349
 - *Somebody Famous* - ISBN-13: 978-1539753483
 - *Superhero Support Group* - ISBN-13: 978-1540471772
 - *My William Shatner Man Crush* - ISBN-13: 978-1505910155
 - *To Be A Star* - ISBN-13: 978-1541300200

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3. Exceptions can be made for publishing companies not listed above (e.g., foreign publishing houses). Exceptions must be submitted to EdTA by May 15, 2021, using [the form in Appendix B](#). Each chapter will have its own requirement for timing for its exceptions, but all exceptions must be approved by EdTA staff.
 4. The following are unacceptable material for non-musical performance categories:
 - Author-only permission.
 - Any play (or monologue from a musical) not published by one of the publishers listed above or a pre-approved publishing company.
 - Works available through self-publishing platforms.
 5. The following are unacceptable resources for non-musical performance categories:
 - Use of set pieces, props, or costumes, including the use of hair, non-prescription glasses, earrings, or other personal items.
 - b. **Musical** performance categories:
 1. Acceptable material:
 - Songs from a musical that have been used in a musical (regardless of its previous publication as a classical or popular song – e.g., Forever Plaid, Mamma Mia, etc.).
 - It must be publicly available for sale in a vocal selection or musical score.
 - There must be a copyright mark on the music.
 2. The following are unacceptable material for musical performance categories:
 - A cappella songs UNLESS originally written to be performed a cappella in the script.
 - Songs from films.
 - Songs from television.
 - Popular songs not used in a published work for the theatre.
 - Classical songs not used in a published work for the theatre.
 - Tracks with any background vocals.
 3. The following are unacceptable resources for musical performance categories:
 - Use of set pieces, props, or costumes, including the use of hair, non-prescription glasses, earrings, or other personal items.
 - c. It's difficult to address every situation in this document, but fundamentally, the guide is that the piece must either:
 1. Have publisher permission (NOT author-only permission).
 2. Be available for sale in a libretto, play, vocal selection, or musical score.
 6. Race, ethnic origin, gender, and sexual orientation should not influence a student's evaluation. Students are encouraged to choose pieces that speak to them, but copyright rules must be followed. For example: Students may play a role of any gender regardless of the gender with which they identify, but it is important to note that all copyright rules are to be enforced and the student cannot change pronouns without the express, written consent from the publisher.
 7. Disqualification. The International Thespian Excellence Awards program is meant to challenge, inspire, and educate students. As you'll note throughout this document, there are very clear rules to ensure equity among all participants. Violations of these rules can lead to disqualification.
 - a. Disqualification reasons can be noted by individual adjudicators. Adjudicators should note the issue(s) under their printed name and signature.
 - b. Regardless of individual disqualification reason(s), it is the responsibility of the program officials (or pre-defined designate) to rule on any disqualifications.
 - c. Disqualifications at the International Thespian Festival will be ruled by a member of the EdTA staff.
 8. Filming. No performance or technical category may be filmed for rebroadcast or other use without prior written approval from EdTA.
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9. Accommodations.
 - a. Deaf/hard of hearing students are permitted a conductor (adult or student) for musical performances to guide their tempo.

Technical Category Rules (*excluding short film*)

- The entrant must prepare a presentation and design for one published work written for the theatre (play or musical).
- Designs for performances of original work, poetry, fiction, screenplays, television, or any other medium are not permitted.
- Originality of ideas/designs are paramount to the educational value of the program. All designs, logos, etc. should be original material. If non-original material is used, sources must be cited, and receipt of purchased material (when applicable) must be included in the presentation. Not doing so will result in disqualification.
 1. Time limits for technical categories:
 - a. Video presentation: 8 minutes
 2. The entrant must submit a video presentation up to 8 minutes justifying the design and guiding the adjudicator through the entrant's creative process. The introduction to the presentation must include only the entrant's name, troupe number, title of show, and writer(s). A 30-second oral synopsis should be prepared as part of the presentation. The video component can be a webinar-style presentation (i.e., voicing over a PowerPoint) or interview style (talking in front of the camera).
 3. Additionally, entrants will be required to answer several written questions about their creative process in the application.
 4. Read and follow exactly the category rules contained in this document for your technical entry.
 5. Wear professional all-black clothing and solid-black shoes (including laces and sole trim) for the presentation being adjudicated.