

2017-2018 MPA DRAMA BULLETIN

(Updated 12-14-17)

COMPETITION DATES

December 8, 2017 - Division Entry Form Due
January 12, 2018 - Registration Form and Fee Due
March 9-10, 2018 - Regional Drama Festival
March 23-24, 2018 - State Drama Festival
April 26-28, 2018 - New England Drama Festival. Gilford NH

FESTIVAL DATES 2017-2018

Regionals March 9-10, 2018
States March 23-24, 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).

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 8, 2017. These forms are essential for determining the number and locations of the Regional Festival sites. **THE FIRST FORM TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE!**

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, 2017, compiled by the Maine Department of Education. These enrollment figures are updated every two years at the same time as the athletic reclassification enrollments.

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 December 1, 2017. 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 December 1.

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 8th 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 12, 2018.

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.

The first form will be available on line and will be found on the MPA website. The second form can be downloaded from the MPA website (www.mpa.cc) and are due in Augusta by January 12, 2018 (A \$35 late fee and a \$100 registration fee apply.). This guarantees eligibility to the New Englands. 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 in coordination with the MPA Drama Committee 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 second rank order scores. 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. Students will be recognized at the end of the festival; however, certificates will be e-mailed to individual schools.

SCRIPT SELECTION

Script Selection

Script selections should be reflective of the maturity level of the performers and in keeping with the family-type audience that 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 performance venue. Principals and directors who choose scripts with language or situations that could offend audiences at a host school should consider seriously the literary value of their choice. In addition to script considerations, use of props and the onstage actions of the actors during a performance should not reflect gratuitous or inappropriate sexual content. Directors should inform their Host Directors if their performance contains sensitive material that might warrant a note in the program or a pre-show announcement to audience members.

We are also very aware of the dangers of censorship. It is the policy of the MPA and the MDC that theatrical productions be protected from censorship based purely on content.

Standards for Freedom of Expression in Educational Theatre

1. Theatre programs operating in a school, college, university, or other educational setting should provide diverse productions, teaching activities, and support materials that examine the spectrum of human experience and present a range of points of view concerning the issues and problems of our times. No theatre productions should be altered or canceled because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
2. Scripts, textbooks, and other production and educational materials should be selected for their capacity to inform, educate, enlighten, and engage the interest of the school theatre community. In no case should materials that meet educational or artistic criteria be excluded based on the race, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation, or the social, political, or religious views, of the author or another creative participant. (Educational Theatre Association, *Statement on Freedom of Expression*. Rev. April 13, 2012).

Directors should choose scripts for their educational and artistic merits. Shows that utilize vulgarity and/or lewd acts expressly for shock value, with no regard to theme or message, are to be avoided. Principals should be cognizant of the fact that just because a script makes them uncomfortable, does not mean that it is without merit.

Please note, schools that push the boundaries of appropriateness may be asked to explain their choices to the MPA Drama Committee. If a suitable explanation cannot be provided, schools risk a one-year loss of eligibility to take part in the festival.

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 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.

If ANY item is used as a weapon, it 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 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 **Thursday night, Friday afternoon, or at a time mutually agreed upon with the performing school and the host site** (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 except for the performing school immediately prior to their own and should strive to attend any other planned festival activities such as workshops and meetings.**

The time allotted for each production is 40 minutes! A production over 40 minutes will not qualify to continue.

CRITIQUES

Each school will have a critique session with the judges. Each judge will have 3 minutes to give their feedback. The students will then have 3 minutes to ask questions of the judges. The question and answer time ends if there are no questions from the students. The critique is open only to students who took part in the production and all directors and student directors who have a show at that festival.

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, in Gilford, NH from April 26, 27, and 28, 2018. 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 Englands if they have the signed form from their superintendent and present it at the State Festival.

DRAMA CLASSIFICATION

CLASS A		CLASS B	
500+		0-499	
1.	Lewiston (1428)	1.	Oceanside (488)
2.	Thornton (1412)	2.	Freeport (494)
3.	Bangor (1129)	3.	Maine Central (479)
4.	Bonny Eagle (1100)	4.	Old Town (478)
5.	Deering (1086)	5.	Cheverus (467)
6.	Oxford Hills (1050)	6.	Poland (462)
7.	Scarborough (1021)	7.	Ellsworth (448)
8.	Windham (1004)	8.	Foxcroft (448)
9.	Massabesic (985)	9.	Winslow (446)
10.	Edward Little (982)	10.	Caribou (430)
11.	Portland (970)	11.	Oak Hill (420)
12.	South Portland (892)	12.	Washington (417)
13.	Noble (835)	13.	Mt. View (412)
14.	Gorham (823)	14.	Spruce Mountain (408)
15.	Marshwood (781)	15.	Casco Bay (379)
16.	Skowhegan (777)	16.	Orono (354)
17.	Westbrook (743)	17.	Lisbon (336)
18.	Falmouth (696)	18.	Central (324)
19.	Mt. Blue (669)	19.	George Stevens (321)
20.	Camden (667)	20.	Baxter Academy (304)
21.	Brewer (659)	21.	Bucksport (299)
22.	Lawrence (659)	22.	Fort Kent (281)
23.	Morse (613)	23.	Stearns/Schenck (276)
24.	Erskine (581)	24.	Waynflete (260)
25.	Lincoln (579)	25.	Traip (257)
26.	Leavitt (572)	26.	Old Orchard (251)
27.	Fryeburg (562)	27.	Sumner (248)
28.	Medomak (553)	28.	Winthrop (248)
29.	Presque Isle (548)	29.	Maine Girls' Academy (246)
30.	Yarmouth (546)	30.	Madison (231)
31.	Waterville (544)	31.	Monmouth (221)
32.	Cape Elizabeth (537)	32.	Carrabec (215)
33.	Gray-New Gloucester (532)	33.	Boothbay (215)
34.	Mt. Desert (526)	34.	Lee (192)
35.	Hermon (504)	35.	Piscataquis (176)
36.	Belfast (501)	36.	Wiscasset (173)
		37.	Searsport (173)
		38.	Washburn (118)
		39.	Deer Isle-Stonington (112)
		40.	Shed (101)
		41.	Van Buren (76)
		42.	Easton (66)
		43.	Vinalhaven (61)
		44.	Maine Coast Waldorf (38)
		45.	Greater Portland Christian (36)
		46.	North Haven (22)