

# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

**Register your  
attendance.**

Session numbers are in  
the program.



SCAN HERE FOR  
AUSTIN ROSTERS



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT  
AUSTIN



# OAP RULES AND UPDATES

**LET'S START FROM THE VERY BEGINNING...**



# AGENDA

## PART I

Calendar  
Updates

## PART II

Prepping for  
the Contest  
Season

## PART III

Rules and/or  
Clarifications

## PART IV

Your  
Questions



**ARE YOU ENROLLED?**

# **CALENDAR - UIL DIRECTOR DEADLINES**

**OCT 1**

**Deadline to enroll via  
SPEECHWIRE.**

**DEC 6**

**DATE CHANGE!**

**PLAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE -**  
Only for plays not on UIL  
Approved Lists and Scenic  
Elements that are not  
permissible under contest rules.

**FEB 10**

**TITLE ENTRY DUE IN  
SPEECHWIRE. ZONE AND  
DISTRICT CONTESTS  
CANNOT START BEFORE  
FEBRUARY 10TH.**





# CALENDAR - UIL DIRECTOR DEADLINES

**10 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR FIRST CONTEST DEADLINE  
OR DATE SET BY YOUR CONTEST MANAGER**

**Contestant Entry in Speechwire, for Zone or District contests**





# **CONTEST MANAGER DEADLINES**

**FEB 1, 2025**

- **Deadline to organize your district's One-Act Play Contest.**
- **Deadline to set up One-Act Play Meets in SPEECHWIRE**
- **Deadline for executing judging contracts.**

**APR 3, 2025**

**District and Bi-District  
Certification  
Deadline**



# **OAP CALENDAR 2024-25**

**APR 23-26, 2025**

**(ADD DATE)**

**REGIONAL MEETS  
(Coming Soon)**

**STATE MEET  
One-Act Play  
and Theatrical**



# PREPPING FOR THE YEAR

**HOW CAN I GET READY RIGHT NOW?**

# HIGH SCHOOL OAP PLANNING

You shall use TTAO certified judges and contest managers. Before selecting your judge or CLINICIANS, check the Bi-District, Area, Region and State contest pages for conflicts.

## How will you hold critiques?

For Zone, District and Bi-district only—the district can select critiques to be held either before or after awards. This means... After each performance or after all performances but before awards.





# **A PLEA TO HIRE CERTIFIED TTAO CONTEST MANAGERS!**

**You want a contest manager who is knowledgeable on the updated rules and procedures. For example: time warnings, acting awards, present at all rehearsals.**

**You want a CM who can find answers to questions.**



# **SELECTING CONTEST PLAYS AND PUBLISHER UPDATES**

**READING  
CLUBS!**

**WATCH  
PLAYS  
ONLINE!**

**READ AND WATCH  
AS MUCH THEATRE  
AS YOU CAN!**

**STUDENTS ARE  
AUDITIONING  
EVERYDAY...**

**SEE LIVE  
PLAYS!**



**REMEMBER TO...**

**MAKE IT  
FUN**

**IF MAMA'S (PAPA'S) NOT HAPPY, NOBODY'S HAPPY!**

# DO!

## GENERAL DO'S AND DONT'S



**Start the process early!**

**Check the approved lists!**

**Contact the publisher!**

# DON'T!

**GENERAL DO'S AND DONT'S**



**...wait until November!**

**...send UIL approved  
plays to UIL.**

**...assume your play will be  
approved because of X,Y,Z...**

# THE PLAY'S THE THING!

W. SHAKESPEARE

HOW DO I  
CHOOSE A  
PLAY?

I HAVE 5  
BOYS, 2  
GIRLS...AND  
GO!





**vs**



**#1**

**CHOOSE A PLAY  
THAT MEETS YOUR  
COMMUNITY'S  
STANDARDS**

It may play in  
Houston, but does it  
play in my  
hometown?

**#2**

**CHOOSE A  
PLAY THAT  
HAS LITERARY  
MERIT**

Do the characters  
change and grow?  
Does the story evolve  
change?

