

To: One-Act Play Critic Judges
From: Luis Muñoz, State Theatre Director
Subject: One-Act Play Contest Questionnaire

We are asking you as a qualified Critic Judge to help evaluate the contest you judge. On the back of this letter you will find a One-Act Play Contest Questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire as soon after the contest as possible and return it to the State Office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Your observations and criticisms of the contest will be greatly appreciated by this office.

Thank you for serving in the vital capacity of critic judge. We trust the contest will be an exciting adventure in educational theatre and that your critique will be a teaching experience from which students, directors, and (possibly) patrons, may all profit.

Select two unranked (not 1st and 2nd place) plays to advance to the next higher level. An alternate must be selected (not necessarily announced) in case of advancing play withdrawal. In junior high/middle school contests, plays shall be ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

A best actor, best actress, and all-star cast must be named as per Section 1033 (d) (3) (E). The honorable mention all-star cast is optional, but try to follow the local wishes. The best actor and actress must be individuals. All-star cast and honorable mention all-star cast ensemble awards may be given as one single award only when a group of people play the same character (birds, frogs, old men, servants). The group is given only one symbolic award. An individual all-star cast award, assigned by the judge to a chorus or other group of players that cannot be individually identified, counts as only one individual award and is given only one symbolic award.

Thank you in advance for returning the questionnaire and for helping us evaluate the One-Act Play Contest.

Enclosure: Self-addressed envelope

(Questionnaire on back)

THE ORIGIN OF THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

(CRITIC JUDGE ONLY)

ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST QUESTIONNAIRE

Note: Please return this questionnaire to: State Theatre Director, P.O. Box 8028, Austin, Texas 78713-8028.

DATE: _____ Conference _____ (circle one) ZONE, DISTRICT, AREA, or REGION _____
(number/letter)

CONTEST SITE: _____

NAME OF CONTEST MANAGER: _____

SCHOOL TITLE: _____

YOUR NAME: _____ PHONE () _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

Yes No

- ___ ___ 1. Prior to the contest, were you provided play titles or scripts in sufficient time to become familiar with the plays? If not, why?
- ___ ___ 2. Did you request and receive a written agreement (contract) detailing your judging assignment?
- ___ ___ 3. Prior to the contest, were you briefed by the contest manager concerning procedures, all-star cast selection and critiques?
- ___ ___ 4. Were you given an opportunity to meet with directors prior to the contest? If not, why?
- ___ ___ 5. Were you provided with an adequate working condition? (See "Working Conditions" in the Critic Judge's Guide, items 1-6, and the Contest Manager's Guide in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play*.)
- ___ ___ 6. In your opinion, were there violations of any One-Act Play Contest Rules (Section 1033)? If yes, indicate action taken by the contest manager.
- ___ ___ 7. Was there any evidence of unsportsmanlike conduct by directors or students (Section 1034 – One-Act Play Contest Ethics Code)? If yes, what action was taken by the contest manager?
- ___ ___ 8. Did all companies stay for their critique? If not, why?
- ___ ___ 9. Was the contest well organized? (See Contest Manager's Guide noted above.)
- ___ ___ 10. Did the directors and students appear to be responsive to your critique? If not, please explain.

Your elaboration on any of the above or your comments concerning any aspect of the One-Act Play Contest would be appreciated. List any plays (short or long) on the approved lists in the current *Handbook for One-Act Play*, you feel should be **deleted**. Also, list plays of approved publishers that would meet OAP Contest rule requirements that you feel should be added to the approved lists. (please attach a separate sheet with additional information)

PLAY TITLE: _____

CRITIC JUDGE WORK SHEET

“In a well-planned one-act play contest, there are no losers.”

I. Acting (Value: about 60%)

- A. Voice
- B. Characterization
- C. Movement
- D. Contrast
- E. Ensemble
- F. Timing
- G. Motivation

II. Directing and Stage Mechanics (Value: about 40%)

- A. Blocking, Composition, Picturization and Stage Business
- B. Tempo/Mood
- C. Theme/Style
- D. Ground Plan/Set Design
- E. Costume/Make-up
- F. Lighting

(If additional copies of this work sheet are necessary, they may be reproduced locally.)

Play Ballot

When a single expert critic judge is used, only the advancing schools and alternate will be indicated. When a panel* of three or more judges is used, each judge must rank each play.

