

BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT THEATRE GUILD



**Birmingham's
Festival of Acting & Musical Entertainment
"FESTIVAL RULES"**

1. GENERAL

- 1/1** The B.D.T.G. produces Birmingham's Festival of Acting and Musical Entertainment. The Festival B.F.A.M.E. is made up of five sections: -
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| One-Act. | (Adult-Group) | } Making up Festival Week |
| One-Act. | (Youth-Group) | |
| Individual Work | (Youth) | } Running from March to January |
| Full Length - Drama | Peripatetic | |
| Full Length - Musical | Peripatetic | |
- 1/2** All entries must be submitted on the official entry form and be returned by the due date, together with the appropriate entry fee, as indicated on the entry form.
- 1/3** The results and presentation of all awards will take place on the Saturday night of Festival Week.
- 1/4** If the entry is copyrighted, it is the company's responsibility to see that the author's permission is obtained for the performance and that the royalty fee is paid in advance.
- 1/4-1** If the text has been altered in any way for the performance, the Stage Manager will ask for proof of the author's permission.
- 1/4-2** The license must be presented to the Stage Manager at the Technical meeting. If not presented by the start of the performance the entry may have to be rejected.
- 1/5** A full list of trophies available within the Festival is shown in Appendix. 4.
- NOTE**
No award will be presented unless a standard worthy of reward, in the view of the adjudicator, or reviewer's has been achieved.
- 1/6** The Guild will NOT be responsible for any expenses incurred by your production or by your participation in the Festival.
- 1/7** Entries may be rejected by the Guild whose decision is final.

2. FESTIVAL WEEK

- 2/1** Adult One-Act section: -
- 2/1-1** We are licensed as a Preliminary Round of the AETF festival scene. If you wish to enter the All-England Theatre Festival (A.E.T.F.) National Competition you must: -
- Declare that intention on the 'ENTRY FORM'.
 - Be willing to go forward to all subsequent rounds if selected to do so.
 - Abide fully with the A.E.T.F. rules, which are reproduced in Appendix. 1.
- 2/1-2** Any youth group who wishes to enter the A.E.T.F. Section of the Festival may do so. They will however be adjudicated and marked as a One Act Adult-Group entry.
- 2/1-3** Adult groups may use youth members to play children's parts.
- 2/2** Youth One-Act section: -
- 2/2-1** This is run on the same lines as the Adult section, with its own set of trophies.
- 2/2-2** For the purposes of the One Act Youth Section. The definition of Youth is taken to be where the entire cast is under the age of 19 years on the last night of the Festival.
- 2/3** Individual Section.
- 2/3-1** The individual categories for this section are detailed in Appendix. 3.
- 2/4** General.
- 2/4-1** This festival is an open festival; however both the Adult and Youth sections will be run under the auspices of the AETF Festival Rules. Appendix. 1.
- 2/4-2** The stage will be set out as shown on the attached drawing. Appendix. 2.
- 2/4-3** Costumes and scenery are left to the discretion of the participating societies, they must however comply with the theatre Fire/Safety regulations.

2/4-4 Ingenuity in creating the right artistic impression will be taken into account.

2/4-5 Competing groups are entitled to complimentary tickets for the night of their performance, during Festival Week. The maximum allocation is the named cast [max eleven] plus four.

2/4-6 To comply with 'Child Protection Procedures' children under our care will be accompanied by a suitably licensed adult at all times.

NOTE

Parents will not be allowed back stage.

2/4-6 A copy of the script should be submitted with each entry application or as dictated on the entry form.

NOTE

Electronic copies are not allowed. Photostat copies will not be acceptable unless written permission has been obtained from the copyright holders.

2/4-7 The Guild will appoint: -

- A Stage Director, whose decision on all Back-Stage matters shall be final.
- A Stage Manager who will be responsible for the safe running and control of all Back Stage areas.
- An Electrician who will be responsible for the control of the lighting desk and lighting equipment, under the direction of the Company Stage Manager.
- A Sound Technician who will be responsible for the control of the sound desk and sound equipment, under the direction of the Company Stage Manager.