**#3**

**CHOOSE A  
PLAY THAT  
FITS YOUR  
KIDS**

Maturity, talent level,  
challenge yet  
nurturing







**CHOOSE A PLAY  
THAT MAKES  
YOU EXCITED  
TO COME TO  
REHEARSALS!**

**...ENOUGH ALREADY!  
WHAT IS THE SECRET???**

**READ!**

**RESEARCH!**

**RESOURCES ARE  
AVAILABLE!**





# PLACES TO START!



**PUBLIC DOMAIN  
(ROYALTY FREE)**

**THEATRICALS WORKS WORLDWIDE  
(TRW)**

**DRAMATIC  
PUBLISHING**

**CONCORD  
THEATRICALS,  
FORMERLY SAMUEL  
FRENCH**

**BROADWAY  
LICENSING  
INCLUDES  
DRAMATISTS  
PLAYSCRIPTS**



**STAGEPLAYS.COM**

**UIL PARTICIPATION LIST**

**UIL APPROVED LISTS**

# PLAYS ON THE UIL APPROVED LIST OF PLAYS



**...NEW PLAYS ADDED!**

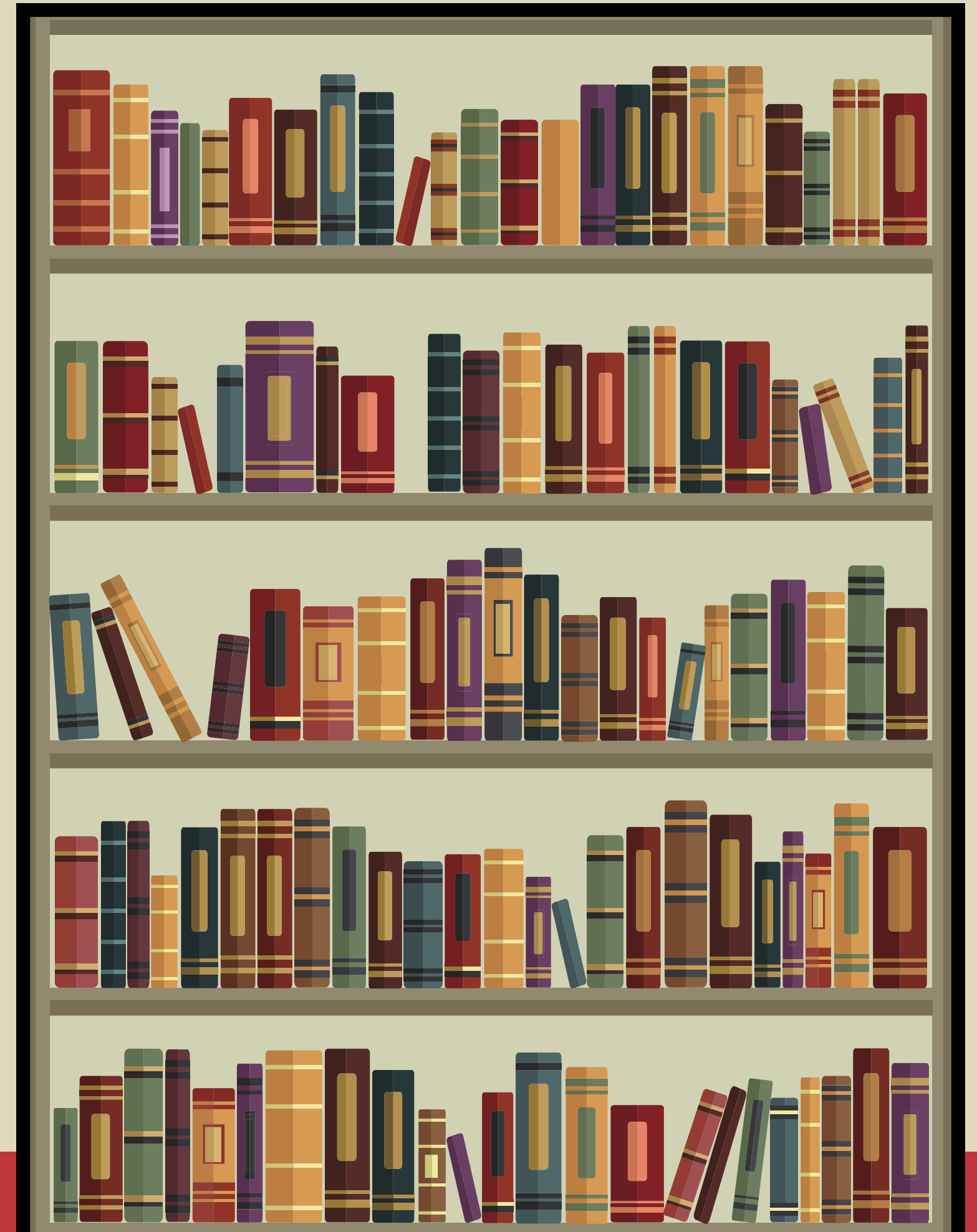
**See UIL Theatre Home page for added plays.**

# UIL DRAMA LOAN LIBRARY

You may check out up to 10  
Plays; Up to 3 weeks max

\$7 for shipping and handling

See UIL Theatre website for  
checkout form and instructions.



# DO!

**FOR PLAYS NOT FOUND ON  
THE APPROVED LISTS...**



**Start the process early!**

**Contact the publisher for  
permission and instructions!**

**Submit to UIL by the deadline!**

**Dear -----,**

**High School Theatre Department would like to  
apply for the rights to perform scenes from  
----- by ----- in the 2025**

**University Interscholastic League One-Act Play  
Competition held annually in Texas. We would be  
performing the play according to all UIL  
guidelines which includes reducing the play to a  
40 minute performance. Would this be  
permissible and what would be our next step?  
Thank you for your consideration.**

