

E5 – RULES FROM PREVIOUS FESTIVAL EVENTS

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IMPROVISATION GUIDELINES

IMPROVISATION: THE CREATION OF A SCENE, INCLUDING TIME, PLACE, CHARACTERS, CONFLICT, ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.

1. FOUR participants must be entered as a team.
2. In rounds 1, 2 and Semi-finals, all participants will remain in the performance room until the round is over. In Finals, participants will be placed in a waiting room (well out of hearing distance) and will be called into the performance room one group at a time to perform. After performing their scene, the groups must remain in the room. The order of performance in finals will be determined by drawing numbers.
3. Situations for the improv. will be placed in sealed envelopes. One participant from each group will select an envelope.
ROUND 1: The envelope will include a specified **SETTING & TIME.**
ROUND 2: The envelope will include a specified **SETTING & TIME.**
SEMIS: The envelope will give **SETTING, TIME, CHAR, CONFLICT.**
FINALS: There is an additional envelope given. Three participants are given an envelope with **SETTING, TIME, CHAR & CONFLICT.** ONE participant (chosen by the group) will be given an additional sealed envelope which contains a “deus ex machina” or *surprise element*. The second envelope may not be opened by the fourth group member until the other three members have begun the scene. The fourth group member may not enter the improvisation until the final two minutes.
4. The maximum time limit for this event is 5 minutes. The group may take up to the first 2 minutes to prepare. In the final round, the improv must be at least 3 minutes long. A visual warning will be given to all performers at the end of the first 3 minutes, at the end of the first 4 minutes, and the last 10 seconds if the improvisation is not over. At 5 minutes, “TIME” will be called and the group must stop.
5. An introduction consisting of only a title of 10 words or less and the school code is required at the beginning of each group’s performance.
6. All other General Festival Rules apply (except the rule regarding the introduction and the rule regarding memorization).

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS

2005 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR TWO PERSON – OPEN

1. The scene must be a continuous excerpt. Minor internal cuts are acceptable.
2. Each actor may only portray one character unless specified by the script.
3. The scene may be a maximum of 5 minutes.

2005 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 20TH CENTURY SCREENPLAY

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be selected from AFI's "Top 100 Movies of the 20th Century"
4. If there is a musical category then musical movies may be performed but the scene must not include any music.

2005 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT WRITTEN FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be written by a current student at the DTASC entered school.
4. The social issue should be clearly stated.

2005 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR ANYTHING GOES MUSICAL

1. The scene must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. The scene must have music.

2006 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT WRITTEN BIOGRAPHIC/HISTORICAL EVENT (POST 1900)

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be written by a current student at the DTASC entered school.
4. The historical subject should be clear.

2006 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MOLIÈRE

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a straight scene from any Molière play.

2006 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LAST-MINUTE DTASC

1. Two weeks before the festival, DTASC will announce a public domain play to be used for this event.
2. Each actor may only portray one character unless specified by the script.
3. The scene may be a maximum of 5 minutes.
4. The scene must have 4 performers.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN COMEDY:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a published play or musical of comedic intent.

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PLAYS BASED ON MYTHS, PARABLES OR FOLK TALES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a published play or musical.

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR ABSURDIST PLAYWRIGHTS*:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a published play in the Absurdist genre.

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT ADAPTATION OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be based on published work(s) that could be considered children’s literature.
4. Must have been adapted by a student or students; may retain the author’s words.

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR GREEK COMEDY OR TRAGEDY

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. **The scene must be from an ancient Greek comedy or tragedy, translated into English. Cutting is permitted.**

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 2–4 PERSON SERIOUS

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be a STRAIGHT scene of serious intent from a single professionally produced or published play.

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PLAYS BY WOMEN

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be from a single professionally produced or published play by a woman playwright. Cutting is permitted.

**Check Section H for suggestions.*

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2008 AND 2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Singing is required.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage that advocates or has effected significant social change (eg., *A Doll's House*, most of Brecht, *Angels in America*, etc.).

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR IRISH PLAYWRIGHTS*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a straight scene from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage by an Irish playwright. Select from list, page H1–11.

