

Mississippi Theatre Association  
Individual Events Festival (IEF) - Youth  
Chair: Juniper Wallace ([juniper.wallace@rcsd.ms](mailto:juniper.wallace@rcsd.ms))  
Co-Chair: Kerri Sanders ([ksanders@jacksonacademy.org](mailto:ksanders@jacksonacademy.org))  
URL: <http://www.mta-online.org/IEF> Youth Rules

## INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- A participating school or organization (henceforth referred to as a school) must be a registered organizational member of MTA.
- **A school / organization may enter four (4) students or teams in each event. There will be thirteen (13) events.**
- In addition to the institutional registration fee, a participating school must pay \$10 for each event slot *per student*. Duet event registration is \$20. The group event registration fee is \$30 regardless of the number of students participating in each event.
- **School must provide two (2) adults to act as door guards and/or timekeepers.**

## INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY

- Every student that participates in the MTA Individual Events Festival must be a member of MTA, through a participating school, which is an organizational member of MTA.
- Each student member must be enrolled in a participating school, which is an organizational member of MTA.
- If student is homeschooled, student must be an individual member of MTA
- A student may enter only two (2) events. Ex: A student may be an entry in Monologue Acting and an entry in Duet Acting.
- A student may not enter twice in the same event.
- Any violation of these rules will automatically disqualify the school's entry.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS

- Each school that participates must fill out the MTA festival registration form with complete individual event registration. Additional information may be required from participating school. Directors will be contacted by I.E. Coordinator if additional information is needed.
- The I.E. Coordinator should be contacted if a school needs to make a substitution. \*Each request is considered on an individual basis.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Winners will be announced at the awards ceremony the morning of the banquet.
- **Any dropped events received after festival registration deadline are still subject to the registration fee.**

- **Any dropped events after January 8, 2019 will be issued a \$10 drop fee per event. All drop fees must be paid to registration table in cash.**

## **JUDGING**

- Each round will have two-three (2-3) qualified judges.
- No oral adjudication will be given
- Written adjudication will be a part of the evaluation process.
- Categories with less than 15 participants will only have **one** round.
- Categories with 15 or more students will have a second deciding round.
- If a second round is required, FINAL ROUND will determine the winners. 1st round scores will be used to determine tie breakers.
- Adjudication sheets will be available after the awards ceremony.

## **AWARDS**

- Medals will be given to the top **three** finalists.
- In the event of a tie, each winner in the category will receive recognition/medal (these medals may have to be mailed).
- In duet and group categories, EACH participant will receive a medal.

## **EVENT CATEGORIES**

- Performance Events:
  - Acting Female – Two contrasting pieces (3 minutes)
  - Acting Male – Two contrasting pieces (3 minutes)
  - Acting Duet – One selection (5 minutes)
  - Acting Group – One selection (5 minutes)
  - Musical Female – One selection (5 minutes)
  - Musical Male – One selection (5 minutes)
  - Musical Duet – One selection (5 minutes)
  - Musical Group – One selection (5 minutes)
  - Original Scene (5 minutes)
- Design Events:
  - Scenic Design
  - Costume Design
  - Make-Up Design
  - Poster Design

## GENERAL INFORMATION

These rules apply to ALL events. Changes have been made; Read Carefully.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Students may participate in **no more** than two (2) individual events.
- Students may **not** enter the same event twice.
- All pieces must be memorized.

### TIME REQUIREMENTS

- All performance events have specific time limits. Judges will pay strict adherence to the time restrictions.
- Timekeepers will be given guidelines and must follow for all participants.
- Participants will be given a 5 second “grace period” after allotted time.
- At the end of 5 second grace timekeeper will say “THANK YOU” at which participant should end piece immediately. If time is called, participant will NOT be allowed to advance to final round.
- If participant exceeds allotted time but does not exceed “grace period” time will be recorded and a 3 point penalty will be issued to participant’s first round score. This does not automatically disqualify student from final round
- Time begins with first word, musical sound, or intentional movement.
- Slate should include: student's name, student’s school, title of selection(s), and the name of the playwright(s). If performing a musical piece, slate should include name of piece and show title. The slate is **not** included in the time limit. Examples are below:
  - E.g. Hello, my name is John Smith from Mississippi High School, and I will be performing *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* by William Shakespeare and *Rabbit Hole* by David Lindsay-Abaire.
  - E.g. Hello, we are John Smith and Jane Jones from Mississippi High School and we will be performing *The Nerd* by Larry Shue.
  - E.g. Hello, name is Jane Jones from Mississippi High School and I will be performing Children Will Listen from *Into the Woods*.

