## **Worcestershire Theatre Festival 2025 FAQ**

### **General Information**

* **What is the aim of the Festival?**The Worcestershire Theatre Festival aims to provide a platform for talented theatre groups to showcase their work, foster a community of like-minded individuals, and offer a pathway to the All England Theatre Festival.
* **What am I committing to if my group opts to progress to the All England Theatre Festival?**

If your group has opted to progress to the AETF, you may be expected to participate in the subsequent rounds of this national drama competition culminating in the British Final. This means ensuring that your cast and crew are available and prepared to travel to the locations of these subsequent rounds

* **Are there any restrictions on the type of performance or the number in the cast?**We welcome a diverse range of theatrical performances, including plays, dance, mime, music, and monologues. Performances with adult content, such as swearing, nudity are acceptable, but this must be declared on your application form.
* **We will not accept performances that promote any kind of extremism or racism.**All performances must last between 20 and 55 minutes, and there is no limit to the number of performers.

### **Technical Requirements**

* **How long do we get to set up and strike our set?**

You have 10 minutes for set-up and 5 minutes for strike, in addition to your performance time. Please be prepared to adhere to these time limits.

* **How do we sort out our technical requirements?**Complete the technical questionnaire and submit it to the festival stage manager at least two weeks before the festival. Please note that due to the number of performances, some technical compromises may be necessary. Feel free to discuss any technical questions with the stage manager.
* **Can we arrange our lighting and sound before the day?**All technical requirements, including lighting and sound, must be arranged through the technical questionnaire. The theatre technicians will set up the equipment before the festival.
* **Can we use pyrotechnics, smoke machines, and similar effects?**The use of these effects may be restricted. Please consult with the festival stage manager to determine if they are allowed. A risk assessment may be required, and smoking is strictly prohibited.
* **Can we use microphones?**Live microphones are generally not allowed for enhancing a performer's voice on stage. However, they may be used for voiceovers or off-stage effects.

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### **Performance Day**

* **Will there be anybody to help us backstage?**The festival stage manager and his team will provide support to ensure a smooth performance. However, the overall responsibility for the performance lies with your group.
* **Will we have to operate the lights, sound, and curtain ourselves?**You may choose to operate your own technical equipment if you are familiar with it. Alternatively, the theatre technicians can operate the equipment with your guidance.
* **How much rehearsal time do we have?**You will have 30 minutes before your performance to rehearse on stage, check technical aspects, and run lines. Please note that a full run-through may not be possible.
* **Who will be in the audience?**The audience will consist of members and supporters from other groups, as well as members of the public attracted by the festival publicity. We encourage you to bring your own supporters and watch other performances during the weekend.
* **What about Curtain Calls?**Curtain calls or bows are not permitted.

### **Additional Information**

* **Do we get our own dressing room?**Suitable dressing rooms will be allocated to each group, but availability may be limited until the start of your session.
* **Do we need any sort of insurance?**

It is recommended that all participating groups have Public Liability Insurance of at least £5 million. If you are progressing to the All England Theatre Festival, you will be required to have insurance. The AETF offers a bespoke insurance scheme for smaller groups.

* **What about safeguarding children and young persons?**You are responsible for the safeguarding of children and young people involved in your production. Please ensure they are protected according to relevant guidelines.
* **Do the cast get complimentary tickets and can I buy other tickets?**Each cast member will receive a complimentary ticket to view other performances in the same session. Tickets for non-cast members can be purchased at the venue.
* **What does the adjudicator do?**The adjudicator will provide constructive feedback on each performance, focusing on aspects such as acting, directing, presentation, and costumes.
* **Will the adjudicator mention individuals?**The adjudicator may mention individual performers, offering both praise and suggestions for improvement.
* **When are the trophies presented?**Trophy winners will be announced and presented on stage at the end of the Sunday night session.

**Revised September 2024.**