**SAMPLE  
LETTER  
FROM A OAP  
DIRECTOR**

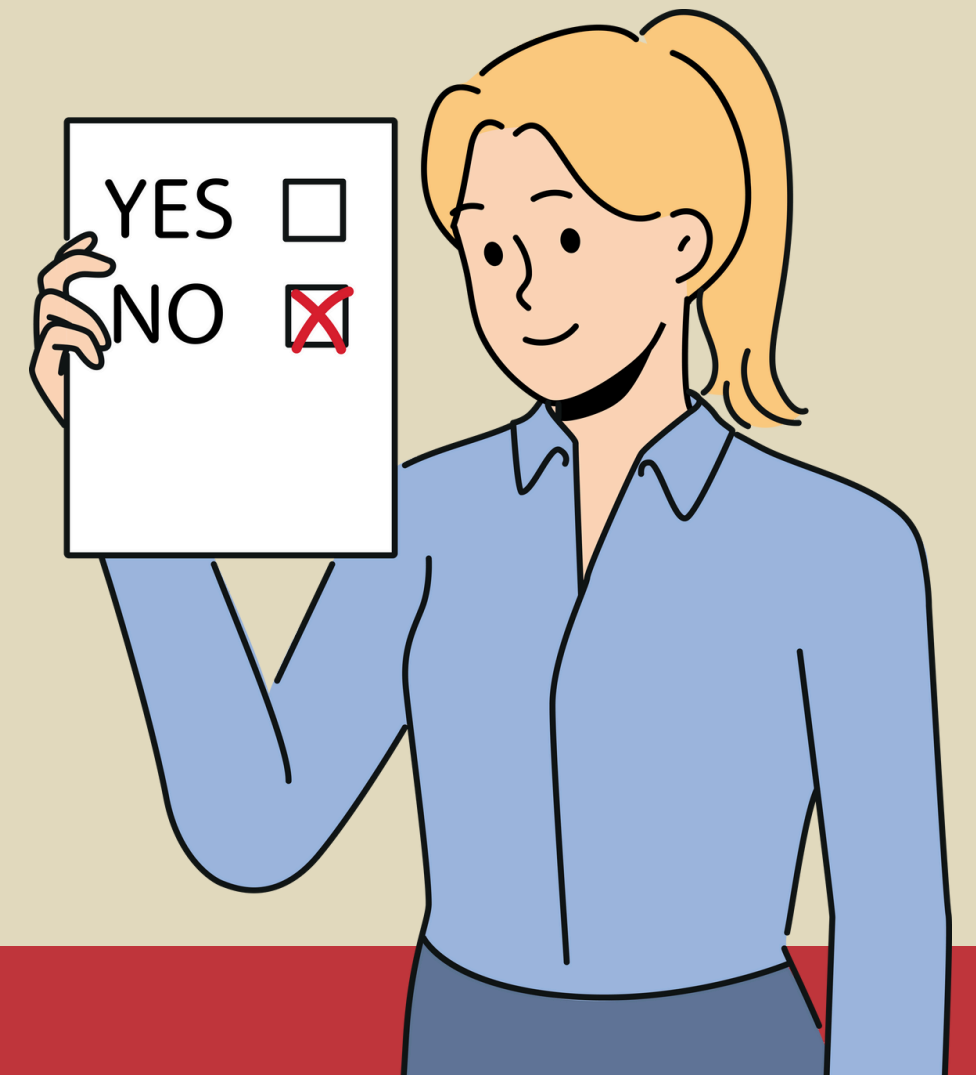
# BE PREPARED FOR PUBLISHERS TO NOT ALLOW...

Internal cuts, only allowing scenes from or excerpts.

Reminder- many publishers will not accept requests for edits after the UIL submission deadline (December 6) .

If the play is on the UIL Approved list, there is no need to submit the script or cuts to UIL.

*The UIL Home Page will post updated information on publishers.*



# REMEMBER!!!



UIL PLAY APPROVALS VALID FOR  
TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

Approved for 2023–2024 season is  
approved for 2024–2025.

( for the school, not the director)

**YES!**

If you find that scenery or properties *beyond* what is allowed under current rules is required, you shall submit your requests on or before December 6.  
i.e. Water chambers, automobile, small prop plane....

*Scenic additions and restricted properties will be approved only if they are  
“without which the approved play cannot be produced.”*

# DO I NEED SUBMIT SCENIC REQUESTS?



**NO!**

If you can use the unit set, trim, fabric, lighting, properties to create the effect.



# REMINDERS FOR SUBMITTING A PLAY TO UIL

1. NO PHOTOCOPIES (unless you have written permission from publisher/playwright to use a copy.)
2. Highlight what you wish to keep.
3. Strike through in INK, what you will remove.
4. **USING THE FULL SCRIPT, NO CUTS?** Include a note for the committee stating you will perform the entire play.
5. **PLEASE! Send Check, Form and Script together in one package.**

**Instructions found online and in handbook.**





# CONTEST RULES

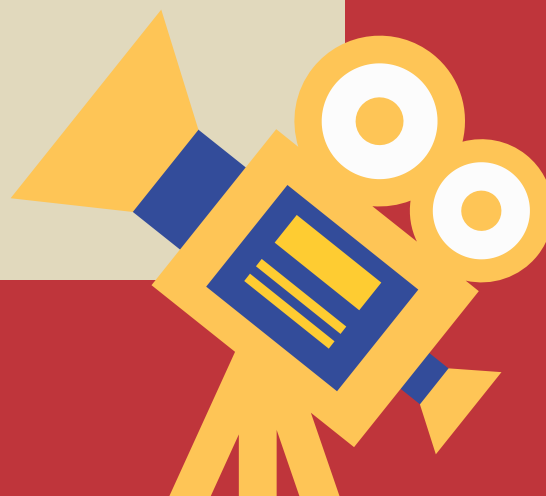
**SOME RULES AND CLARIFICATIONS**

# RULES FOR THE UNIT SET

Any action that would damage the unit set, participants or audience members, is prohibited.

