



**“Festival Entry Rules”**

**for the**

**‘BRITISH FINAL**

**of ONE-ACT PLAYS’**

All-England  
Theatre Festival



Association of Ulster  
Drama Festivals



Drama Association  
of Wales



Scottish Community  
Drama Association



## “BRITISH FINAL of ONE-ACT PLAYS”

### SECTION – 1

#### FESTIVAL ENTRY RULES

These should be adhered to by all competing teams at all levels of the competition.

#### WHO CAN ENTER?

- 1 Any bona fide adult amateur Society, or recognised Youth Theatre, the accepted definition of a bona fide society is ‘a constituted group’.
- 2 All players must be amateur i.e. whose main income is not earned by acting.

#### WHAT CAN WE ENTER?

- 3 All performances are subject to the Theatres Act 1968 and must comply with its provisions regarding plays, which might be considered obscene, seditious, or libellous, or likely to incite racial hatred or a breach of the peace.
- 4 The entry will be a One-Act Play or an extract from a longer play. The accepted definition of a one-act entry is ‘a coherent piece of mainly spoken drama’.
- 5 No play in copyright may be performed without production of its performance licence and written permission must be provided for any cuts or alterations.
- 6 The performance must be performed as per the script provided for the adjudicator, which must be with the adjudicator at least three weeks before the performance.
- 7 Only hard copies of scripts are accepted. Photocopies are only acceptable with the written permission of the publishers.
- 8 Each entry must have a minimum of two speaking characters appearing on stage.

#### WHAT ARE THE TIME CONSTRAINTS?

- 9 The length of performance of the entry shall be not less than 20 minutes and not more than 55 minutes, including any time spent in changing a scene in the course of a performance or time used to set the mood by the cast or music before the tabs open.
- 10 Each team will be allowed 10 minutes for setting and 5 minutes for striking their set.
- 11 Penalties for not keeping within times for performance, setting and striking are: -

Up to 1 minute	1 mark
Up to 2 minutes	3 marks
Up to 3 minutes	6 marks
Up to 4 minutes	10 marks
Up to 5 minutes	15 marks
Over 5 minutes	Disqualification

#### WHAT ARE THE STAGING CONSTRAINTS?

- 12 Any set or scenery must be free standing within the provided ‘black box’ acting area.
- 13 Societies have a duty to co-operate with the Festival Stage Director in adhering to the theatre’s safety rules and attending all safety briefings as required, please be aware that there may be different requirements in each country.
- 14 Societies must give advance notice to the Festival Stage Director of any additional equipment, which must comply with the theatre’s requirements. And any effects such as naked lights or smoking, fire arms or pistol shots, knives or swords, strobes etc which the theatre will need to be made aware of.
- 15 The use of any kind of microphone will not be allowed to enhance an actor’s vocal projection. Microphones may still be used as a sound effect.

#### HOW WILL WE BE JUDGED?

- 16 The adjudicator will give a public adjudication of each entry and at the end of the Festival give the organisers a copy of the marks awarded.
- 17 The adjudicator will use the following marking system: -
 

Acting	40
Direction	35
Stage Presentation	15
Dramatic Achievement	10
- 18 The adjudicator’s decision is final.

### SECTION – 2

#### FESTIVAL REQUIREMENTS WHICH ARE SPECIFIC TO THE “NATIONAL ASSOCIATION”

These additional Festival Requirements must not impinge or override those set out in section 1 for the team to be eligible to represent their respective country.