2/4-8 The Guild will employ an adjudicator for the whole of festival week: -

- As well as the public adjudication, given following the final performance each evening, the adjudicator will be available to talk to each of the individual companies privately after the conclusion of the evening's performance.

3. PERIPATETIC FESTIVAL

3/1 Reviewers

3/1-1 The Guild will appoint two reviewers with an extensive knowledge of theatre **not** (paid) professional adjudicators.

3/1-2 One reviewer will see all of the musical entries; a different reviewer will see all of the drama entries. The second reviewer in each case may be taken from a panel set up by the Guild.

3/1-3 A review of the performance will appear in the quarterly edition of Curtain Call.

3/1-4 The reviewer's decision will be final.

3/2 Performance

3/2-1 The entry must be at least 90 minutes in length. (Excluding any intervals.)

3/3 Presentation

3/3-1 The performance will be in front of a paying audience, **NOT** a dress, technical or performance put on especially for the reviewers.

3/3-2 The entry will comprise of one performance of your production, at the venue of your choice.

3/3-3 You will make available two seats for the reviewers and provide two programmes.

APPENDIX. 1.

AETF FESTIVAL ENTRANTS RULES

WHO CAN ENTER?

1. The Festival is open to any amateur group who gather together to present a performance.
2. All players must be amateur i.e. those whose main income is not earned by acting.
3. Dramatic Schools for the training of professional actors are not eligible.
4. By entering the AETF Festival companies commit themselves to performance at each level if selected and are expected to appear.

HOW DO WE ENTER?

5. Entry into the National Festival must be via a Preliminary Festival, either a local festival organised by the AETF or an independent local festival affiliated to the AETF.
6. Any company: -
 - 6/1. Who desires to enter the AETF competition must declare this on the Preliminary Round entry form.
 - 6/2. Companies must provide a completed AETF Declaration immediately following their selection.
7. A company may: -
 - 7/1. Enter and opt with any number of plays in a Preliminary Festival.
 - 7/2. They may enter as many festivals as they like, but can only opt from one, preferably their local Preliminary (First Round) Festival.

WHAT CAN WE ENTER?

8. No play in copyright may be performed without production of its performance licence and written permission for any cuts or alterations. This to be presented to the Festival Stage Director.
9. Any copyright recorded speech or projection of film or TV material can be used as long as proof of permission is produced.
10. Scripts or written synopses in the case of improvisations must be submitted by the date requested to the organisers in advance of the festival.
11. There must be a minimum of two speaking parts on stage.
12. A company must offer a production, which meets the timing requirement, and is performed as per the script they provide for the adjudicator.
13. Only hard copies of scripts are accepted. Photocopies are only acceptable with written permission of the publishers.
14. Each entry must be at least twenty minutes in length and not exceed fifty-five minutes. This includes any time spent changing scenes or used to set mood by cast or music. Curtain calls are not permitted.
15. Entries are allowed ten minutes to set and five to strike. This is not included in the playing time.
16. Penalties for not keeping within times for performance, setting and striking are: -