(Panel)

Advancing School _____

Play _____ 1

Advancing School _____

Play _____ 2

Alternate School _____

Play _____ 3

School _____

Play _____ 4

School _____

Play _____ 5

School _____

Play _____ 6

School _____

Play _____ 7

School _____

Play _____ 8

Judge's Signature

The University Interscholastic League One-Act Play Contest Ballot Standards For Judging One-Act Plays

These are the official standards for judging all Interscholastic League one-act play contests.

Please do not make any effort to use exact percentages as a method of ranking the plays, even though approximate percentage values are suggested for the two major areas.

- I. **Acting.** Value: about 60%.
 - A. **Voice.** Could you hear the performers distinctly? Was the rate too fast or too slow? Was there a variety of rate and inflection? Was pronunciation and articulation properly done for each character? If dialect was used, was it done correctly and naturally?
 - B. **Characterization.** Was there a complete bodily and mental re-creation of the character by the performer? Were his reactions to other performers correct and effective? Did we "believe" the performer's characterizations all the time he was on the stage?
 - C. **Movement.** Were the movements of the performer in keeping with the character? Was there a great deal of random movement? Was the pantomime accurate and convincing? Did the performer seem to have a well controlled, poised body?
 - D. **Contrast.** Were there clearly contrasting moods in speech? Were emotional transitions natural and effective? Were the lines delivered in a manner which seemed natural to the characters in this play?
 - E. **Ensemble.** Did you feel a smoothness of action which indicates adequate rehearsal and close cooperation and understanding among the performers? Was it a closely knit, rhythmically correct show?
 - F. **Timing.** Did the performers pick up cues rapidly? Did the movements of the performers slow down the tempo of the show? Was the production static in places because the performers seemed to lack a sense of pace?
 - G. **Motivation.** Was there a logical reason for all business and movement by the performers which was consistent and in keeping with the characters in the play?
- II. **Directing and Stage Mechanics.** Value: about 40%.
 - A. **Set.** Within the limitations of contest rules, did the set satisfactorily represent the idea of the play? Was the furniture used in a way which assisted but did not hinder the action?
 - B. **Lighting.** Did the lighting effects blend harmoniously and unobtrusively into the action of the play? Were there effects which were so obvious that they called attention to themselves and took your attention away from the action of the play? (The use of elaborate lighting effects will be disregarded by the judge; however, the play must not be discounted because lighting control or equipment were inadequate and resulted in faulty effects for which the director could not be responsible.)
 - C. **Sound.** Did the sound effects blend harmoniously and unobtrusively into the action of the play? Were there effects which were so obvious that they called attention to themselves and took your attention away from the action of the play?
 - D. **Make-up.** Was the make-up natural and in keeping with each character?
 - E. **Costume.** Were the costumes for each character correct as to color, style, and period? (The use of elaborate costumes must not affect the final decision of the judge.)
 - F. **Business.** Were exits and entrances properly timed? Did the performers frequently cover or block each other? Was the business properly motivated? Was the designed business adequate to bring out the idea of the play?
 - G. **Tempo.** Did the play as a whole drag? Was it too fast to follow intelligently? Was the pace of the play in keeping with the general idea of the play? Was the tempo fast enough for farce? Did it tend to become slower for tragedy? Were the sub-climaxes and the climax well built up?
 - H. **Composition.** Were the performers grouped to give proper emphasis to the right characters at the right time?
 - I. **Theme.** Did the play strongly challenge the ability of the performers? Was the main idea or the theme of the play brought out clearly?

Individual Awards Ballot

Individual awards shall include the best actress, best actor, Samuel French, all-star cast and honorable mention all-star cast. The number on the all-star cast shall equal the size of the average size cast participating in the contest, *not to exceed eight performers*. An honorable mention all-star cast, not to exceed the size of the all-star cast, may be selected at the discretion of the judge or judges. An equal number of males and females is NOT required.

Honorable Mention All-Star Cast Ballot

1. Name _____
School _____
2. Name _____
School _____
3. Name _____
School _____
4. Name _____
School _____
5. Name _____
School _____
6. Name _____
School _____
7. Name _____
School _____
- 8.* Name _____
School _____

All-Star Cast Ballot

1. Name _____
School _____
 2. Name _____
School _____
 3. Name _____
School _____
 4. Name _____
School _____
 5. Name _____
School _____
 6. Name _____
School _____
 7. Name _____
School _____
 - 8.* Name _____
School _____
- *Maximum Number [Refer to Section 1033 (d) (3) (E) for details.]
- Best Actor _____
School _____
- Best Actress _____
School _____