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR AFI TOP 100*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be selected from “100 Years... 100 Movies... 10th Anniversary Edition” — download the pdf “100movies.pdf” from the following url:
<http://connect.afi.com/site/PageServer?pagename=100yearsList>
4. As there is a musical category, if a musical movie is performed, it must not include ANY music.

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR TRAPPED

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must have someone or something that is trapped, either physically or psychologically.
4. Must be student written.

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN HUMOR

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play and must be a scene the author intended to be humorous; it cannot be student written.

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR NOEL COWARD PLAYS*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single play by Noel Coward.

**Check Section H for suggestions.*

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN DRAMA

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play of dramatic intent; it cannot be student written.

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYS*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single play that has won the Pulitzer Prize.
If a musical is selected, may use only the libretto (no singing).

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MUSICAL: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE*

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. It's a musical — a capella singing is required.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
5. Performed scene(s) must reflect the American Experience. Coach must be able to justify the scene(s) used, in case there is any question from Rules.

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SCENES FROM ONE ACTS*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a professionally produced or published play designated as a one-act play; it cannot be student written.

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR HORROR, SUPERNATURAL, AND FANTASY PLAYS

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play that fits at least one of the three genres; it cannot be student written.

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WORLD THEATRE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play that was originally written in a language other than English.
4. May be performed in an English translation that was professionally produced or published, or in the original language. May not be done as a student translation.

**Check Section H for suggestions.*

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. It's a musical — a capella singing is required.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN COMEDY

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play; it cannot be student written.
4. Must be a scene of comedic intent.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR CLASSICAL COMEDY

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single comedy first performed prior to 1921; it cannot be student written.
4. No Shakespeare allowed. No adaptations.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR DR. SEUSS ADAPTATION

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. May be from a single professionally produced or published play OR may be student written.
4. Must be a professionally produced play based on Dr. Seuss or a student written scene from a single source (i.e., one story, not multiple stories interwoven).

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT WRITTEN FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be written by current student(s) at the DTASC entered school.
4. The social issue must be clearly stated.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WORLD IN MUSIC

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be set in another country (or at least outside the United States) on the planet Earth. If you can't find it on the globe, you can't do it.
4. It's a musical — a capella singing is required.
5. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR ALL FEMALE CAST

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play; it cannot be student written.
4. All characters, male and female, must be performed by female actors.

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR RETRO RADIO

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must use a radio script. May also use any appropriate stage script that has been performed and published as a radio play.
4. Scene must be performed with original intent.
5. If the script calls for music, this can be supplied by humming or vocal syllables with any appropriate tune, but must not have lyrics of any kind.
6. Scene may include commercial breaks if they are part of the published script.
7. Sound effects must be created by hands, feet, mouth, chairs or floor.
8. BLOCKING GUIDELINES:
 - a. Blocking should be limited. In a radio play, each actor and sound effects person would be working behind a microphone (invisible today).
 - b. The “Blocking and Staging” portion of the ballot and share sheets will be based on vocal variety and sound effects, not on movement.

RUBRIC FOR EVENT 4 TO BE GIVEN TO JUDGES:

For Event 4 RETRO RADIO, please replace the evaluation points for STAGING and BLOCKING with the following criteria:

- VOCAL VARIETY – use of voice to communicate the material
- SOUND EFFECTS – use of voice, body, and chairs to create sound effects that enhance the material

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR AFI TOP 100 SCREENPLAYS

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be selected from “100 Years... 100 Movies... 10th Anniversary Edition” — download the pdf “100movies.pdf” from the following url:
<http://www.afi.com/100Years/movies10.aspx>
4. As there is a musical category, if a musical movie is performed, it must NOT include ANY singing. Humming is allowed.

