

# BRISTOL ONE ACT DRAMA FESTIVAL

## RULES

### GENERAL

1. The Bristol One Act Drama Festival is recognised as a Preliminary Round of the All England Theatre Festival and as such is subject to their rules which are available from the AETF Website at [www.allenglandtheatrefestival.co.uk](http://www.allenglandtheatrefestival.co.uk) or on request from the Secretary.
2. The Festival is open to any amateur Group who gather together to present a performance. Priority will be given to groups based within the Bristol boundary in the event of the Festival being over-subscribed.
3. All players must be amateur and no part of their income should be derived from performance in any medium. Dramatic Schools for the training of professional performers are not eligible. Groups are expected to stand by the spirit as well as the letter of this rule. Interpretation is at the Festival Organising Committee's discretion and the onus is on the participating group to declare any uncertainties.
4. Groups are not restricted to one entry but cast members may only appear in one entry.
5. Groups are reminded that by entering the Festival, they have undertaken to give a public performance. In accordance with the tradition of the Theatre they are expected to appear even if parts have to be read from scripts.
6. A requirement of entry is a commitment to sell a minimum allocation of tickets at face value to your performance session. Each entry will be provided with 15 tickets and must bring payment for 12 of those to their allocated technical session and may keep the proceeds from the other 3 tickets. Any additional tickets required can be purchased via the Festival website or by arrangement with the box office.
7. The Festival Organising Committee reserves the right to disqualify any Group infringing these rules and their decision in all matters relating to the Festival is final.

### YOUTH AWARDS

1. **Group Awards** : All performing members of the Group should be 18 years of age or under on the opening day of the Festival.
2. **Individual Awards** : Any person in a competing Group fulfilling the above age requirement.
3. The winning Youth Group will be invited to represent Bristol at the Five Counties Youth Festival which is an entirely separate Festival. Further details are available from the Festival Organising Committee

### TYPES OF ENTRY

1. **Opting** : By choosing to 'Opt' Groups are committing, if selected to go forward to the next and subsequent rounds of the All England Theatre Festival and may only 'Opt' from one Preliminary Round.
2. **Non-Opting** : Groups choosing not to 'Opt' are entering on a competitive basis but are choosing not to go forward even if they are judged winners at the Festival.

## ENTRIES

1. No play in copyright may be performed without production of its performance licence and written permission for any cuts or alterations. This should be provided to the Festival Secretary in advance of the Festival.
2. Any copyright recorded speech or projection of film or TV material can be used provided proof of permission to use has been provided.
3. A hard copy of the script or, in the case of improvised pieces, a written synopsis must be submitted by the date requested to the Festival Secretary in advance of the Festival. This is for use of the Adjudicator and will be returned. Photocopies are only permitted where the Publisher's permission has been given and a statement to this effect endorsed on the front of the script together with a signature of an official of the participating Group.
4. There must be a minimum of two speaking parts on stage.
5. The Festival Organising Committee must be notified well in advance of any entry that may be considered to be of an adult nature in either theme or language.

## ORIGINAL PLAYS

1. For a play to be considered as 'original' it must be unpublished, have not been previously performed professionally or the author have received a royalty for it or any previous versions of the play. It must not have been previously entered in any Festival other than another preliminary round for the current season.

## SETTING

1. Scenery must be free standing within the confines of the stage area.
2. All scenery, properties and special technical equipment for a production must be provided by the participating group and meet all necessary fireproofing requirements.
3. Groups must give advance notice to the relevant organisers of any special technical equipment or effects such as naked lights, pistol shots and especially smoking on stage in order to comply with the theatre's requirements.

## TECHNICAL MEETING

1. A Technical Meeting will be arranged by the Festival Committee to enable Groups to view the Stage and Facilities. All staging and lighting requirements should be provided in advance on the appropriate entry form and by the specified date.
2. Each entry will be allocated a fixed time during which they are able to agree their technical requirements with the Festival Technical Team.

## TIMING AND PENALTIES

1. Each entry must be at least twenty minutes in length and not exceed fifty five minutes. This includes any opening or closing music, mood setting by cast and time spent changing scenes. ***Curtain Calls are not permitted.***
2. Entries are allowed ten minutes to set and five minutes to strike. This is not included in the playing time.

3. Penalties for not keeping within the allotted time for setting, striking and performance are as follows:

Up to 1 minute over or under time = Deduction of 1 mark

Up to 2 minutes over or under time = Deduction of 3 marks

Up to 3 minutes over or under time = Deduction of 6 marks

Up to 4 minutes over or under time = Deduction of 10 marks

Up to 5 minutes over or under time = Deduction of 15 marks

**More than 5 minutes over or under time = Disqualification**

#### **ADJUDICATION**

1. A public adjudication will be given of each play usually but not necessarily at the end of each session. The Adjudicator will use the following marking system:

Acting = 40 marks

Production = 35 marks

Stage Presentation = 15 marks

Dramatic Achievement = 10 marks

**The Adjudicator's decision is final**

2. Groups will be advised if the Adjudicator is offering to provide written adjudications. If so, these can be requested at the time of entry and the current fee paid.

#### **TROPHIES**

1. Appropriate engraving and insurance of trophies are the responsibility of the winning Group.
2. Trophies must be returned to the Festival Committee appropriately engraved and in a clean condition **not less than one month prior to the next Festival.**

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