

# **2016-2017 MPA DRAMA BULLETIN**

(Updated 9-28-16)

## **COMPETITION DATES**

December 9, 2016 - Division Entry Form Due

January 10, 2017 - Registration Form and Fee Due

March 10-11, 2017 - Regional Drama Festival

March 24-25, 2017 - State Drama Festival

April 20, 21 and 22, 2017 - New England Drama Festival, Norwood HS School, Norwood, MA

## **FESTIVAL DATES 2017-2018**

**Regionals**    March 2-3, 2018

**States**        March 16-17, 2018

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **DRAMA RULE BOOK**

The updated Drama Rule Book can be found on the MPA website ([http://www.mpa.cc/drama\\_bk.html](http://www.mpa.cc/drama_bk.html)).

### **RULES OF PARTICIPATION**

Rules for the conducting of the competitions will be jointly developed by the Maine Drama Council and the MPA Drama Committee.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

Student participants in the MPA Drama Festival who are found to be under the influence of, or in possession of, illegal substances or paraphernalia shall be immediately removed from participation in the festival. The MPA representative, in consultation with the host school's administration along with the administration of the offending student(s) school, shall take immediate appropriate action consistent with the host school's policies. Furthermore, depending on the circumstances of the violation, the violator's (s') school may be disqualified from the festival. All incidents will be referred to the Drama Committee for review and possible further action.

In all circumstances, the awards for the offending school will be withheld until a review is held by the Drama Committee.

### **ENTRY FORMS**

Entry forms are due December 9, 2016. These forms are essential for determining the number and locations of the Regional Festival sites.

### **CLASS A AND CLASS B**

Participation will be at two levels: Class A, which will consist of schools with enrollment equal to or greater than 525, and Class B, those schools whose enrollment is 524 or lower. There will be separate Class A and B finals, with one school from each class qualifying for the New England Festival. The enrollment figures used are those from April 1, 2014, compiled by the Maine Department of Education. These enrollment figures are updated every two years at the same time as the athletic reclassification enrollments. **This is a Classification year for review.**

## **COOPERATIVE TEAMS**

Two schools may join together to form a cooperative team subject to the following guidelines:

The principals of both participating schools must approve the establishment of a cooperative drama team and apply to the Executive Director for permission to establish the cooperative team.

The application must be in writing and made by October 28, 2016. The application must include a rationale for the formation of the cooperative drama team and written confirmation that the school boards of both schools have approved the school's participation in the cooperative team.

Only one of the schools may have entered the Drama Festival in the previous school year.

The combined enrollment of both schools will not exceed the 9-12 enrollment of the largest high school in Maine.

If the Executive Director approves the request.

Classification will be based on the combined enrollments of the two schools.

The name of the team must include the names of the two schools.

The cooperative team will be approved for no more than a two year period.

Once a cooperative team has been approved, the schools may not dissolve the team and either or both enter the Drama Festival in that school year. Dissolution of a cooperative agreement may be made for the second year of the agreement upon written notification to the Executive Director signed by both principals.

The Executive Director shall render a written decision on a cooperative drama team application by October 30.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Performers in the Maine Drama Festival shall be students in grades 9-12 and must meet local eligibility standards. Schools with fewer than 60 students in their high school building (9-12) may use 8<sup>th</sup> graders. **Only students who meet all MPA eligibility rules at the participating school may take part in the acting performance in any way (e.g. to play music or speak live through a microphone, etc.). All aspects of the technical performance of the play must also be run only by MPA eligible students.** Eighth graders are to be used when there does not exist enough high school students to fill a cast. Adults or former students may not run light boards, spotlights, sound systems, call cues over headsets, or prompt. Breaking this rule will result in disqualification. The only time that adult involvement is permitted is during the five-minute set up and strike.

## **SITE ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be numerous regional sites with an attempt to balance the number and ratio of Class A and B schools at each site. Tom Heath and Robin Lisherness will be working with the MPA Drama Committee to locate sites, coordinate site assignments, and to work on technical consistency where possible.

## **ENTRY FEE**

There will be a non-refundable entry fee of \$100 that must accompany the registration

form that is due on January 10, 2017.

