
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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Securing Performance Rights

It is the entrant's responsibility to obtain permission for the use of copyrighted material. In certain cases, permission is not required.

- The performance of a song from a published musical in an adjudicated category is considered a fair use, and no permission is required.
- The performance of a monologue or scene from a non-musical play at chapter conference/festival or in an adjudicated category may be subject to an agreement previously negotiated between EdTA and several major publishers. Determine the identity of the publisher (check the title page of the script or consult an internet database like findaplay.com or doollee.com), then check the following listing for the publisher's most recent policy. If the work is published by a house not included below, an entrant must apply for a [Special Rights Form \(Appendix B\)](#).
- If there is an exception as noted above (e.g., Neil Simon plays), complete the appropriate sections of the [Rights Application and Permission Form \(Appendix C\)](#) and mail it to the publisher or leasing agent. The name and address of the publisher or agent should be in a notice of copyright published with the script.

Play Publishers

- **Broadway Play Publishing, Inc.:** <https://www.broadwayplaypub.com/performance-rights/>
 - All competitions require a performance-rights license **except for those five minutes or under in duration** for which no license is required. For competitions with a duration of greater than five minutes a standard fee of \$50 per performance applies for full-length plays and \$35 per performance for short plays.
- **Concord Theatricals (R&H Theatricals, Samuel French, Inc. Tams-Witmark, The Musical Company):** <https://www.concordtheatricals.com>
 - Monologues and brief excerpts of less than 20 minutes for adjudicated school theatrical festivals do not require a license or other permission. If the piece is under 20 minutes, there is no need to request or pay for a license.
 - The exceptions to this are works of Neil Simon and the musical *Grease*
 - Neil Simon, the rights need to be secured, in advance, EVERY time it is presented, including Thespy adjudication (the minimum rate is \$125).
 - *Grease* is not available to be used for adjudicated festivals.
 - A license must be obtained for any performance of a copyrighted work, including cuttings and excerpts over 20 minutes. A brief summary of proposed cuts or scenes must be included in the appropriate section of your license request.
- **Dramatic Publishing Co.:** <http://www.dramaticpublishing.com>
 - There is no charge for use in the Thespy program at ITF or chapter conferences/festivals.
- **Dramatists Play Service:** <http://www.dramatists.com>
 - All Dramatists Play Service properties are pre-approved for ITF or Thespyan chapter conferences/festivals, with no written permission required and for no royalty **unless** the student is selected for the mainstage performance.
 - **If the student is selected for a Showcase, the student must secure performance rights** within 48 hours of the showcase: <https://www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/secure/scenenpa.asp>.
 - The exceptions to this guide are the works of Samuel Beckett and Edward Albee. In both cases, the student must secure the rights in advance and for each time it is performed.

- **Playscripts, Inc.:** <https://www.playscripts.com/help/rights>
 - Royalties are waived for the performance of excerpts lasting less than 10 minutes at adjudicated school theatrical festivals or auditions, unless otherwise noted in the script. These performances, and only these, are automatically authorized by the playwright when you purchase books from Playscripts. (Note: Any other cuttings must receive prior approval from Playscripts.)
- **Smith and Kraus:** <http://www.smithkraus.com>
 - Most Smith and Kraus collections include a blanket permission statement for use. Remember, however, the piece you're interested in performing *must* be found in one of these collections that include blanket permission.
- **Stage Partners:** <https://www.yourstagepartners.com/>
 - Royalties are waived for monologues and scenes/excerpts lasting 10 minutes or less and performed in any Thespian and other adjudicated school festival. Any other cuttings must receive approval from Stage Partners.
- **Theatrefolk:** www.theatrefolk.com
 - Monologues and scenes/excerpts lasting 10 minutes or less taken from scripts published by Theatrefolk may be performed in any ITF or Thespian chapter conferences/festivals program without royalty.
- **YouthPLAYS:** www.youthplays.com
 - Royalties are waived for monologues and scenes/excerpts lasting less than 10 minutes for Thespian and other adjudicated school festivals. Permission for this use only is automatically granted so long as each participant has purchased a digital or printed copy of the script through YouthPLAYS.

Appendix B – Special Rights Form

The undersigned are seeking an exception to the list of approved publishers.

Category

Names of performer(s)

School name and troupe #

Title of show

Show(s) author(s)

Publisher

Publisher city, state, zip, country

Publisher website and phone number

State chapter conference

City, State

Lead student seeking an exception (printed name)

Lead student seeking an exception (signature)

Troupe director (printed name)

Troupe director (signature)

This form must be received nationally by May 3 for ITF. The due date for the chapters will vary.

Appendix C – Rights and Application Form

If your performance material is a song from a published musical or covered by a publisher agreement described in these guidelines, you are not required to submit this form. If the material does not qualify for one of those exemptions, submit this completed form (signed by both the troupe director and proper licensing agent) with your event registration. For ITF, all performance permissions are **due no later than May 3**.

Troupe director of performer(s)

School

School address

City, State/Province/Country, Zip or Postal Code

School phone

School fax

Name(s) of performers

Name of show(s)

Show(s) author(s)

State chapter conference

City, State

Dear Licensing Agent:

I am requesting to use material represented by your company in the above performance. The above-named student(s) will be performing in the International Thespian Excellence Award program as a part of the above-named Chapter Conference/Festival and/or the International Thespian Festival (affiliated with the International Thespian Society) in June 2021. The total performance time of this selection will not exceed three minutes for monologues or five minutes for scenes.

The selection they would like to perform is a: _____Scene _____Monologue

As troupe director of the above student(s), I agree that only the above piece(s) will be performed for adjudication in adherence to the rules of International Thespian Excellence Award program for Chapter Conferences or the International Thespian Festival.

Troupe director's signature

Date

On behalf of _____, I grant permission for the indicated selection to be performed at the above conference and, if selected, at the International Thespian Festival.

Licensing agent's signature

Date