

Aims of The Worcestershire Theatre Festival



- To celebrate amateur theatre
- To bring groups together
- To provide a forum for amateur theatre in all its forms
- To further theatre in all its forms within Worcestershire
- To provide a first round entry into the All England Theatre Festival

The Rules

- 1) The Worcestershire Theatre Festival (The Festival) is an independent Stage One festival which provides a way into the national *All England Theatre Festival*. Companies (that is to say those people involved in the production) wishing to proceed to the national All England Theatre Festival, if selected to do so, must so declare this on the entry form. Companies may, however, opt not to go forward into the national festival.
- 2) All members of the competing company involved with the entry, must be amateurs (professionals are defined as those for whom performing is their main living or those who have been employed as a professional performer within the two years prior to the festival).
- 3) Details of the performance to be entered must be provided on the entry form together with a copy of the script to be used. The organising committee reserves the right to refuse an entry. Entrants should ensure that they will be able to obtain a performance licence, (where required). The performance licence and the technical questionnaire must be sent to the festival stage manager at least two weeks prior to the performance. The licence must include specific permission for any cuts or significant alterations to the original script.
- 4) An entry fee of £25 per entry is payable together with a further £25 performance guarantee payment. The guaranteed performance payment will be refunded after the company perform.
- 5) All entrants will be subject to the provisions of the Theatre Act 1968 and entrants are deemed to have full knowledge of the provisions of this Act and the liabilities there under concerning the performance of plays which might be considered obscene, seditious or libellous or likely to incite racial hatred or a breach of the peace.
- 6) Entry to the *All England Theatre Festival* can only be via one local festival approved by the committee of the Western Division of the All England Theatre Festival. The Worcestershire Theatre Festival is an approved entry festival.
- 7) No company may present the same performance in the festival more than once within a period of five years.
- 8) Companies who wish to proceed to the national festival must satisfy themselves that their production will satisfy the rules of the All England Theatre Festival (which may not be the same rules that apply to the Worcestershire Theatre Festival).
- 9) Companies may enter more than one production in the festival. Non-competitive entries must comply with Worcestershire Theatre Festival rules and will be adjudicated.

10) Youth groups eligible for any of youth awards are those where every member of the cast is below the age of 18 on the date of performance. However, members of the cast who are students in full time school education (not further education) are permitted to perform even if they are 18 years old. Current regulations concerning the safeguarding of children and young people must be adhered to and are the responsibility of the group.

11) The Worcestershire Theatre Festival Committee do not hold themselves responsible for any liability for any injury, loss or damage to any scenery, props, costumes, theatrical equipment etc., belonging to competing theatre groups. Companies are advised to take out appropriate insurance.

12) The entry may take the form of any type of theatrical presentation, including a monologue, there is no upper limit. Note however that only performances containing at least two performers are permitted in The All England Theatre Festival.

13) The entry may be an extract from a longer presentation provided that the appropriate permission of the copyright holder is obtained and the performance is intelligible to a member of the audience who has not seen the full performance from which the extract is taken. However, only one such extract may be performed by each company in any one festival.

14) The performance must be at least twenty minutes in length and no more than fifty five minutes in length (not counting the setting and striking times set out below). Timings are taken from the first "image" to be last "image" presented to the audience. This image may take any form i.e. sound, visual or mood setting.

15) Ten minutes is allowed to set the stage prior to the start of the performance and five minutes to strike after the performance is completed.

16) Penalties for not keeping within the allotted times for performance, setting or striking shall be as follows:

- Up to 1 minute over or under time 1 mark
- Up to 2 minutes over or under time 3 marks
- Up to 3 minutes over or under time 6 marks
- Up to 4 minutes over or under time 10 marks
- Up to 5 minutes over or under time 15 marks
- More than 5 minutes over or under time, disqualification

17) The decision of the festival Stage Manager is final in all matters backstage.

18) The company must obtain the copyright holders permission for each performance and the appropriate licence fee must be paid. This performance licence must be sent to the festival stage manager at least two weeks prior to the festival. The licence must specifically permit any cuts or other significant changes that are made to the original script.

19) The use of any sort of live microphone is not permitted as a means of enhancing a performer's voice on stage. However, none connected microphones may be used as a prop. Live microphones may be used for voice over or other off stage effects.

20) Full details of any music used in the performance i.e. playing time, composer, title, details of recording, must be provided with the performing license. Companies will be responsible for any ensuing fees.

21) Scenery, props and any special lighting must be provided by the company. All scenery,

set and props must be fireproof. Any special lighting equipment, sound equipment, pyrotechnic equipment or practical props, including firearms, brought in by the company must comply with Health & Safety regulations and can only be used by prior agreement with the festival stage manager.

22) The Company is responsible for ensuring that the lights are set to their requirements, their set is correctly positioned and the performance starts and finishes as they intend. The theatre will make every effort to accommodate all reasonable requirements.

23) Curtain calls or bows are not permitted.

PLEASE NOTE:

Organisational problems and unnecessary expense has been caused in the past by companies who, without adequate cause, have withdrawn from the Festival after their entries were accepted. Companies are reminded that by entering the Festival they have undertaken a contract to give a public performance and in accordance with the tradition of the theatre they are expected to appear, even though, for example, a principal part may have to be read. Where the Committee is of the opinion that the company has withdrawn without adequate reason, the Committee may decide that the company should not be allowed to enter in future years.

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