**New: Be prepared for CM's to request photo(s) of your set; including stacking, clamping...**

The use of any walls (substitute for walls), other than that which is specifically allowed in the contest rules and handbook, require special UIL approval.

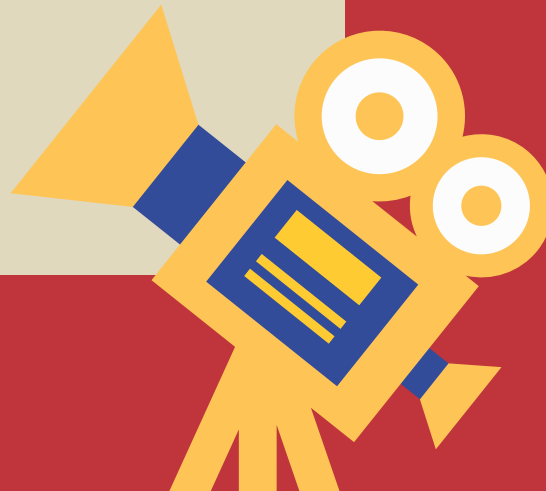


# STACKING

Nothing onstage taller than 12 ft.

Pylons shall not be stacked HIGHER than 12 ft.  
(measured from the floor) this includes Capitals.

**No items (this includes stacking of set pieces,  
properties, unit set elements shall be taller than  
12ft. (measured from the floor); including  
capitals.**



# BOOKCASE/SHELVES/STORAGE FURNITURE/TV CONSOLES/ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS

- No more than 4 Bookcases/Bookshelves
- Shall not exceed 6ft. High x 4' Wide x 2' 6" Deep
- Stacked – Bookcases/shelves shall not exceed 12 ft when measured from the floor.
- Why limit to 4? Safety, storage issues.  
Bookcases/ Shelves/Consoles shall not be used a substitute for walls– interior or exterior walls.

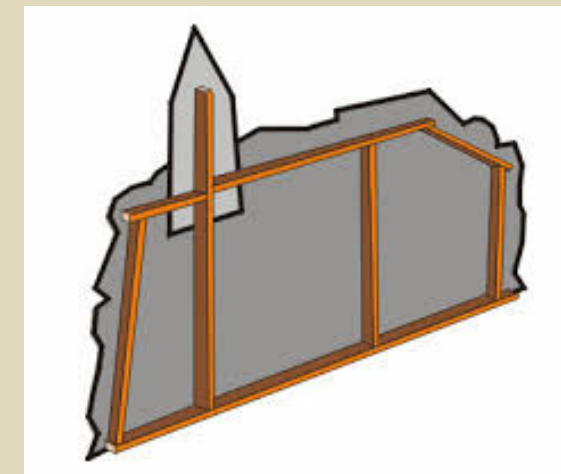


Description	Maximum Size
Furniture	6' high x 4' wide X 2' 6" deep
Utility Item or Prop	Limit of 2 PER SCHOOL total not to exceed 52" L x 41" W x 44" H
Furniture	5' high x 6' wide X 4' deep.
Exterior Decorative Prop- erty	5' high x 4' wide and 4' deep.

# SCENERY AND PROPERTIES

Self-Supported Scenery – Fencing, railing, groundrows, non-UIL flats used in a decorative manner shall not exceed...4ft H x 8ft L...

Twelve linear feet, measured along the base, of **lightweight (i.e. styrofoam, cardboard, lightweight wood)**, non-metallic and self-supported scenery is permissible. **Scenery shall not be used as as handheld properties.**



No one section of *Self-Supported Scenery* may exceed 4' high by 8' long.



Sections may STILL be used in conjunction with or attached to unit set elements.



# DECORATIVE STAGE PROPERTIES

**Any and all items (properties) used to decorate the interior or exterior of a setting.**

**Schools will be responsible for storing extra stage properties if site is unable to house all items in storage space.**