### MATERIAL SELECTION

- Material must be drawn from published or original plays, screenplays or teleplays. Works from other forms; such as poetry, fiction and song lyrics, are not permitted. *Pieces from fully developed dramatic sources are encouraged.*
- Sketch comedy (Such as Monty Python’s Flying Circus, Saturday Night Live, Key and Peele etc.) is **strongly discouraged.**
- Original works are permitted and must include a copy of the text and written (typed) statement of originality signed by both student and teacher. **Signed statement of originality must be presented at registration.**

- Musical Theatre material must be from published or original musicals. Popular music will not be permitted unless from a published musical.
- In duet or group scenes, each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
- **ALL entries must be suitable for high school students with regards to language and subject matter. Violation of this rule is grounds for disqualification.**
- No student may enter any division of IEFs with a selection his or her school is bringing to any MTA sponsored festival during the current school year. In addition, no student may enter any division of IEFs with a selection his or her school has brought to MTA in the past two years with the current year being considered the second year.

## **ATTIRE**

- No costumes or theatrical makeup is allowed.
- Participants are encouraged to dress as they would for a general audition or job interview. \*All black attire is welcome, but not required\*

## **EQUIPMENT NEEDS**

- No hand props should be used.
- No set pieces allowed for performance categories,
- Auxiliary cords and speakers will be provided for musical events.
- Aux cords for iPhone 5, 6 and Android will be provided. Lighting adapters for iPhone 7 and above will be provided.
- CD players will NOT be provided. Participants may bring their own portable CD player if necessary. Battery operated is strongly encouraged.
- Bluetooth speakers are not encouraged, but if used, must be connected BEFORE entering competition room. NO extra time will be allotted for bluetooth complications.
- Only straight back chairs (provided by host institution) are allowed.
  - Solo events will be provided with one chairs.
  - Duet events will be provided with two chairs.
  - Group events will be provided a minimum of three and a maximum of five chairs. Groups may not use more chairs than they have people in their group.

## **PREPARATION**

- All pieces should be memorized and rehearsed for time.
- Slate should be rehearsed.
- All pieces should be blocked for movement.
- IEF ballots will be made available online.
- Judges' Tips and Tricks will be made available online.
- Design templates and sample floor plans will be made available online.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Students who enter design categories should be prepared to be present when their category is judged and be prepared to answer questions from the judges concerning their designs.
- Evaluation forms are available after the awards ceremony and can be picked up by the sponsor.
- Students and sponsors are encouraged to observe the individual events.
- Audience etiquette is expected in ALL events. NO cell phone use of any kind is allowed inside the performance rooms. Any violation of this rule can result in observer being asked to leave.
- Each event will be separated into "flights" (groups of performers). At the end of each flight, the door guard will open the door to allow participants and observers to enter and exit the room. There will be no entry or exit during a flight.
- In the event of a tie, awards will be mailed to participants.

## PERFORMANCE INDIVIDUAL EVENT REQUIREMENTS

These requirements include details for each category.

**Please refer to the General Information section for full rules and guidelines.**

### AREAS OF COMPETITION

- Acting Female
- Acting Male
- Acting Duet
- Acting Group
- Musical Female
- Musical Male
- Musical Duet
- Musical Group
- Original Written Scene

### ACTING FEMALE / MALE

- TIME LIMIT: 3 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- **Two contrasting monologues required.**
- Performed by one actor, portraying only one character in each of the monologues.
- Please refer to General Information for full rules and guidelines.

### ACTING DUET

- TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- Performed by two actors, portraying two characters
- Please refer to General Information for full rules and guidelines.

### ACTING GROUP

- TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- Performed by **three to ten participants.**
- Selection should be as equally balanced between the all characters as much as possible.
- Please refer to General Information for full rules and guidelines.