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. It’s a musical — a capella singing is required.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MORE THAN A NARRATOR

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a scene from a novel or a short story that has a narrator. Cannot be a scene from a play. May be a biography or memoir written in narrative style. (Narrator can be identified as such, or the story/novel can be written in 3rd person limited or 1st person, thereby providing a narrator, or if it's 3rd person omniscient, the omniscient author becomes the narrator.)
4. Narrator must be a character involved in the scene in some way. The challenge is to show how the narrator feels toward each of the characters and the action in the scene. This can be done using the narrator's lines from the story as well as by acting.
5. Narrator can be 1st or 3rd person. The narrator may play more than one role.
6. All characters, including the narrator, use ONLY the words from the novel or short story. Not even changes of pronoun are permitted. The ONLY exception is replacing swear words or racial slurs with a euphemism.
7. Narration can be used as dialogue by a character, but must use the same words as the narrator would. Example:
 - Narrator: Chris looked down at the food on his plate and realized at once...
 - Chris: he wasn't really hungry at all.
8. Actors may play multiple roles if necessary, but not to the point of confusing the audience (judges). Scene must be consistent with the author's intent.
9. Script must be written by one or more persons at your school. Script MUST use ONLY the words in the short story or novel. The ONLY exception is replacing swear words or racial slurs with a euphemism.
 - NOTE: We provided an example for the judges for how this category was set up.

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PLAYS OF SOCIAL CONSCIENCE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play. It cannot be student written. It cannot be a movie script.
4. Must be a play involving Social Conscience (eg., To Kill a Mockingbird, The Ruling Class, The Normal Heart, Bang Bang You're Dead, The Resistable Rise of Arturo Uii, All the Way Home, Johnny Belinda, The Laramie Project, anything by Culture Clash, plays by Luis Valdez, etc.).
5. NOTE: Swear words or racial slurs must be replaced with a euphemism.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PANTOMIME

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Pantomime is defined as a silent performance, either humorous or serious. Pantomime does not use language. That means no sign language or mouthing words.
4. Each performer may pantomime any number of characters and may pantomime characters of the opposite sex.
5. Must position chairs before the introduction. After that, chairs cannot be moved (unless a safety consideration happens—and it cannot happen at each performance).
6. Must have a spoken introduction that states “School Code presents Title” (eg., “AA presents The Baseball Game”).
7. After the introduction, no sounds or sound effects are permitted.

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MUSICAL THEME COLLAGE

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. It’s a musical — a capella singing is required from each play used.
4. Theme must involve at least three (3) musical stage plays that have been professionally produced or published. The plays cannot be student written.
5. A single theme must unite all the plays.
6. All lines and songs must be from those plays only. Nothing can be added by either student or coach—or anyone else except the original playwright.
7. Scenes may be separate or combined at the director’s discretion.
8. The theme must be stated in the intro. The names of the plays must also be stated in the intro, if the plays are interwoven. If each play is being kept separate, the name of each may be stated when that segment begins, or they may all be stated in the intro.
9. If the plays are interwoven, the script turned in at registration must indicate which lines and songs are from which musical play.

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR NON-AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHTS

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. May be from any time period. Playwright cannot have been born in the USA and cannot be writing in the USA.
4. May be an English translation of a play written in another language, but the English translation must itself be a published translation; it cannot be student written or translated by someone at the school.
5. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play. It cannot be student written.
6. All DTASC Straight Scene rules apply. See E2–2, #9.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MEET MY CRAZY FAMILY

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play; it cannot be student written.
4. Note: “Family” may be blood kin, but that is not a requirement.

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be student-written.
4. Must be based on a headline story from a printed or digital newspaper or news periodical (may use online archives).
5. Music is allowed in this category, but all lyrics must be student written. Melodies and background humming may be from any source, including student written.
6. The reprint of the original headline must be attached to the script that is turned in at registration.
7. Recommendation: Have students involve their history teachers so they get credit and perhaps some assistance.

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
4. It’s a musical; it must include a capella singing.

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play written by a woman. It cannot be student written.
4. All DTASC Straight Scene rules apply. See E2–2, #9.

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR ANYTHING GOES FOR CHILDREN

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be for a target audience of ages 4–8 years old.
4. May be student written; does not have to be student written.
5. No singing. See rules regarding DTASC music, E2–2, #12.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR DIVERSITY

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a play where at least one character has something that makes him/her different from the others. (Not limited to one character being different. There is no specific definition of “different.”)
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THE GOLDEN OLDIES

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be from a musical play that opened before 1970.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
5. It’s a musical; it must include a capella singing.

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LEADING LADIES – STRAIGHT SCENE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage. It cannot be student written.
4. All DTASC Straight Scene rules apply. See E2–2, #10.
5. At least one of the main characters in the scene must be a female (the “leading lady” of the category).