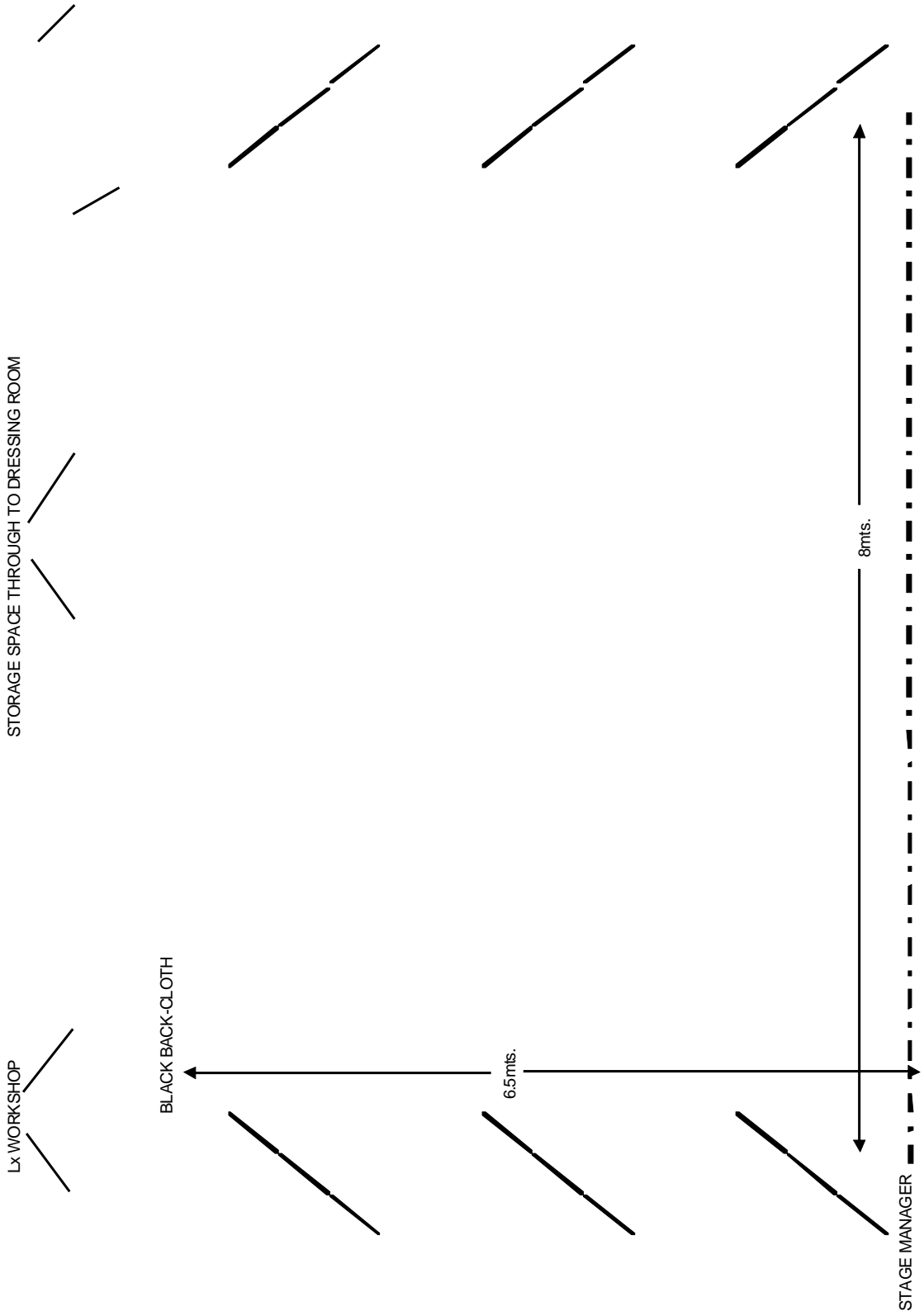
Up to 1 minute	1 mark
Up to 2 minutes	3 marks
Up to 3 minutes	6 marks
Up to 4 minutes	10 marks
Up to 5 minutes	15 marks
Over 5 minutes	Disqualification
17. The scenery must be free standing within the supplied 'black box'. Individual theatres may provide additional facilities.
18. Scenery, all properties and any special technical equipment required for their production must be provided by the companies and fireproofing of all materials and sets is their responsibility.
19. Companies must give advance notice to the relevant organisers of special equipment or effects such as naked lights, pistol shots etc which must comply with the theatre's requirements. Local regulations may differ especially with regard to items such as smoking on stage.

HOW WILL WE BE JUDGED?

20. The adjudicator will give a public adjudication of each entry and at the end of the Festival select and announce the company/companies to go forward to the next round.
21. The adjudicator will use the following marking system: -

Acting	40	Stage Presentation	15
Production	35	Dramatic Achievement	10
22. The adjudicator's decision is final.
23. Written adjudications can be arranged for companies provided a written request is made to the organisers, together with necessary fee, before the festival.

APPENDIX. 2. STAGE PLAN



NOTE'S

- 1 This is a FIRE EXIT and must be kept clear of props etc. at all times.
- 2 The BLACK back-cloth and cloth legs are fixed at the top.
- 3 There are no flying facilities.

