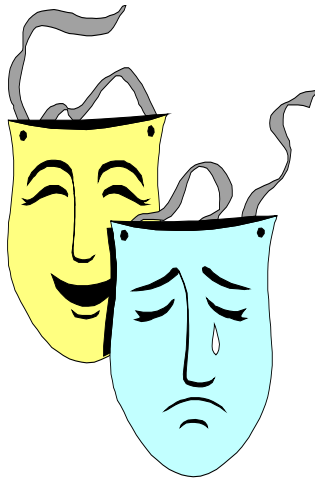


INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT AND THE COACH

The following guidelines include rules and specifications for contest administration at Area and State levels. Complete instructions for OAP may be found in the 2010-11 edition of the *PSIA Middle School One-Act Play Handbook*.



- **ENTRIES.** Students in grades 6, 7, and 8, OR ages 11, 12, and 13 by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may enter the One-Act Play Contest. Exceptions may be made for student entries up to 2 grade levels below grade 6. As many as **15 actors, plus four crew member** students may be entered in this contest from each school. Schools that consist of any of the three specified grade levels may participate.
- **COMPETITION SCHEDULE/ ADVANCING TO STATE.** Schools will be assisted in locating and forming an area competition. **Area OAP competitions may be held between February 15 and April 16, 2011.** Six or Seven plays from across the state will advance to the PSIA OAP State Meet. Ideally, one play will advance from each of six OAP meets held throughout the state. FINAL alignment will be determined following the deadline for receipt of OAP Title Registration Forms—**December 21.** (Check the PSIA website under “Districts and Areas” for updates on area competition dates/places, to be posted periodically: www.psiacademics.org)
- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE.** Inform the Area and State Directors by **November 1** of your school’s intent to participate in OAP competition. Submit original (not photocopied) play scripts for plays not on the official list found in the handbook, including original plays produced by the campus students and/or teachers, by **December 1. If more than one play is submitted for approval, a \$20 reading fee per play is required.** All Play Title registration forms for OAP are due in to the state office on or before **December 21.** (Registration form follows this section in the handbook)
- **PERSONNEL.**
 1. **Area Director.** Any person may serve as Area Director of a PSIA OAP Area Meet. Area Director is responsible for booking facilities, collecting fees, and communicating with participating schools. May be a coach.
 2. **Coach / Director.** Any person may serve as coach / director of a PSIA OAP. Preferrably, the director will be a certified drama instructor.

2. **Contest Director.** Any person that is not a coach of contestants may serve as Contest Director. This person should be knowledgeable in all aspects of the stage: dimensions, lighting, curtains, props, etc. (Further explanation of the Contest Director’s function is found in the OAP handbook.)

3. **Judge(s).** One or three certified drama teacher(s) or a certified critic judge will be required. (See handbook for detail.) The State OAP Assistant Director or State Director is responsible for hiring a judge or judges and enforcing rules of the contest.

4. **Time Keepers.** Four persons representing four different participating schools, or four people who represent no school in the competition may serve as time keepers. Two will be stationed backstage - one to time the play, and the other to time the music and sound effects. The other two will sit in the audience and time the play and the music/sound effects.

5. **Technical Crew.** Doorkeepers, ushers, and box office personnel, as needed. These positions should be divided among participating schools.

- **PLAY SELECTION.** OAP coaches may select a short or long play from the lists provided in the *PSIA OAP Handbook*. **If another play is selected, it must meet these criteria:**

1. It is an original play written by students/schools under teacher direction.

3. It must meet the standards in length (with approved cuttings) and content as described in the rules found in the *PSIA OAP Handbook*.

- **ROYALTIES.** Proof of payment of royalties must be submitted at each level of competition.
- **PLAY TIME LIMIT.** The presentation time of the OAP must not exceed **40 minutes.** Scene changes within the progress of the play are included within that 40-minute time period.
- **TIME LIMITS TO SET AND STRIKE.** **Seven minutes** are allowed to set up the stage, and seven minutes are allowed to strike the set following the play presentation. These times are separate from play presentation time.
- **TIME LIMITS ON MUSIC ELEMENTS.** **Up to 10 minutes (optionally documented)** shall be allowed for music/sound effect elements.
- **STAGE SET.** Instructions for constructing the basic OAP stage set are found in the appendix of the *PSIA OAP Handbook*. Any pieces of the approved basic stage set may be used in the play production. The host school may provide the stage set, or the pieces needed by an individual



school may be brought to contest. **Guidelines for stage sets are printed exactly as they are in the UIL rules. A lengthy explanation has been provided in order to ensure that stage sets will be within required standards. Each school will have**

no more than a 10' X 10' space in order to store stage pieces behind stage prior to and following their performances. Tables A and B in the PSIA OAP Handbook list approved items, their size limits and other specifications.