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR HORROR/THRILLER PLAYS

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
4. Must be of the classic horror/thriller genre. May be a mystery or parody that fits the genre, as long as the playwright’s intent is upheld.

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT ORIGINAL – BASED ON A PAINTING, RENAISSANCE TO 1970

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be written by one or more students at your school.
4. Must be based on a specific painting.
5. Must have 2 printed images of the painting. Coach turns in one image stapled to Master Cuttings List. Students give other image to judges before Intro, and get it back after their performance.
 - Write the school code on the back of each print.
6. In intro, must state artist’s name and year painting was done.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
4. It's a musical; it must include a capella singing.
5. Intent of the musical scene must be theatrical in nature, not choir driven. Songs in the scene need to help further storytelling.

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN DRAMA – STRAIGHT SCENE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage. It cannot be student written.
4. All DTASC Straight Scene rules apply. Handbook E2-2, #10.
5. Must be of serious / dramatic intent, not a parody.

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN COMEDY

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
4. Must be of humorous intent.

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT ORIGINAL

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be written by one or more students at your school.
 - Coaches may suggest cuts for the scene, but cannot suggest actual lines of dialogue.
4. Student writers do not have to perform in scene. They may, but it's not required.
5. This is an open category with no designated theme. Students may choose their own topic.

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MUSICAL “IT’S NICE TO BE NOMINATED”

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be from a musical that was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Musical, but DID NOT WIN.
 - Note: The musical may have won a Tony in other categories, just not for Best Musical.
 - Junior versions are NOT permitted in this event.
4. Must include a capella singing.
 - Intent of the musical scene must be theatrical in nature, not choir driven.
 - Songs in the scene need to help further storytelling.

FALL FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN COMEDY – STRAIGHT SCENE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage. It cannot be student written.
4. All DTASC Straight Scene rules apply. Handbook E2-2, #11 – see below.
5. Must be of humorous intent.

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN PLAYWRITERS

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
4. The person(s) credited as the playwright(s) must be African American.

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR A WOMAN’S VOICE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage; it cannot be student written. Does NOT have to be by a female playwright.
4. It’s the 100th anniversary of the American women’s suffrage movement, but the play can be about any issues regarding women.

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
4. Must include a capella singing.
 - Intent of the musical scene must be theatrical in nature, not choir driven.
 - Songs in the scene need to help further storytelling.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LOVERS: FOR BETTER OR WORSE

1. The scene may be a maximum of 5 minutes.
2. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S WISE FOOLS

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR CROSS GENDER SHAKESPEARE

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.

2007 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN PARODY

1. The scene must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 8 minutes.

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 2-PERSON ROMANTIC SCENE:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2 participants
3. May be from any of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must be a romantic scene.

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SECONDARY PLOTS OR MINOR CHARACTERS

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be a collage
4. Must be from a single play; may not be from the featured plays.

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LAST MINUTE SHAKESPEARE:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 4 participants
3. Approximately one month before the festival, DTASC will announce a specific Shakespeare scene to be used for this event.

2008 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR COMEDY & TRAGEDY IN THE SAME PLAY

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from ONE Shakespeare play, not including the featured plays.
4. Must show both comedic and tragic intent in the play.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S WOMEN:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must be a scene with a woman as the main character, but may have both male and female characters.

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WICKED – SHAKESPEARE’S VILLAINS:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.
4. Must feature one of Shakespeare’s villains.

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LISTEN TO MY DREAM:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must have one or more scenes where a character talks about a dream they had.
4. Must be from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.

2009 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MODERN PLAY BASED ON SHAKESPEARE:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from ONE modern professionally produced or published play based on Shakespeare.
4. May be musical or non-musical; singing is allowed (but not required).

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR DISGUISES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Text must have one or more characters in disguise at least part of the time.
The disguise must be a complete physical transformation of the character either in costume or mask (i.e., Beatrice and Benedick at the dance, Edgar in *King Lear*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Ford in *Merry Wives*, etc.)
5. DTASC costume rules apply – the disguise is not created by costume at the festival; it is in the text.

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WORKING CLASS*:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must feature at least one character (nurse, servant, soldier, etc.) who works for a living.

