

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE OREGON THESPIANS REGIONAL ACTING COMPETITION!

THERE ARE THREE EVENT COLUMNS:

Column A

Solo Acting Novice

Solo Acting Experienced

Group Acting

Pantomime (*no longer an NIES event*)

Column B

Duet Dramatic Novice

Duet Dramatic Experienced

Duet Comic Novice

Duet Comic Experienced

Musical Theatre Column

Solo Musical

Duet Musical

Small Group Musical

Large Group Musical

- Each participant may enter a maximum of three events. Participants may enter no more than one event from Column A and/or one event from Column B. Participants may enter up to two separate musical events in the Musical Theatre column (not twice in the same event).
- Current inducted Thespians are charged a \$10.00 entry fee per person per entry (non-Thespians, \$12.00). So, if one Thespian student competes with two scenes he or she is charged \$20.00, which is \$10.00 for each entry. In duet or group entries, all participants pay the entry fee based on whether each is a Thespian or non-Thespian.

ROUNDS:

There will be three rounds of competition for each non-musical event (i.e. Columns A and B) and two rounds for each musical event. There will be one judge used for each acting round and two judges for each musical round. You'll be seen by a different judge in each round and, ideally though not always practical, compete against different scenes in each round. If your school brings a large number of entries in your event, you'll most likely compete against them as well.

AWARDS:

The top 10% of all participants (or at least two entries) in each event other than Novice will be named Showcase Qualifiers, and earn the right to audition for the State Showcase at the State Festival. The next 10% will be awarded Regional Finalist ribbons. In Novice events, only the top scoring entry advances to State Showcase Auditions. If you are entering as a Novice, talk to your Troupe Director about your qualifications.

ACCOMPANIMENT:

If you are bringing recorded accompaniment for musical scenes, **BRING YOUR OWN MEDIA PLAYER!** Should you prefer to use live accompaniment, you need to make sure you are not sharing your accompanist with too many entries. Rounds can't be held to wait for accompanists. We suggest no more than three entries per accompanist. Note that all accompaniment at the National level must be recorded.

MATERIAL:

If you choose to perform a scene that uses possibly offensive material, be aware that it can have an overriding effect on certain judges and may, consequently, cause them to focus more on the words than on the performance or the acting. If you choose to cut or replace offensive words and are chosen to showcase the scene, the scene must be exactly the one performed during the rounds. Oregon Thespians will not censor any scenes for content; however we strongly recommend that you consider your own community standards when selecting scenes for competition. Remember that

an ultimate outcome of your participation could be the presentation of your scene at the State Showcase! As with all matters involving artistic choice, consider your audience.

Please respect the intentions of the categories: Dramatic scenes, though not necessarily without comedy, should focus on dramatic tension. Pantomime scenes should be student scripted, not mimed scenes from scripted works. Each member of a Group scene should be integral to the performance, not merely window dressing for the “star”.

For those planning to participate at the National level, note that you must provide proof that your selection is licensed for your use by the publisher. Consult the material selection guidelines on the NIES page of schooltheatre.org.

PROPS AND COSTUMES

ABSOLUTELY NO PROPS ARE ALLOWED. The use of props in any of the categories of competition will result in disqualification of that particular entry. When in doubt, leave it out!

ABSOLUTELY NO COSTUMES ARE ALLOWED. A costume is defined as any type of clothing that is applicable to the piece and, thereby, visually enhances the performance. The use of tap shoes is allowed, if appropriate to the selection.

Entrants are asked to wear all black clothing when performing, so the judges can clearly tell an entrant is not wearing a costume. Clothing should be appropriate to the situation and should easily accommodate the action of a scene such as sitting, kneeling, dancing, lying down, etc. Students should also wear dark, preferably black, shoes. Students should refrain from wearing anything that might distract the judges, thus lowering their score.

At Nationals, the “all black” clothing guideline is a requirement. In Oregon, we have recently moved to requiring all black, and entrants dressed contrary to the intent of this rule won't advance to the State Showcase auditions.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Disqualifications usually happen as a result of not fully understanding the rules and rarely from intentional rule breaking. To avoid being disqualified, remember that the competition is all about judging hard work, talent, and the power of the performer. Hence, avoid clothing that could be considered non-essential to the scene. We recognize that there are many times that certain clothing is necessary to understanding the scene, but avoid adding anything that could be considered unfair costuming or prop use.

Judges won't disqualify you, but may alert the Tournament Coordinators of concerns about rules. Your scene will be scored and a determination will be made about your eligibility to advance to the State Showcase Auditions.

Going over time will not result in disqualification, but you will be stopped after a grace period. Know the time limit for your event! Since the judges can only rate you on what they see, any adverse dramatic effect of having your scene cut short may play into their evaluation.

REMEMBER THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE EVENT IS TO CELEBRATE AND RECOGNIZE GOOD WORK

The feedback you receive from the qualified adjudicators, as well as your peers, can have far more long-term value than a ribbon or other recognition. Support your fellow Thespians in what is fast becoming one of the largest state acting events in the nation ... happening simultaneously at three sites in Oregon!

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!