

The International Thespian Excellence Awards, or Thespys™ for short, recognize the highest level of achievement in school theatre performance and technical theatre.

Notable changes to the program for the new school year have been highlighted in this document. Please read the official guide for all rules.

2019-20 Guidelines

Acceptable material for non-musical performance categories:

Selections from full-length or one-act plays and musicals, written for the theatre, and published by:

- Broadway Play Publishing
- Dramatic Publishing
- Dramatists Play Service
- Eldridge Publishing Company
- Heuer Publishing
- Music Theatre International
- Playscripts, Inc.
- Rodgers & Hammerstein Theatricals
- Samuel French, Inc.
- Smith and Kraus
- Tams-Witmark
- The Musical Company
- Theatrefolk
- Theatrical Rights Worldwide
- YouthPLAYS
- Any public domain play written prior to 1923

2020-21 Guidelines

Acceptable material for non-musical performance categories:

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 1924

Additional Changes

Securing performance rights:

- **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.

The 19-20 guidelines had a listing for Samuel French, Inc only. Everything has been consolidated under the Concord Theatricals name for 20-21.

Makeup Design Category was added to the Thespy Program in 19-20. Minor updates were made to the rubric for 20-21 school year. The rubric and specific category rules (courtesy of California State Thespians) can be found on our [website](#).

Stage Management and Theatre Marketing categories were updated to allow entrants to present theoretical productions. Due to the pandemic, presenting a realized show will not be possible for many students.

All categories have been updated to reflect the digital application and submission process being followed during the 2020-21 school year. **All categories will require video submissions;** tips are provided in the rules guide and on the [Thespy website under FAQ](#).

Students may qualify in more than one category. For the 2020-21 school year, qualifying students may enter in more than one category.

Social Distancing/Masking Policy for Thespy entries requiring collaboration:

Participants submitting a collaborative entry (group/duet entries) are expected to follow masking and social distancing rules and recommendations while rehearsing and producing their final submission video. If participants are unable to perform safely together, they should consider submitting individual category entries instead. Black masks are recommended, but other solid colors may be used, provided they are not distracting and not an attempt to costume the character.

- For example, if a mask mandate is in effect, participants should wear masks in their video submission. If requirements state that individuals not housed together are required to maintain a distance of six feet, participants should record their video at the recommended distance. It is important to note that certain masks and distanced performances may impact sound/speech and hide facial expressions, so discovering techniques to emphasize enunciation and characterization will be especially important. Duet and Group performers may choose to record their pieces separately and edit them together into

Summary of Program Changes 2020-2021

a single video. Participants may consider using clear face masks to allow facial expressions to be seen by adjudicators.