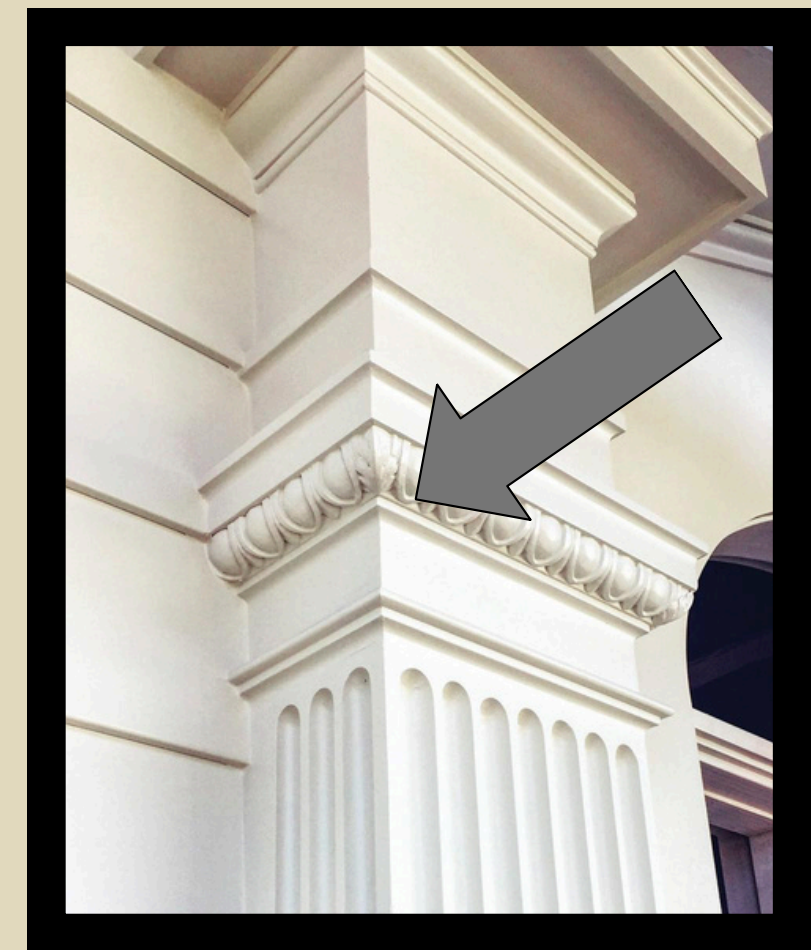


The Ferryman, Deer Park HS, 2024



# ARCHITECTURAL TRIM

The use of lightweight, (styrofoam, cardboard, lauan wood and other materials) portable, architectural trim shall be **ATTACHED** to individual unit set elements (i.e. crown moulding, pylon trim, wall textures, baseboards, wainscoting, mill-work style).





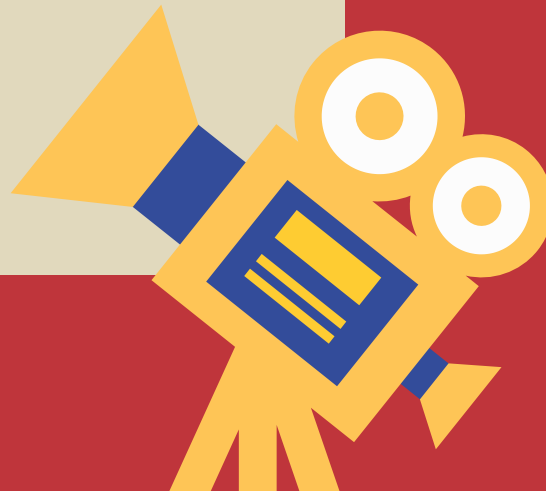
# RULES ON ARCHITECTURAL TRIM

Lightweight Trim shall not cover more than 50% of the visible surface (**viewed from center of auditorium**) of the unit set element. **(NEW)**

Trim shall not extend more than 6" in any direction from the edge of the unit set element. **(NO CHANGE)**

Each section of trim shall be constructed and **ATTACHED/flush** to fit a specific unit set piece. You shall not use a single piece of trim to cover multiple set elements.

**Cube + Pylon= 2 separate pieces of trim.**

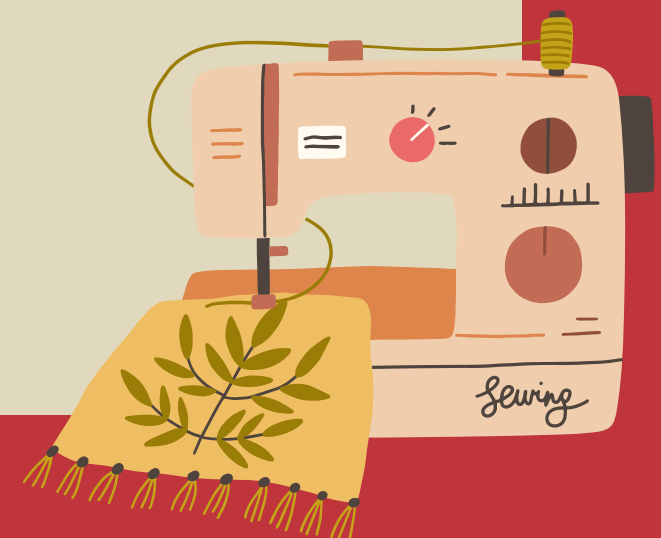


# FABRIC

**Unframed** scenic fabric or projection material (without limit) can be used in any way you choose...BUT

- shall be easily transported and stored. It may be rolled on a tube(s) or a batten not to exceed 12' in length or may be folded into a 4X4 square.
- Battens for scenic drops and curtains shall not exceed 12' in length.

No adhesive materials may be used to secure or attach the fabric or softgoods (textiles).



# FABRIC VS ARCHITECTURAL TRIM

Fabric can be used to fully cover a unit set item (**100%**) if the participants are not walking on the item.