**Check Section H for suggestions.*

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S ROMANTIC COUPLES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.
4. Must feature one of Shakespeare’s romantic couples (Romeo & Juliet, Antony & Cleopatra, Beatrice & Benedict, etc.).

2010 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THEME COLLAGE*:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from any THREE of Shakespeare’s plays, not including the featured plays.
4. A single theme must unite all three plays.
5. The theme and the names of all 3 plays must be stated in the intro.
6. All lines must be from those 3 plays.
7. Scenes may be separate or combined at the director’s discretion.
(NOTE: If you are doing a combined scene with the 3 plays intermingled, the script you turn in at the registration table must have Scene & Line Number for each line, to make it easier to deal with any questions in Rules.)

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S FAMILIES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must have two or more members of the same family (any family relationship).

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 2-PERSON SHAKESPEARE HUMOR:

1. 5 minute limit
2. Only 2 participants
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must be a scene of comedic intent, not a parody.

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR CSI SHAKESPEARE:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.
4. Must include a crime, such as murder.

**Check Section H for suggestions.*

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2011 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE THE MUSICAL:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be based on a single Shakespeare play; may not be based on a featured play.
4. Book by Shakespeare, lyrics and music from any source; i.e., the spoken words must be Shakespeare's dialogue, but the songs do not have to be from Shakespeare.
5. No parody — must follow Shakespeare's intent.
6. It's a musical — a capella singing is required. **NO MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT IS PERMITTED** — no iPods, no CDs, no instruments.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SMALL GROUP COMEDY:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Must be a scene of comedic intent.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SMALL GROUP DRAMA:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Must be a scene of dramatic intent, not a parody.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE'S KINGS:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be a straight scene from any one of Shakespeare's plays that has a king.
4. The king must be in the scene OR the subject of the scene.
5. It must be a king, not a ruler with some other title.
6. See page E2–1, #9 for rules regarding Straight scenes.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PARODY:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must use only one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Reminder: Shakespeare text rules apply (see page E4–1 TEXT).
5. Reminder: All scenes need to be age and audience appropriate.

NOTE: Parody is defined as: a humorous or satirical interpretation of a serious piece of literature or writing.

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LARGE GROUP DRAMA – OPEN

1. Must have 3 to 6 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Must be a scene of dramatic intent —no parodies.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2012 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LARGE GROUP COMEDY – OPEN

1. Must have 3 to 6 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare's plays, including the featured plays.
4. Must be a scene of comedic intent.

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE'S GRAND TOUR:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare's plays that is set outside the British Isles (i.e., not set in England, Scotland, Wales or Ireland).
4. Must not use either of the featured plays.
5. Location must be stated, either within the scene or in the intro.
6. Must be a straight scene.

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR TRAGIC DEATHS:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare's plays that has multiple deaths.
4. Must not use either of the featured plays.
5. Must be a performance of dramatic intent, not a parody.
6. The scene must include a death or the revelation of a death.

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE'S B STORIES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must use a subplot from one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Must not use either of the featured plays.

2013 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE REPLAY:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must use only one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Must not use either of the featured plays.
5. Students perform the same Shakespearean dialog from the play twice — once in a comedic manner, once in a dramatic manner (doesn't matter which order).
6. Parody rule is suspended for the comedic portion of this event.

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR QUEST FOR THE THRONE:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare's plays.
4. Must include a scene where someone wants to take a throne or usurp power that belongs to another.
5. Must not use either of the featured plays.
6. Must be a STRAIGHT scene.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S CLOWNS & FOOLS:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays.
4. Must include a scene that features a character who is considered a clown or a fool, whether or not that is part of the official description of the character.
5. Must not use either of the featured plays.

Additional note:

- Any character who acts foolish in the scene(s) selected

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE CHILDREN’S THEATRE:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be an original adaptation of one of Shakespeare’s plays suitable for an audience of Pre-K through 5th grade students. (Original adaption = an adaptation by one or more persons at the school that is performing it; may be adapted by students, adults, or a combination thereof. Cannot use the same adaptation for more than one division.)
4. May use Shakespeare’s words or may change the words as long as the meaning is not changed.
5. Must not be a parody.
6. Must not use either of the featured plays.