### **FINAL REGISTRATION FORMS**

After initial entry, schools will be sent additional registration forms for directors to indicate the title of their play and other relevant information concerning participation. These forms can be downloaded from the MPA website ( [HYPERLINK http://www.mpa.cc](http://www.mpa.cc) [www.mpa.cc](http://www.mpa.cc)) and are due in Augusta by January 10, 2017 (A \$35 late fee and a \$100 registration fee apply.). This guarantees eligibility to the New England's. Directors should also note that schools which drop out after final registration can seriously upset the overall fairness of a Regional by creating an imbalance in the number of schools between classifications.

### **COMPETITION SCHEDULES**

Individual Festival schedules will be set up by the Host Directors and should be given to directors on or before Tech Day.

**It is recommended that the following times for productions follow this schedule:**

If nine participating schools:	Friday (6,7,8) Saturday (12, 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7)
If ten participating schools:	Friday (6,7,8) Saturday (12,1,2,3, 6,7,&8)

### **SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE STATE FESTIVAL**

Participation in the State Festival will be determined by rank order results of the judges. At sites where there are six or more schools in a Class, two schools will qualify; at sites where there are one to five schools in a Class, one school will qualify. An alternate will be named at both the regional and state levels in case a chosen school is unable to participate at the next level.

### **AWARDS**

There will be an awards ceremony at the close of each festival at which outstanding performances and individuals will be recognized. At the regionals, the winner and runner-up in each class will receive trophies. At the state festival, the winner and runner-up will receive plaques.

### **SCRIPT SELECTION**

Script selections should be reflective of the maturity level of the performers and in keeping with the **FAMILY-TYPE AUDIENCE**, which is usually in attendance. Directors and principals must be sensitive to the appropriateness of their script choices, particularly when another host school is providing the venue (**provide host director with information**). Principals and directors who choose scripts with language or situations that could offend audiences at a host school should seriously consider the literary value of their choice. In addition to script considerations, the use of props and the onstage actions of the performers during a performance should not reflect gratuitous or inappropriate sexual content.

Although schools may choose a one act script, cuttings of longer plays are acceptable.

The presentation (with or without music) of any script designated as musical theatre by the publisher will result in disqualification.

### **ROYALTIES & CUTTING RIGHTS**

Each school must have obtained permission from the publishing company (in writing) for the rights to perform its play and must also have prior permission for any cutting that might have been done to the script. Copyright laws require this and schools which do

not comply risk disqualification.

The signature of the principal on the registration form indicates approval of the script/production, and guarantees payment of necessary royalties.

### **TECH DAY (SATURDAY BEFORE THE COMPETITION)**

The purpose of tech day is to familiarize student technicians with the lighting control system, the sound system, and the layout of the stage. It is also a day for directors to acquaint themselves with festival procedures, facility arrangements, and peculiarities of the host theatre.

Any special equipment that will be used at the festival should be in place for all schools to see on tech day. Where this might not be possible, directors must inform the host of their intent to use a particular piece of equipment and its desired location (especially in the case of lighting equipment). Hosts will be able, this way, to inform all schools on tech day as to what equipment (and lights) will be available. Equipment installed in advance at a site should be available for use by all schools. (See the "Tech Day" section of the Guidelines/Rulebook for more information.) **Host director will have an additional one time slot open to all schools for any technical training on technical Saturday.**

**All weapons to be used in the play must be declared on Tech Saturday. Declarations of weapons must be specific (e.g., a director cannot say the school plans to use guns; the exact items and how many to be used must be specified). Weapon use must comply with the host school's weapons policy. Weapons must be surrendered to the host director upon arrival at the festival site, to be safely stored until the school's performance and then returned immediately to the host director after performance. Directors may pick up their weapons at the festival's conclusion.**

**If all weapons are not declared on Tech Saturday and turned over to the site host upon arrival at the festival, the school will be disqualified. It is the director's responsibility to turn over weapons; the site host is not responsible for tracking down directors to get weapons.**

### **SCENERY**

Because of the different physical limitations at each host site, the official size for stage pieces has been arbitrarily limited to anything that will fit through a standard doorway (designated as 32" x 6'6"). Within this limitation, each host school tech director may use his or her own discretion in accommodating the sets for individual productions. At a site with larger stage doors, set pieces larger than the "official" size are permitted. It is important only that hosts spell out the limitations to visiting directors. Directors should also be aware that although some regional sites have double doors, some state sites might have single ones. Host directors will attempt to accommodate schools in a consistent manner. A director who is unfamiliar with the host site assigned is advised to visit that site or at least to ask for stage specifications before finalizing a set design. (See the "Technical Limitations" section of the Guidelines/Rulebook for more information.)