**Architectural** trim should not be attached to fabric creating one piece.

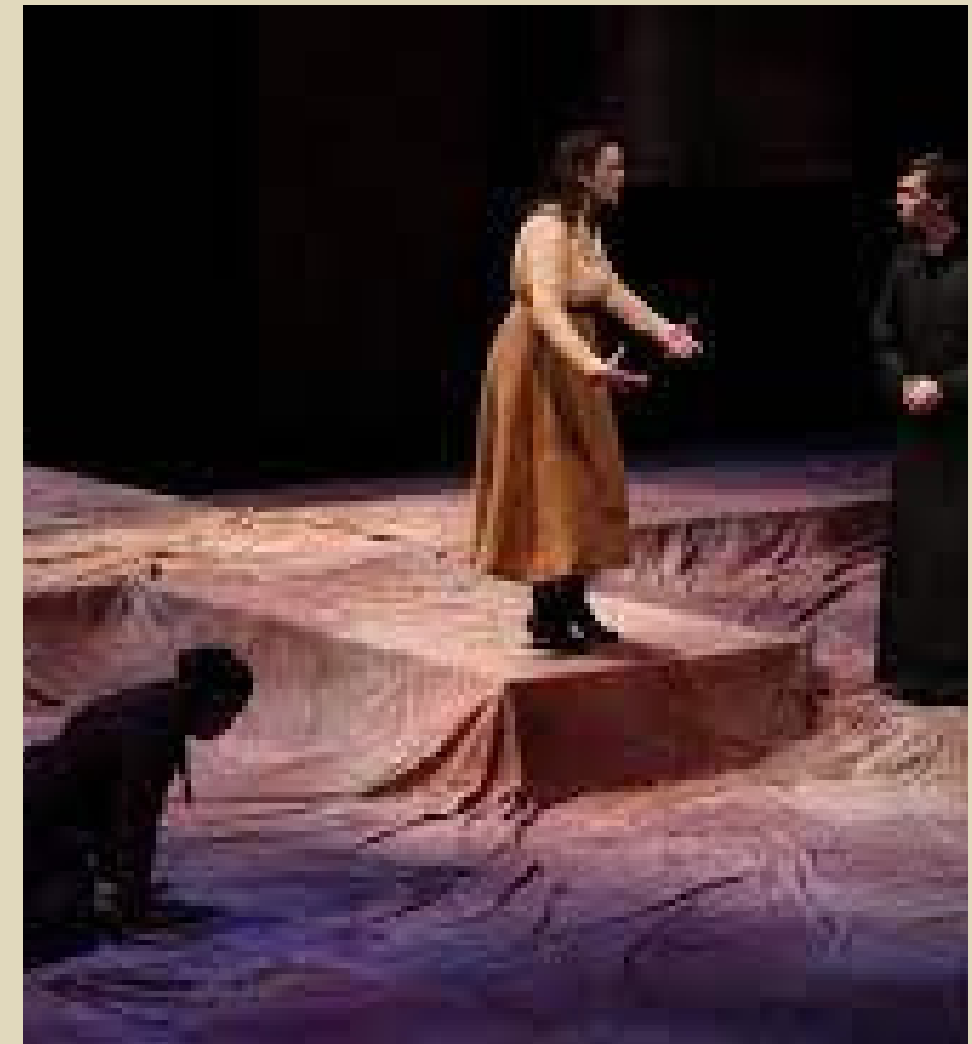
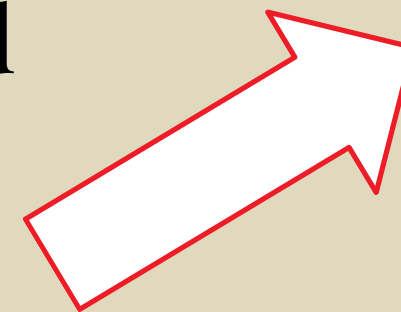


The Book of Everything, Canyon Randall HS, 2024

# FABRIC VS ARCHITECTURAL TRIM

Fabric, Rugs, General Artificial Flooring.. Rugs shall not cover more than 50% of each visible unit set item.

NOT A RUG. This is scenic ground cloth- and prohibited. Fabric/ground cloth covering stage floor.





# LIVE MUSIC, SINGING, AND MUSICIANS

Use of Live Musicians Onstage and Offstage: The use of live musicians or singers onstage is permissible **only if their presence on stage is text driven or prescribed by the playwright and indicated in the text.**

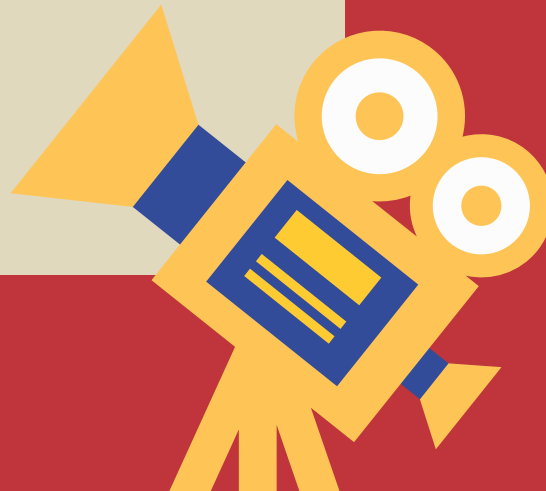
Live musicians/singers shall play roles in the play.  
Live musicians or singers used off-stage do not require approval.



# LIGHTING

Theatrical lighting instruments—floodlights, spotlights, PAR, Strip, LED and other stage lighting fixtures and projectors (including outdoor “holiday style” projectors), may be used, but the combined total shall not exceed a total of six (6).

Projectors and lighting instruments may be used but the combined total shall not exceed six (6).