Additional notes:

- Can be a scene, and not the entire play in 5 minutes.
- Music is okay. Lyrics must either use Shakespeare’s words or be original; tune need not be.

2014 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MODERN SHAKESPEARE:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must use a TV or movie script based on one of Shakespeare’s plays.
4. Must not be a script for a stage play.
5. Singing is permitted if the script calls for it.
6. Must not use either of the featured plays.

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WOMEN IN DISGUISE:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must include a scene where a female character disguises herself, as required by the play.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR ALL IN A DAY’S WORK:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must include at least one worker with no name as an important part of the scene. This worker must be identified in the introduction.
5. Examples of workers with no names: Gravedigger, Friar, Clown, Fool, First Gaoler, Second Soldier, Apothecary, Nurse, Captain, Servant, Page, Soothsayer, Watchman, Messenger, Guard, etc.
6. Workers with names and non-workers do not qualify.
Examples of workers with names: Dick the Butcher, Friar Laurence.
Examples of non-workers: royals, lords, ladies, senators, Traveler, Roman, etc.
7. Other characters in the scene may have names or be non-workers.
8. The official Cast of Characters for the play will be used to determine whether a character does or does not have a name.
Therefore, the Nurse in Romeo and Juliet qualifies as a character with no name, even though the play suggests her name might be Angelica.
Bring a copy of the Dramatis Personae you are using if you think your choice might be questioned.
9. FYI: OpenSourceShakespeare.org has a list of all Shakespeare’s characters, and the play they’re in. For each play, click on a character’s name to find all his/her speeches. Click “Show full speeches” to get the complete text of the speech, not just the first 2 lines.
You can also click “Show cue speeches.”
If you go to the Full Search page and click “See all characters at once,” you can get a list of every character in every Shakespeare play, including all the workers with no name.

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR VILLAINS:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must present a Shakespeare play with the villain as the featured character.
4. Does not have to sympathize with the villain.
5. Must use ONLY Shakespeare’s words.
6. Must be from ONE of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
7. Must NOT be a parody.

2015 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THE PLAY’S THE THING:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must be a straight scene, taken from ONE scene as Shakespeare created it.
5. Rules for Straight scene (E2-1, #9) apply.
6. Excessive cutting could cause disqualification. You can “cut, but not paste,” but try not to cut. Use “Page to Page” method — start on a good line, time the scene as it’s read out loud, and stop on a good line.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THAT WAY MADNESS LIES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must feature a character who is mad (insane, deranged), pretending to be mad, thought to be mad or treated as mad. May be a temporary fit of madness, caused by severe emotion.

REMINDER: Rule 3 (E2-1) says “No scene that makes a parody of or is offensive to alternative lifestyles, religions, sexual orientation, or culture is allowed.”

5. Must be a straight scene. (Straight scene rule: E2-2, #9)
(Download approved scenes and suggestions list from DTASC web site.)

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE THE MUSICAL:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. All text, including lyrics, must be from the chosen play.
5. Music may be from any source and may be added to any or all lines used.

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SIBS FROM ANOTHER CRIB:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from ONE of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must be from a play that has at least one strong same-sex friendship. The two friends must have different parents.

2016 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR RARELY PERFORMED PLAYS*

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays on the approved list.

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE UN CUT:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must be a straight scene. (Straight scene rule: E2-2, #9)

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MODERN ADAPTATION:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be a script for a stage play, not a movie or TV script.
4. Must not use either of the featured plays.
5. Singing is not permitted.

Clarifying Notes: The rules for Modern Adaptations allow for some flexibility, but the pieces must have been written for performance after 1920. The piece may be fully adapted from Shakespeare (*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, *I Hate Hamlet*). (continued)

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MODERN ADAPTATION (CONTINUED)

Clarifying Notes, continued: The piece may be a partial adaptation of Shakespeare (*Actor's Nightmare*), but you must perform a portion that is based on Shakespeare, though you may also perform portions not based on Shakespeare.

It must be a single play, but it may be adapted from multiple plays (*Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, Ages of Man*).

It may come from a musical (*West Side Story, Kiss Me Kate*), but you may not have any music or do any singing in your scene.