### **TECH CHECKS**

Each school will be provided a **timed** 55-minute "tech check" at which time lights can be aimed, focused and gelled; sound levels may be set; and scenery can be brought

onstage for proper positioning and spiking. Tech checks will begin on Friday afternoon of festival weekend. (See the "Tech Checks" section of the Guidelines/Rulebook for more information.)

### **STUDENT WRITTEN AND/OR STUDENT DIRECTED PLAYS**

All student written and/or student directed plays will be noted as such in the program and will be evaluated and critiqued on the same basis as all other plays.

### **FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES**

Specific performance schedules at host schools may vary, but performances run Friday evening, Saturday afternoon, and Saturday evening. **All schools are required to attend all performances and should strive to attend any other planned festival activities such as workshops and meetings.**

The time allotted for each production is 35 minutes! A production over 35 minutes and under 40 minutes will receive a 5 point deduction. A production over 40 minutes will be DISQUALIFIED.

### **CRITIQUES**

Critiques will be: Each judge will have three minutes to provide a critique. There will be NO Question and Answer time provided at the Critique. Only that school's production members and the Director may attend the Critique – the Critique will be closed to all other Directors.

### **NEW ENGLAND FESTIVAL**

The Maine Drama Council is affiliated with the NEDC and each year the MDC sends two representatives to the annual New England Festival, at Norwood High School in Norwood, MA from April 20-21, and 22, 2017. Representatives are chosen from the top ranking schools in each classification. There is a \$25 MDC membership fee that must be prepaid which is now part of the \$100.00. All schools are eligible for New England.

## DRAMA CLASSIFICATION

<b>CLASS A</b> <b>525+</b>	<b>CLASS B</b> <b>0-524</b>
1. Thornton (1422)	1. Mt. Desert (519)
2. Lewiston (1318)	2. Freeport (511)
3. Bangor (1169)	3. Poland (502)
4. Bonny Eagle (1134)	4. Hermon (498)
5. Oxford Hills (1072)	5. Yarmouth (496)
6. Scarborough (1034)	6. Gray-New Gloucester (495)
7. Massabesic (1019)	7. Old Town (476)
8. Windham (1005)	8. Lincoln (473)
9. Edward Little (977)	9. Cheverus (465)
10. Deering (927)	10. Spruce Mountain (465)
11. Portland (868)	11. Foxcroft (464)
12. South Portland (846)	12. Winslow (464)
13. Noble (842)	13. Ellsworth (459)
14. Gorham (838)	14. Mt. View (448)
15. Skowhegan (775)	15. Caribou (442)
16. Marshwood (739)	16. Maine Central (436)
17. Westbrook (16) (722)	17. Oak Hill (433)
18. Falmouth (710)	18. McAuley(G) (398)
19. Lawrence (674)	19. Lisbon (384)
20. Mt. Blue (696)	20. Washington (374)
21. Brewer (693)	21. Central (370)
22. Camden (669)	22. Orono (346)
23. Leavitt (613)	23. Casco Bay (332)
24. Morse (586)	24. George Stevens (320)
25. Waterville (583)	25. Stearns/Schenck (315)
26. Oceanside (571)	26. Bucksport (305)
27. Fryeburg (559)	27. Fort Kent (295)
28. Cape Elizabeth(555)	28. Traip (263)
29. Erskine (554)	29. Madison (260)
30. Medomak (546)	30. Waynflete (260)
31. Presque Isle (544)	31. Sumner (248)
32. Belfast (530)	32. Winthrop (227)
	33. Old Orchard (225)
	34. Piscataquis (217)
	35. Monmouth (214)
	36. Carrabec (211)
	37. Boothbay (206)
	38. Wiscasset (202)
	39. Searsport (164)
	40. Lee (153)
	41. Baxter Academy (125)
	42. Washburn (124)
	43. Deer Isle-Stonington (105)
	44. Shead (108)
	45. Van Buren (89)
	46. Easton (65)
	47. Vinalhaven (65)
	48. Greater Portland Christian (43)
	49. Merriconeag (42)
	50. North Haven (18)