AUDITORIUM

NOT TO SCALE

APPENDIX. 3.
SPECIFIC RULES RELATING TO
“INDIVIDUAL YOUTH WORK”

A3-1. SINGING

A3-1/1 Open to any one who is under the age of 19 years, on the first day of the Festival Week.

A3-1/2 The piece should not last longer than 5 minutes.

A3-1/3 The Guild will **not** provide a piano - A guitar or backing track will be permitted.

A3-2. DRAMA DUOLOGUES

A3-2/1 Both participants must be under the age of 19 years, on the first day of the Festival Week.

A3-2/2 The entry must be between 3 and 5 minutes in length.

A3-2/3 A maximum of two hand-props per person may be used.

A3-2/4 Costume is not allowed other than as a suggestion.

A3-2/5 No set or props are allowed, other than 2 chairs and a table, supplied and set by the Guild.

A3-3. DRAMA - UNDER 14 AGE GROUP

A3-3/1 Open to any one who has not reached their 14th Birthday by the first day of the Festival Week.

A3-3/2 This should be a single piece of between 3 and 5 minutes in length.

A3-3/3 A maximum of two hand-props may be used.

A3-3/4 Costume is not allowed other than as a suggestion.

A3-3/5 No set or props are allowed, other than 2 chairs and a table, supplied and set by the Guild.

A3-4. DRAMA - OVER 14 AGE GROUP

A3-4/1 Open to any one who is under the age of 19 years, on the first day of the Festival Week.

A3-4/2 This should be a single piece of between 3 and 5 minutes in length.

A3-4/3 A maximum of two hand-props may be used.

A3-4/4 Costume is not allowed other than as a suggestion.

A3-4/5 No set or props are allowed, other than 2 chairs and a table, supplied and set by the Guild.

A3-5. POETRY - UNDER 14 AGE GROUP

A3-5/1 Open to any one who has not reached their 14th Birthday by the first day of the Festival Week.

A3-5/2 The total performance should not last longer than 5 minutes.

A3-5/3 You must perform TWO pieces. One of which must be from the list supplied by the Guild.

A3-5/4 No props or set are allowed.

A3-6. POETRY - OVER 14 AGE GROUP

A3-6/1 Open to any one who is under the age of 19 years, on the first day of the Festival Week.

A3-6/2 The total performance should not last longer than 5 minutes.

A3-6/3 You must perform TWO pieces. One of which must be from the list supplied by the Guild.
[The Guild's piece will be a Sonnet.]

A3-6/4 No props or set are allowed.

END

APPENDIX. 4.
FULL LIST OF AVAILABLE TROPHIES
OVERALL AWARDS

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
1	THE BIRMINGHAM EVENING MAIL CUP	THE OVERALL FESTIVAL WINNER	WINNER BASED ON THE HIGHEST % VOTING RETURNS ACROSS ALL NIGHTS

ADULT OR YOUTH (One Act) AWARDS

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
2	THE APOLLO SHIELD	THE A.E.T.F. BIRMINGHAM STAGE ONE WINNER	HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS of those ELIGIBLE ENTRIES
3	THE WILL HORTON TROPHY	THE A.E.T.F. BIRMINGHAM STAGE ONE RUNNER-UP	SECOND HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS of those ELIGIBLE ENTRIES
4	THE WILLIAM D.S.BENNETT TROPHY	DIRECTION	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION taking into account the marks for PRODUCTION
5	THE BERT NEWTON TROPHY	TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION taking into account the marks for Dra. Achievement & Sta. Presentation

ADULT GROUP AWARDS (One Act)

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
6	THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE TROPHY	THE ADULT ONE ACT GROUP WINNER	HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS of ALL ADULT ONE ACT ENTRIES
7	THE HERRINGSHAW TROPHY	THE MOST OUTSTANDING MALE PERFORMANCE	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
8	THE NOELE GORDON TROPHY	THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE PERFORMANCE	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
9	THE ROSE BOWL	ANY OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT	ADJUDICATOR'S DISCRETION
10	THE CEDRIC HARDWICKE TROPHY	THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY OR SCRIPT	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION

YOUTH GROUP AWARDS (One Act)

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
11	THE SIR. BARRY JACKSON SHIELD	THE YOUTH ONE ACT GROUP WINNER	HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS of ALL YOUTH ONE ACT ENTRIES

12	THE LEON SALBERG SHIELD	THE MOST OUTSTANDING MALE PERFORMANCE	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
13	THE EDYTH JONES SHIELD	THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE PERFORMANCE	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
14	THE MABEL BURROWS SHIELD	ANY OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT	ADJUDICATOR'S DISCRETION
15	THE ROY PINSENT SHIELD	THE BEST ORIGINAL PLAY OR SCRIPT	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION

YOUTH INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
16	THE FRANCES KENRICK SHIELD	THE DRAMA DUOLOGUE CATEGORY	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
17	THE LILLIE C. JOHNSON TROPHY	THE INDIVIDUAL SINGING CATEGORY	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
18	THE W.T.WIGGIN-DAVIES SHIELD	INDIVIDUAL DRAMA THE UNDER 14 CATEGORY	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
19	THE BOLTON KING SHIELD	INDIVIDUAL DRAMA THE OVER 14 CATEGORY	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
20	THE EVENING MAIL CUP	INDIVIDUAL POETRY THE UNDER 14 CATEGORY	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION
21	THE B.D.T.G. SHIELD	INDIVIDUAL POETRY THE OVER 14 CATEGORY	ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION

ADULT GROUP AWARDS (F/L Drama)

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
22	THE PHILIP RODWAY MEMORIAL TROPHY	THE ADULT F/L DRAMA GROUP WINNER	HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS of ALL F/L DRAMA ENTRIES
23	THE BRODRIBB CUP	DIRECTION	HIGHEST MARKS for DIRECTION
24	THE ARCADIAN TROPHY	TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT	HIGHEST MARKS for TECHNICAL ACHIEVMENT

25	THE L. BOUGHTON CHATWIN MEMORIAL TROPHY	THE MOST OUTSTANDING MALE PERFORMANCE	HIGHEST MARKS for OUTSTANDING MALE ACHIEVEMENT
26	THE SAVOY CUP	THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE PERFORMANCE	HIGHEST MARKS for OUTSTANDING FEMALE ACHIEVEMENT
27	THE ROY & BETTY GAUNT CUP	THE BEST SUPPORTING CAST	HIGHEST MARKS for SUPPORTING CAST
28	THE EMILE LITTLER CUP	THE BEST SET	HIGHEST MARKS for SET
29	THE STANWIN CUP	ANY OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT	HIGHEST MARKS for WOW FACTOR

ADULT GROUP AWARDS (F/L Musical)

	TROPHY	PRESENTED FOR	HOW DECIDED
30	THE JOHN DANIELS TROPHY	THE ADULT F/L MUSICAL GROUP WINNER	HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS of all F/L MUSICAL ENTRIES
31	THE COLEMAN KELLY MEMORIAL TROPHY	DIRECTION	HIGHEST MARKS for DIRECTION
32	THE FOUR OAKS TROPHY	TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT	HIGHEST MARKS for TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT
33	TH ROY MARSHALL CUP	THE BEST MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT	HIGHEST TOTAL MARKS for MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENT
34	THE FRANK GREENWOOD CUP	THE MOST OUTSTANDING MALE PERFORMANCE	HIGHEST MARKS for OUTSTANDING MALE ACHIEVEMENT
35	THE PHIL GROVE CUP	THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE PERFORMANCE	HIGHEST MARKS for OUTSTANDING FEMALE ACHIEVEMENT
36	THE CROSSED KEYS ROSE BOWL	THE BEST CHORUS	HIGHEST MARKS for CHORUS
37	THE NODA CUP	ANY OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT	HIGHEST MARKS for WOW FACTOR

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT will be awarded for WORK WORTHY OF COMMENDATION at the ADJUDICATOR'S DISCRETION ONLY.

They are awarded for some specific achievement in any category, **NOT as a runner-up.**

THE END