



NATIONAL
THEATRE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL

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TEACHER AND STUDENT ADJUDICATION GUIDE 2018

HOW ARE ADJUDICATORS SELECTED?

District adjudicators are selected/ engaged locally by district coordinators. At the regional and provincial levels, adjudicators are invited by NTS Festival leadership (Erin Brubacher and Wayne Fairhead in 2018).

All adjudicators should be professional theatre artists and/or arts educators and should be approached based on their experience, expertise, training and commitment to creative learning.

The central role of the adjudicator is to provide useful critical feedback, in a thoughtful caring way. Adjudicators should provide feedback that helps participants to grow as artists and people through enriched understandings of their own collaborative work.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SEND TO ADJUDICATORS?

If you are working from a previously published or original script, you will need to send a copy of the script to the adjudicator(s). Some productions are more movement/ score / improvisation based: in these cases, you may send text for your piece with accompanying notes as you deem appropriate. In all cases, please submit to the adjudicator(s) an artistic statement (of 250 words or less) that includes a response to the following questions:

Why did you choose the play/ subject matter/ material you are working with? (Why this piece here and now?)

What has been the most challenging part of your process so far?

What are you most excited by in this work that you are making together?

These questions should be discussed and answered as a company. The groups' thoughts on these matters can be summarized by the director, the writer, another member of the creative team, or composed collectively. Please indicate the author(s) of your artistic statement.

Please submit your script materials and artistic statement no later than 2 weeks prior to each presentation of your piece at Districts/ Regionals/ Provincials. Ask your district or regional coordinator where to send these items electronically.

HOW ARE PRODUCTIONS EVALUATED?

Adjudicators will consider all elements of a production: scenic design/ lighting/ sound/ directing/ performance/ new writing/ music/ choreography... And, most importantly, how those elements work together! That said, no production will be penalized for more or less or the absence of any of these elements. (For example: one company may choose, for artistic reasons, to use a bare stage and employ no set pieces at all, while another company may create a set that is a crucial element to the point of feeling like another character in the piece!) There is no point system and there are no 'marks' to lose. The adjudicators feedback is qualitative not quantitative.

Note: It is important that students know that while adjudicators have been selected for their expertise and have insight to offer, each adjudicator will have her/his/their own points of view. Teacher advisors or directors should model receptiveness to feedback for their students while communicating that the participant's job is to listen to the adjudicator, consider the feedback and determine for themselves and as a company what is most valuable.