## MUSICAL FEMALE / MALE

- TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- Performer must present one selection.
- Performers may use pre-recorded, non-vocal musical accompaniment. No live accompaniment will be allowed or provided.
- A speaker and **aux cord** WILL be provided. Participants are encouraged to use the provided equipment.
- Bluetooth speakers will **NOT** be provided and are not recommended. If a Bluetooth speaker is used, it must be CONNECTED and ready to play before performers enter the room. Entrants may NOT use the Bluetooth speaker of another entrant. This causes noise distraction and time delays.
- All music should be downloaded onto the entrant's device as WiFi connection is not reliable.
- A CD/cassette player will NOT be provided. Performers are required to bring their own CD players if choosing to use one.
- Performances may be sung a cappella, but this is not recommended.
- Please refer to General Information for full rules and guidelines.

## MUSICAL DUET

- TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- Performed by two actors, each actor portraying one character.
- Entrants must present one selection.
- Performers may use pre-recorded, non-vocal musical accompaniment. No live accompaniment will be allowed or provided.
- A speaker and **aux cord** WILL be provided. Participants are encouraged to use the provided equipment.
- Bluetooth speakers will **NOT** be provided and are not recommended. If a Bluetooth speaker is used, it must be CONNECTED and ready to play before performers enter the room. Entrants may NOT use the Bluetooth speaker of another entrant. This causes noise distraction and time delays.
- All music should be downloaded onto the entrant's device as WiFi connection is not reliable.
- A CD/cassette player will NOT be provided. Performers are required to bring their own CD players if choosing to use one.
- Performances may be sung a cappella, but this is not recommended.
- Each participant must be actively involved in the performance.
- Please refer to General Information for full rules and guidelines.

## MUSICAL GROUP

- TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- Musical theatre piece performed by **three to ten participants**
- Entrants must present one selection.
- Performers may use pre-recorded, non-vocal musical accompaniment. No live accompaniment will be allowed or provided.
- A speaker and **aux cord** WILL be provided. Participants are encouraged to use the provided equipment.
- Bluetooth speakers will **NOT** be provided and are not recommended. If a Bluetooth speaker is used, it must be CONNECTED and ready to play before performers enter the room. Entrants may NOT use the Bluetooth speaker of another entrant. This causes noise distraction and time delays.
- All music should be downloaded onto the entrant's device as WiFi connection is not reliable.
- A CD/cassette player will NOT be provided. Performers are required to bring their own CD players if choosing to use one.
- Performances may be sung a cappella, but this is not recommended.
- Each participant must be actively involved in the performance.
- Please refer to General Information for additional rules and guidelines.

## ORIGINAL WRITTEN SCENE

- TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes. (Does not include slate.)
- Performed by two to five actors (The purpose is to encourage students to write well-developed scenes.).
- Selection must be the original work written by the actor/actors performing in the event.
- Selection should be as equally balanced between the characters as possible.
- The piece should be memorized.
- Scenes may be serious or humorous in nature or may contain elements that are both comedic and dramatic.
- The actors performing in the original student written scenes must bring a written statement confirming that they wrote the piece themselves. This verification should be turned in to the events coordinator before the event begins and must be signed by the teacher and students.
- **A digital copy of the original scene must be uploaded to the Individual Events Coordinator the week BEFORE the festival.** Detailed instructions on the upload process will be emailed.



## DESIGN INDIVIDUAL EVENT REQUIREMENTS

These requirements include details for each category.

**Please refer to the General Information section for full rules and guidelines.**

### AREAS OF COMPETITION

- Scenic Design
- Costume Design
- Makeup Design
- Poster Design

### YEARLY PLAY SELECTIONS

This year, we will continue “Yearly Play Selections.” MTA Individual Events Festival Design Competition will give four play choices for all design areas. Students are expected to use ONE of these four plays to base their designs on. The purpose in doing so is to eliminate the need to exclude plays that are currently or recently presented at the MTA festivals and to allow adjudicators to see a variety of designs from similar shows. This is a unique opportunity for student designers to showcase their individual style among their peers. Four choices are given in order to give a variety for different design styles. Bonus points are not given for choosing a more difficult production; however, adjudicators will take into consideration the creativity put forth in each selection.

### 2018-2019 YEARLY PLAY SELECTIONS

- American Theatre: *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller
- Classical: *Medea* by Euripides\*
- Musical: *Into the Woods* by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim
- Variety: *The Love of Three Oranges* by Hillary DePiano (based off of Carlo Gozzi\*)

\*\*Adaptation Caveat: If adaptations of a play in the Classical or Variety category exists, students may use an adaptation provided that proper credit is given.