# STAGE LIGHTING

Flashlights, twinkle/string/ rope-style, lights may be used as properties **and shall not count towards the 6 allotted stage lights.**

**No laser pointers or laser flashlights.**



Keller Central, The Corn is Green, 2024

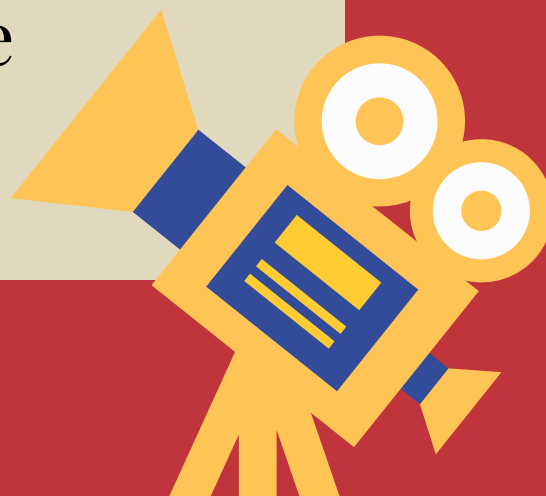
# LIGHTING INSTRUMENTS/FIXTURES

**NOTE:** Multiple Lighting/Projector instruments/devices/fixtures *may not be "daisy chained" or connected together to equal one instrument.*

“Daisy chaining as many as 10 fixtures= 10 instruments, not ONE instrument.”

EXAMPLE: 1 Strip light = 1 lighting instrument (1 of the 6)

This does not apply to actual “market style” string, twinkle or "Christmas" tree lights used as properties to decorate an indoor or outdoor setting. Call the League for clarification.





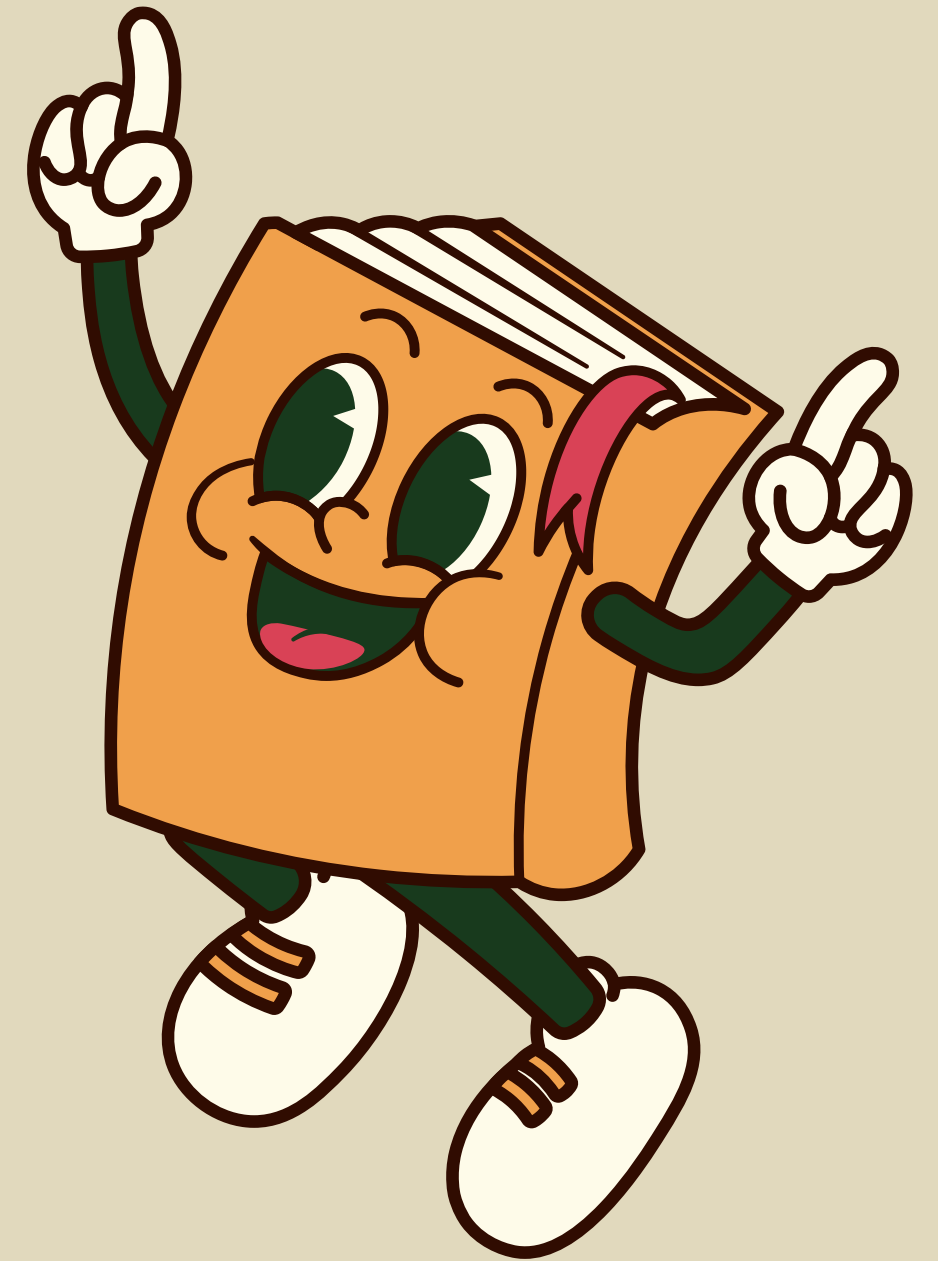
# PROPERTIES- HOUSEHOLD TYPE LIGHTS





## OTHER RULES

- Footwear shall be worn for set up and strike.
- Company rituals before performance– must happen before *moving to the stage, not in view of audience/judges*.
- Tombstones–see *statues* in Handbook (5ft H max)
- Platforming– *substitutes* for platforms such scaffolding or pallets require special UIL approval.