- **THE BASIC SET.** The basic set shall be the one that is available at the contest site. The basic set to be used for all OAP contests may consist of a standard box set of draperies, stage lighting equipment and controls, an intercommunication system, standard stage door and window units and the approved unit set as described in the current *PSIA OAP Handbook*. The contest manager may borrow necessary equipment so long as it is available to all play entries for both rehearsal and performance. A standard light plot of six, nine or more areas should be provided. A light plot specifically and exclusively focused, programmed or controlled for one play, including the host's entry, is a violation of this rule unless approval has been obtained from state office.
- **ADDITIONS TO THE BASIC SET NOT REQUIRING APPROVAL.** The following items shall be used upstage of the house curtain/proscenium unless architectural necessity dictates otherwise.
 - (i) Four portable, single-source lighting instruments, excluding intelligent/robotic lighting, or two 6' strip lights, or two single source and one strip light may be used. (See *PSIA OAP Handbook* page 11 for specifications.)
 - (ii) Two 8' x 10' unframed soft goods/cloth type backdrops, scrim, curtains or projection screens, hand-held or suspended on battens between unit set elements and to be used in separate locations. (See *PSIA OAP Handbook* page 11 for rules/guidelines of use.)
 - (iii) Capitals on unit set pylons which shall not exceed more than one foot in any direction from the top edge of the pylon and which shall be constructed of lightweight material that shall not damage the pylons.
 - (iv) Six self-supported trees, each not to exceed 4' wide by 8' high, and six self-supported bushes, each not to exceed 2' wide by 3' high,

each of which are lightweight, portable, shiftable, storable and easily transportable.

Two-dimensional cutout trees or bushes may be suspended from unit set elements, but shall not cover more than 50% of the visible surface of each element with the exception of unit set pylons, which may be covered.

(v) Twelve linear feet of non-metallic fence or railing with sections not to exceed 4' high by 8' long by 6" wide, to be self-supported or used in conjunction with unit set elements and soft goods/cloth-type trim elements in (ii) above, but shall not be used to elevate unit set elements. Such sections shall be lightweight, portable, shiftable, storable and easily transportable. Lattice shall not be used.

• **ADDITIONS TO THE BASIC SET REQUIRING APPROVAL.** Special lighting instruments, video and film projections, scrim, drops, step units, platforms, curtains, draperies, trees, bushes, ground-rows, flat scenery or other scenic pieces (except as noted above), require approval. The following items must be postmarked on or before **December 21** and sent to the PSIA State Office: approval requests, the play title, author, exact scenes from or adaptations of the play along with the following, on 8-1/2" x 11" paper:

- (i) A scale drawing of the complete ground plan of the proposed set.
- (ii) A scale drawing of each proposed addition to the basic set.
- (iii) A full description of materials to be used in construction of each proposed addition to the basic set.
- (iv) A full description and justification of the intended use of each proposed addition to the basic set.

No consideration will be given to any request for additions to the basic set unless items (i)-(iv) are submitted.

(Additions to the basic set do not include stage properties.)

* The downstage area and areas in front of the curtain may be used by any school in the contest.

• **THE DIRECTOR DURING PERFORMANCE.** One director or assistant is permitted in the light booth, but no adult is permitted backstage or offstage areas during the contest performance of their play. Directors are permitted in these areas during the set and strike periods.

• **LIGHTING ASSISTANCE.** One adult assistant in the lighting and sound booth during the play presentation will be permitted.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT AND THE COACH *CONTINUED*

- **STANDARDS FOR JUDGING.** 60% of the value of the judgment will be based on **ACTING** (voice, characterization, movement, contrast, ensemble, timing, and motivation). 40% will be based on **DIRECTING AND STAGE MECHANICS** (set, lighting, sound, make-up, costume, business, tempo, composition and theme.) An elaboration of this criteria may be found in the OAP handbook.
- **AWARDS.** Plays shall be ranked to third place, unless only four plays compete in a contest. All plays not ranking through third place receive fourth place awards. If only 4 plays compete, the first and second place plays will be announced, and the other two receive third place ranking. All students should be recognized for their accomplishments. Individual awards are as follows: Best Actor / Best Actress; up to 10 All-Star Cast Members; and up to 10 Honorable Mention All-Star Cast Members. Present awards from lowest to top ranking play. OAP is a separate PSIA program, and points earned are not added to the district academic tournament points for rankings.
- **FEES.**
 1. District / Area / State contest administrators may charge an admission fee each time plays are presented to the public. This fee will help to defray the cost of facilities, personnel, equipment, royalties, etc.
 2. The admission fees at the Area or State One-Act Play Meet MAY be **\$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students.**
 3. Area directors or One-Act Play contest managers may assess a fee to each participating school to cover the cost of hiring a judge or providing facilities. **Please be aware that this fee could be more than \$250 per school.**
 4. A **NO-SHOW fee of the proportional divided cost of the play facilities rental and judging fees** shall be collected by the district director, state director, or contest manager from **schools that fail to give notice by January 1** if they have been scheduled to compete and are unable to make it to the tournament.
- **DISQUALIFYING ACTIONS.** Please note that a page 2 has been added to the Play Registration Form, which follows. This form must be signed by a school administrator and be provided to all parents of participants.
- **DRAMA DIRECTOR RULES CHECKLIST.** See **page 16** of the PSIA Academic Handbook or page v of the One-Act Play Handbook for Middle Schools for this important time-line checklist and rules for drama coaches.



Need additional resources? Go to <http://tetatx.com/> Texas Educational Theatre Association provides helpful information about preparing students for drama competition.