## DESIGN PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS

### SCENIC DESIGN

The student may choose to design a set in proscenium, thrust, or black box setting. If designing a multi-set production, only the design on location/scene may be submitted. However, if the student designed a multi-set production, his/her research must be for the complete production as to display a developed aesthetic and concept for the world of the play.

- Design defense and explanation
  - Students will prepare a short statement introducing design concept and choices
  - Student will be prepared to answer questions from the adjudicators regarding their choices
- Tri-Fold display board
  - Not to exceed size 48" x 36" (opened) 24" x 36" (closed)
  - Black foam recommended
  - Student designer's name and school
- Design concept statement:
  - A statement created by the student detailing:
    - Reaction and concept for the production
    - Explanation of design choices made
- Inspirational Images (5 minimum)
  - Images are not research based but artistic.
  - Must be printed
  - Can be a collage of shapes, colors, photos, or other multimedia.

### Scenic Binder

- 3 ring "clear view" binder (1/2- 1 inch binder)
  - Cover sheet in front "clear view" pocket with title block that includes:
    - Production title
    - Writer(s)
    - Student name
    - Student school
- Must include the following (in this order):
  - A one-page design statement including unifying design concept
  - Necessities list. (Organized list of all necessary elements)
  - Complete research
  - Preliminary sketches
- Originality statement

- A signed statement by the student's mentor/educator acknowledging that the design submitted by the student is wholly the creative product of the student and original in nature.
- Should be placed in the front inside pocket of the scenic binder.

#### Scaled Ground Plan

- 1/8"=1'0" or 1/4"=1'0" in scale
- Title block including:
  - Show title
  - Floor plan source
  - Scale
  - Entrant name
  - Date
- Clean and neat communication of design. Student may either trace the ground plan for their chosen space or draft on top of a printed copy of the space.
- Should be mounted on display board (copy in scenic binder)

#### Color Rendering OR Scaled Model (no bonus points for submission of both)

- 1/8"=1'0" or 1/4"=1'0" in scale
- Rendering or model must be present (photos are not acceptable)
- Rendering should be mounted on display board
- Scaled model should be placed on the table in front of display board
- Title block following above guidelines

#### Process drawings

- Thumbnails
- If doing a multi-set production include a storyboard.
- Should be in scenic binder or mounted on display board.

## DESIGN PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS

### COSTUME DESIGN

The student may choose to design various characters from one production, or the costumes for a single character from one production. However, the research must be for the complete production as to display a developed aesthetic and concept for the world of the play.

Design defense and explanation

- Students will prepare a short statement introducing design concept and choices
- Student will be prepared to answer questions from the adjudicators regarding their choices

Tri-Fold display board

- Not to exceed size 48" x 36" (opened) 24" x 36" (closed)
- Black foam recommended
- Student designer name
- Student designer school
- Design concept statement:
  - A statement created by the student detailing:
    - Reaction and concept for the production
    - Explanation of design choices made
  - Inspirational Images (5 minimum)
    - Images are not research based but artistic. Must be printed.
    - Can be a collage of shapes, colors, or other multimedia.

Costume Binder

- 3 ring "clear view" binder (1/2- 1 inch binder)
  - Cover sheet in front "clear view" pocket with title block that includes:
    - Production title
    - Writer(s)
    - Student name
    - Student school
  - Must include the following (in this order):
    - A one-page design statement including unifying design concept
    - Costume Plot (All characters for the entire production (who wears what when))
    - Renderings
    - Complete research
    - Process drawings
  - Originality statement
    - A signed statement by the student's mentor/educator acknowledging that the design submitted by the student is wholly the creative product of the student and original in nature.
    - Should be placed in the front inside pocket of the costume binder.

