

2011-2012 MPA DRAMA BULLETIN

(Updated 9-28-11)

COMPETITION DATES

December 1, 2011 - Division Entry Form Due

January 5, 2012 - Registration Form Due

March 9-10, 2012 - Regional Drama Festival

March 23-24, 2012 - State Drama Festival

April 26, 27, and 28, 2012 - New England Drama Festival, Gilford High School, Gilford, NH

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 1. 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 550, and Class B, those schools whose enrollment is 549 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, 2010, 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:

1. 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.

2. The application must be in writing and made by October 1st. 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.
3. Only one of the schools may have entered the Drama Festival in the previous school year.
4. The combined enrollment of both schools will not exceed the 9-12 enrollment of the largest high school in Maine.
5. If the Executive Director approves the request
 - a. Classification will be based on the combined enrollments of the two schools.
 - b. The name of the team must include the names of the two schools.
 - c. The cooperative team will be approved for no more than a two year period.
 - d. 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.
6. The Executive Director shall render a written decision on a cooperative drama team application by November 1st.

ELIGIBILITY

Performers in the Maine Drama Festival shall be students in grades 9-12 and must meet local eligibility standards. Schools with fewer than 80 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.** 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. Rick Ash 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 \$50 that must accompany the registration form that is due on January 5, 2012.

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 (www.mpa.cc) and are due in Augusta by January 5, 2012 (A \$35 late fee and a \$50 registration fee apply.). 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.

Up to thirty participants (cast, crew, and adults) from each school will be provided admission credentials. Schools registering more than thirty will be assessed an additional fee of \$5 per person over that total.

COMPETITION SCHEDULES

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

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 actors and actresses 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.**

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.

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 Gilford High School, Gilford, NH, from April 26-28, 2012. Representatives are chosen from the top ranking schools in each classification. Any school wishing to be eligible must declare its eligibility in advance on a form, which can be downloaded from the MPA website (www.mpa.cc). There is also a \$25 MDC membership fee that must be prepaid in order for schools to be considered. Please send the \$25 payment to: **Maura Smith, Skowhegan Area High School, 61 Academy Circle, Skowhegan, ME 04976.**

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DRAMA CLASSIFICATION

<p>CLASS A <u>550+</u></p>	<p>CLASS B <u>0-549</u></p>
<p>Bangor Belfast Biddeford Bonny Eagle Brewer Camden Cape Elizabeth Cony Edward Little Ellsworth Erskine Falmouth Fryeburg Gorham Leavitt Marshwood Massabesic Medomak Valley Morse Mt. Blue Noble Nokomis Oceanside Old Town (15) Oxford Hills Portland Presque Isle Scarborough Skowhegan South Portland Spruce Mountain Thornton Waterville Westbrook Windham York</p>	<p>Boothbay Calais Caribou Carrabec <i>Casco Bay</i> Central Cheverus Easton Fort Kent Freeport George Stevens Gray-New Gloucester Greater Portland Christian Hermon Lincoln Academy Lisbon Madison Maine School of Science and Math McAuley MCI Monmouth Mount Desert Island Mount View Mountain Valley North Haven Oak Hill Old Orchard Orono Piscataquis Poland Searsport Shed Stearns/Schenck Sumner Traip Van Buren Washington Academy Winslow Winthrop Wiscasset Yarmouth</p>