

FESTIVAL GUIDELINES 2011

Festival Categories



ACTING: DUOLOGUE SCENES

- No. of participants: 2
- Time Limit: Up to 7 minutes
- Duologue scenes involve two characters that are alone on the stage in an interaction.



ACTING: GROUP SCENES

- No of participants: 3 – 10.
- Time Limit: up to 15 minutes.
- Scenes can have many characters involved in an interaction.



DANCE AND MOVEMENT

- No. of participants: 2 – 10
- Time Limit: up to 5 minutes.
- The Movement and Dance category is designed for interpretations of Shakespeare's work expressed through dance or physical movement. Text is permitted and any music is permissible. We must acknowledge the original artist of music as part of our program. Ensure that you provide us with the relevant information on the registration form.



DESIGN: COSTUME AND SET

- No. of participants: 1 – 3.
- In-School Festival: Renderings for costumes for AT LEAST 5 separate characters; AND floor plan and front-perspective drawings showing your ideas for a set design.
- National Festival: Participants who advance to the National Festival need to provide a second design for each character and fabric swatches for costumes. Participants must also prepare a basic paper-model of the set design.
- Examples of floor plans, front-perspective drawings and paper-models are available on our Virtual Shakespeare Lab (add link).
- Design participants will present their ideas to the adjudicators in a 20-minute interview at both the In-School and National levels.





FILM

- No of participants: 2 – 5 participants in the production team, working with up to 10 actors.
- Time Limit: up to 5 minutes.
- Participants will create a 5-minute film that responds to Shakespeare's plays, themes, characters or plots. Films must be conceived, planned, shot and edited by participants themselves!
- Up to five participants may comprise the core production team (director, screen-writer, director of photography/camera operator, art director, lighting designer, sound designer and editor). Up to 10 actors may appear in the film.
- Credits must be included on all films, acknowledging all those who worked on the project. All music must be acknowledged.
- Applications must be submitted at the In-Schools Festival.

Three Golden Rules

1. **FESTIVAL PLAYS AND SHAKESPEARE'S TEXT:** Participants can choose any one of Shakespeare's plays. They may edit scenes as they see fit, **but they must use Shakespeare's text.** In each of the categories, participants are encouraged to take as much dramatic license as they wish – alter the context, play characters in different ways, play with the ideas as much as you like. **But remember - you have to use Shakespeare's words!**
2. **PERFORMANCE TIMES:** Maximum time limits for performances will be strictly enforced. Performances that go over time will not be considered for the National Festival, or for awards at the National Festival.
3. **COSTUME AND SET:** There is to be only minimal use of sets, props and costumes. Adjudicators may disqualify performances that are deemed to use excessive costuming, sets or props.
 - **Sets:** If one person can't carry it on and off, it can't be used.
 - **Props:** Props are permitted, but only where the use of prop is essential to conveying your interpretation. If you can't carry it, you can't use it!
 - **Costumes:** Participants are not to wear costumes. We want participants to focus on text and physicality to convey their ideas. Minimal costume (eg. A cloak, crown, skirt, bandana or hat) can only be used if absolutely essential to conveying of your interpretation.



Festival Guidelines

the national shakespeare youth festival!

Youth-Driven Process

The Festival is all about putting youth in the drivers' seat. We aim to enable young people to develop skills in performance and art, and to express their own unique perspective on the world through the lens of Shakespeare. We are looking to reward youth-driven work.

We aim to honour theatre as an artistic process. We will take the development process of each group into consideration when making choices about who will progress to the next level of the Festival. Participants advancing to the National Festival will be required to document their process:

1. **Festival Blog:** Each participating group is required to make a weekly contribution to the Festival blog. Our team of professional artists will use the blog to monitor each entry's progress, and to answer questions and provide advice to participants.
2. **Professional Mentorship:** Participants can also log onto "idea sessions" with professional mentors and talk face-to-face with them using Skype. Mentors can also answer questions by email and will monitor and participate in the Festival blog.
3. **Interviews:** There is an interview for all categories at the National Festival. Interviews will last 10 minutes, should involve all participants in an entry and will address issues around the conception of ideas, the challenges and experiences of the rehearsal process, and how the piece might be contextualized in a full production.

Festival Timeline

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION!

November 30, 2010

- Registrations are now open! Schools who register before November 30 are eligible for the special discounted registration rate of \$50 per school. Register today!

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION

January 21, 2011

- Registrations are now open! Schools and participants can register by downloading the registration form on www.shakespeareinaction.org

PRE-MENTOR VISIT

Shortly after you register

- Once you or your school have registered, a member of our artistic team will visit your school to speak to participating participants. Over one school period (75 minutes), we can answer questions about the Festival process, give general advice about pieces and assist with planning.
- The pre-mentor visit can also be used to help generate student interest in the program.



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Festival Guidelines

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STAGE ONE: IN-SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

1. REHEARSALS

January - February-March 2011

- Participants devise their pieces and rehearse. Participants can access the Virtual Shakespeare Theatre Lab for video tutorials, resource materials and other hints to help them with their play development, including rehearsal techniques, speaking Shakespeare's text, or realizing design concepts or shooting film etc.

2. IN-SCHOOL FESTIVAL

March 2011

- Schools will need to hold a preliminary heat to select groups to perform at the In-Schools Festival. At the In-Schools Festival, our professional artist mentor will view up to 5 hours of performances over one day (between 9am - 3pm, with a 1 hour break). This 5 hours will include 15 minute interviews for any design entrants.
- Our artist mentor will offer verbal feedback and run a short informal question and answer session after this point if desired. All participating groups will receive written feedback.
- Our office will help to co-ordinate the Festival at each school. Each school will need to provide a venue for the day.
- Our professional artist mentor will also select one group in each category to move forward to the National Festival in Toronto in May.

STAGE TWO: NATIONAL FESTIVAL

1. MENTORSHIP

March - April 2011

- Groups who advance to the National Festival will be matched up with a professional artist mentor. Mentors will provide feedback, answer questions and assist participants as they prepare for the National Festival.
- Each group advancing to the National Festival can make 3 half-hour virtual appointments with their professional mentors. There are a number of ways participants can keep in touch with their mentor:
 1. *Blog*: Contribute to our blog! Our professional mentor will check in regularly and help as needed.
 2. *You Tube*: Record your rehearsals, and load them onto youtube. Let us know when you do, and our artists will watch your rehearsal and answer any questions you may have.
 3. *Skype*: Contact us to find a time to connect through Skype. We'll answer your questions, watch rehearsals on-line and help as needed.
 4. *Email/Facebook/Twitter/Phone/Snail-Mail!* There are a million and one ways to keep in contact with us, and we'd love to hear from you and help where we can.

2. NATIONAL FESTIVAL

APRIL 16, 2011

- Students who are selected to perform at the National Festival in Toronto will gather at Central Commerce Collegiate Institute for workshops, performances and more.
- In addition to performances, students will be interviewed by adjudicating artists.
- The Festival will also feature workshops and guest lectures by some of Canada's leading professional artists.



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