- Process drawings
  - Preliminary Sketches
  - Should be quick sketches to show process
- Costume renderings (5 minimum)
  - Renderings should be 8" to 10" tall
  - Renderings should be on 8 ½" x 11" paper
  - Templates or trace characters ARE permitted (These will be made available on the MTA website)
  - Each rendering should be labeled in the following manner:
    - Upper left hand corner: show title and writer(s)
    - Upper right hand corner: character's name, act, scene
    - Lower right hand corner: entrant's name
    - NO other information may be included on the labels
  - Labels should be considered a part of the presentation; they must be neatly typed or carefully hand-lettered
  - Swatches for individual renderings attached to the lower left hand corner of the rendering (**Can be photographs** or fabrics or actual swatches)
  - Research for the individual costumes displayed for each rendering, in addition the research for the entire production

## DESIGN PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS

### POSTER DESIGN (MARKETING)

The student may design a poster characterizing and marketing the hypothetical production as a whole. Like Scenic, Costume, and Makeup Design, the design must convey a researched and developed aesthetic for the production. The research, design statement, and analysis of the production must be displayed with the final design.

#### Required Materials

Design defense and explanation

- Students will prepare a short statement introducing design concept and choices
- Student will be prepared to answer questions from the adjudicators regarding their choices

Tri-fold display board

- Not to exceed size 48" x 36" (opened) 24" x 36" (closed)
- Black foam recommended
- Student designer's name and school

Design concept statement

- Reaction and concept for the production
- Explanation of design choices made

Inspirational images (5 minimum)

- Images are not research based but artistic. Must be printed.
- Can be a collage of shapes, colors, or other multimedia.

Poster binder

- 3 ring "clear view" binder (1/2- 1 inch binder)
- Cover sheet in front "clear view" pocket with title block that includes:
  - Production title
  - Writer(s)
  - Student designer name
  - Student designer school
- Must include the following (in this order):
  - A one-page design statement including unifying design concept
  - Complete research
  - Process Drawings

- Preliminary Sketches
- Do not have to be complete drawings
- Originality statement
  - A signed statement by the student's mentor/educator acknowledging that the design submitted by the student is wholly the creative product of the student and original in nature.
  - Should be placed in the front inside pocket of the poster binder.

One completed poster design

- Centered on tri-fold board
- Formatted standard tabloid style mounted on display board
- Size: minimum of 11" x 14" and maximum of 24" x 36"
- Digital OR hand drawn creation
- All posters should include:
  - All billing and rights information as called for by the license holder
  - Venue\*
  - Time and date\*
  - Ticket price(s)\*
  - Producing organization\*

**\*Student may invent venue, organization, time and date, and ticket prices\***

## **DESIGN PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS/EXPECTATIONS**

### **MAKEUP DESIGN**

The student may choose to design makeup for various characters from one production, or makeup for a single character from one production. However, the research must be for the \

complete production as to display a developed aesthetic and concept for the world of the play.

#### **Required Materials**

Design defense and explanation

- Students will prepare a short statement introducing design concept and choices
- Student will be prepared to answer questions from the adjudicators regarding their choices

Tri-Fold display board

- Not to exceed size 48" x 36" (opened) 24" x 36" (closed)
- Black foam recommended
- Student designer's name and school

Design concept statement:

- A statement created by the student detailing:
  - Reaction and concept for the production
  - Explanation of design choices made

Inspirational Images (5 minimum)

- Images are not research based but artistic. Must be printed.
- Can be a collage of shapes, colors, or other multimedia.

Costume Binder

- 3 ring "clear view" binder (1/2- 1 inch binder)
  - Cover sheet in front "clear view" pocket with title block that includes:
    - Production title
    - Writer(s)
    - Student name
    - Student school
- Must include the following (in this order):
  - A one-page design statement including unifying design concept
  - Makeup Plot (All characters for the entire production)



- Complete research
- Originality statement
  - A signed statement by the student's mentor/educator acknowledging that the design submitted by the student is wholly the creative product of the student and original in nature.
  - Should be placed in the front inside pocket of the makeup binder.
- Process drawings
  - Preliminary Sketches
  - Should be quick sketches to show process

Color renderings (5 minimum)

- Face Blank templates should be used (These will be made available on the MTA website)
- Renderings should include front and side view.
- Renderings should be on 8 ½ x 11 paper
- Application instructions are **strongly suggested**
- Research for the individual design displayed for each rendering, in addition the research for the entire production.
- Photographs of application are acceptable
- Each rendering should be labeled in the following manner:
  - Upper left hand corner: show title and writer(s)
  - Upper right hand corner: character's name, act, scene
  - Lower right hand corner: entrant's name
  - NO other information may be included on the labels
- Labels should be considered a part of the presentation; they must be neatly typed or carefully hand-lettered