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE'S CONTEMPORARIES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one play written during Shakespeare's lifetime by someone other than Shakespeare.
4. May be performed in its original language. If it is performed in translation, must use a published translation.
5. Clarifying Notes: Playwrights must have writing careers that overlapped with William Shakespeare (1592–1613) however, the play performed need not have been written between 1592 and 1613. It must have been written for stage performance. They can be English writers, such as George Farquhar, William Congreve, John Vanbrugh, Christopher Marlowe or they can be international writers, such as Miguel 00°de Cervantes & Lope de Vega

2017 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THEME COLLAGE:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from AT LEAST THREE of Shakespeare's plays, not including featured plays.
4. A single theme must unite all plays.
5. The theme and the names of all plays must be stated in the intro.
6. All lines must be from those plays.
7. Scenes may be separate or combined at the director's discretion.
(NOTE: If you are doing a combined scene with the plays intermingled, the script you turn in at the registration table must have Play, Scene & Line Number for each line, to make it easier to deal with any questions in Rules.)

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE BARE STAGE

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare's plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must be a straight scene. (Straight scene rule: E2-2, #10)
5. No chairs allowed.
6. Actors may not pretend to be furniture or anything else non-human.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WIZARDING WORLD OF SHAKESPEARE

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not either of the featured plays.
4. Must feature magic, wizardry, sorcery, etc.

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR BREECHES

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. All girls playing all parts, male and female.
4. Requires at least one girl playing a boy’s part.

2018 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE THE MUSICAL

1. Must have 3–10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be based on a single Shakespeare play; may not be based on a featured play.
4. Book by Shakespeare, lyrics and music from any source; i.e., the spoken words must be Shakespeare’s dialogue, but the songs do not have to be from Shakespeare.
5. No parody — must follow Shakespeare’s intent.
6. It’s a musical — a capella singing is required. **NO MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT IS PERMITTED** — no iPods, no CDs, no instruments.
7. Intent of the musical scene must be theatrical in nature, not choir driven. Songs in the scene need to help further storytelling.

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR DEATH SCENES – STRAIGHT CUT

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not the featured play (As You Like It).
4. Must be a straight scene. (Straight scene rule: E2-2, #10 - see below)
5. Must feature or discuss the death of at least one character. The death does not have to be real. (Pyramis and Thisbe may be used.)

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR CLOWNS & FOOLS

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but not the featured play (As You Like It).
4. Must feature a character perceived to be a fool or a clown. Jesters are accepted. Acceptable examples: Malvolio (12th Night), the Pyramis & Thisbe scene (Midsummer), Lear’s Fool, etc.
5. May be comedic or dramatic, according to playwright’s intent.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WOMEN WITH POWER

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must showcase at least one powerful woman from one of Shakespeare’s plays, but may not use the featured play (As You Like It).
4. Must show the woman in a powerful position in the scene presented.

2019 – HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MODERN MUSICAL BASED ON SHAKESPEARE’S PLAYS

1. Must have 3–10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published stage musical based on a single Shakespeare play; it cannot be student written, nor can it be based on the featured play (As You Like It).
4. May not use any musical based on a collage of Shakespeare’s plays nor on Shakespeare’s life. (May NOT use “Something Rotten.”)
5. No parody — must follow playwright’s intent.
6. It’s a musical — a capella singing is required. NO MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT IS PERMITTED — no iPods, no CDs, no instruments.
7. Intent of the musical scene must be theatrical in nature, not choir driven. Songs in the scene need to help further storytelling.

2020 – SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

E5 – RULES FROM PREVIOUS FESTIVAL EVENTS

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The Play’s the Thing	E5–Sh 7
Theatre for Social Change	E5–Fall 3
Theme Collage	E5–Sh 3, 9
Tragic Deaths	E5–Sh 5
Trapped (Student Written)	E5–Fall 3
Two Person — Open.....	E5–Fall 1
Villains	E5–Sh 7
Wicked — Shakespeare’s Villains ...	E5–Sh 2
Wizarding World of Shakespeare...	E5–Sh 10
Woman’s Voice, A	E5–Fall 12
Women in Disguise	E5–Sh 6
Women Playwrights	E5–Fall 9
Working Class	E5–Sh 2
World in Music.....	E5–Fall 5
World Theatre	E5–Fall 4