# LIGHTING FIXTURES

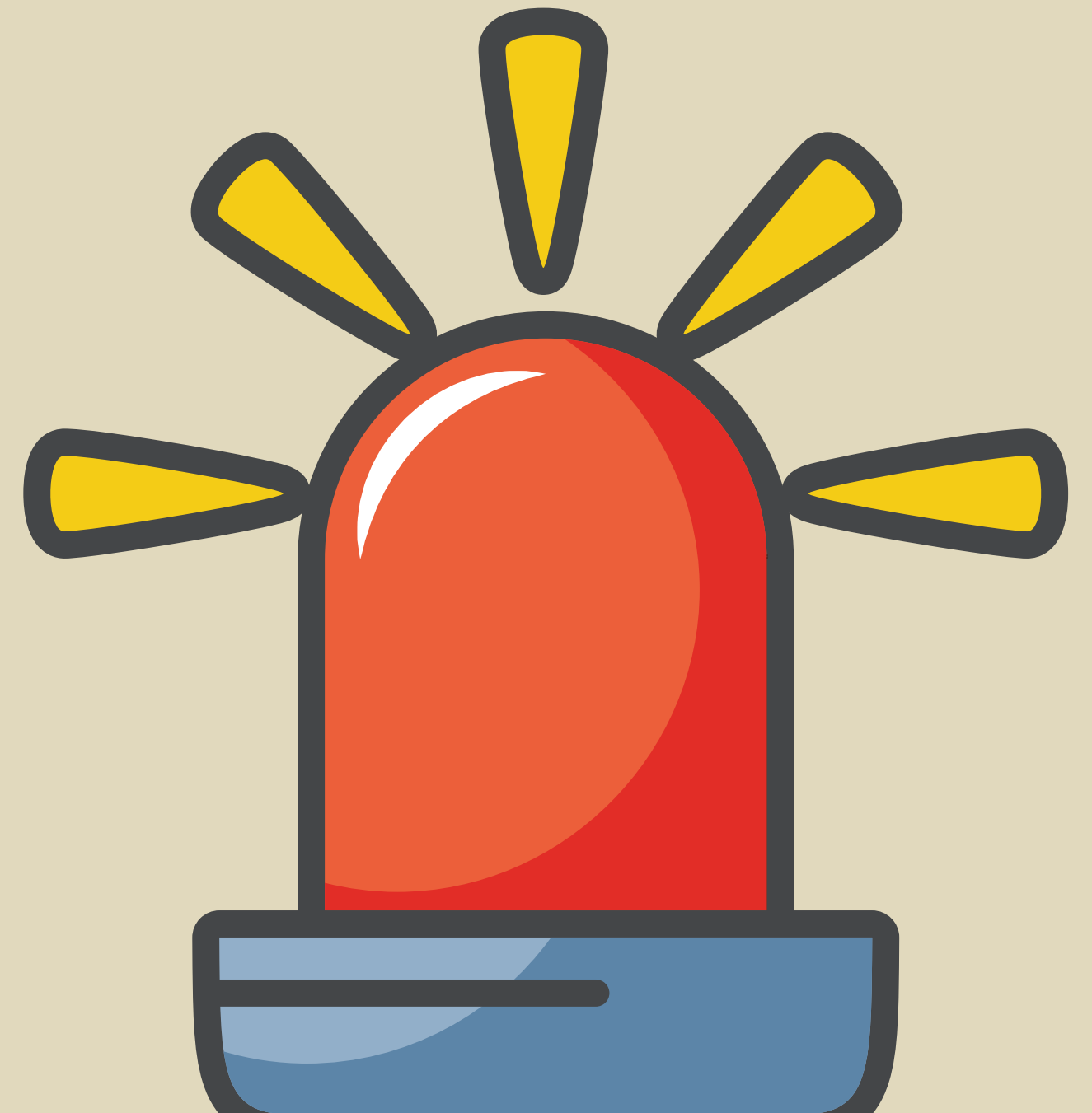


8 lighting  
fixtures pictured  
here. 2 must go  
back on the bus.



## NOW A WARNING...

- NEW: It is the responsibility of the company to locate the backstage electrical outlets and test their electrical equipment during the rehearsal period. A performance shall not be stopped for technical difficulties (failure of lighting, sound or special effects) under control of the company in performance.



# **OAP 28TH HANDBOOK EDITION**

**What to items,  
forms to bring  
to rehearsals  
and contest?**

**How many hours  
a week can I  
rehearse?**

**The Planning  
Meeting  
Information**

**Checklists**

**What rules  
will get me in  
trouble?**



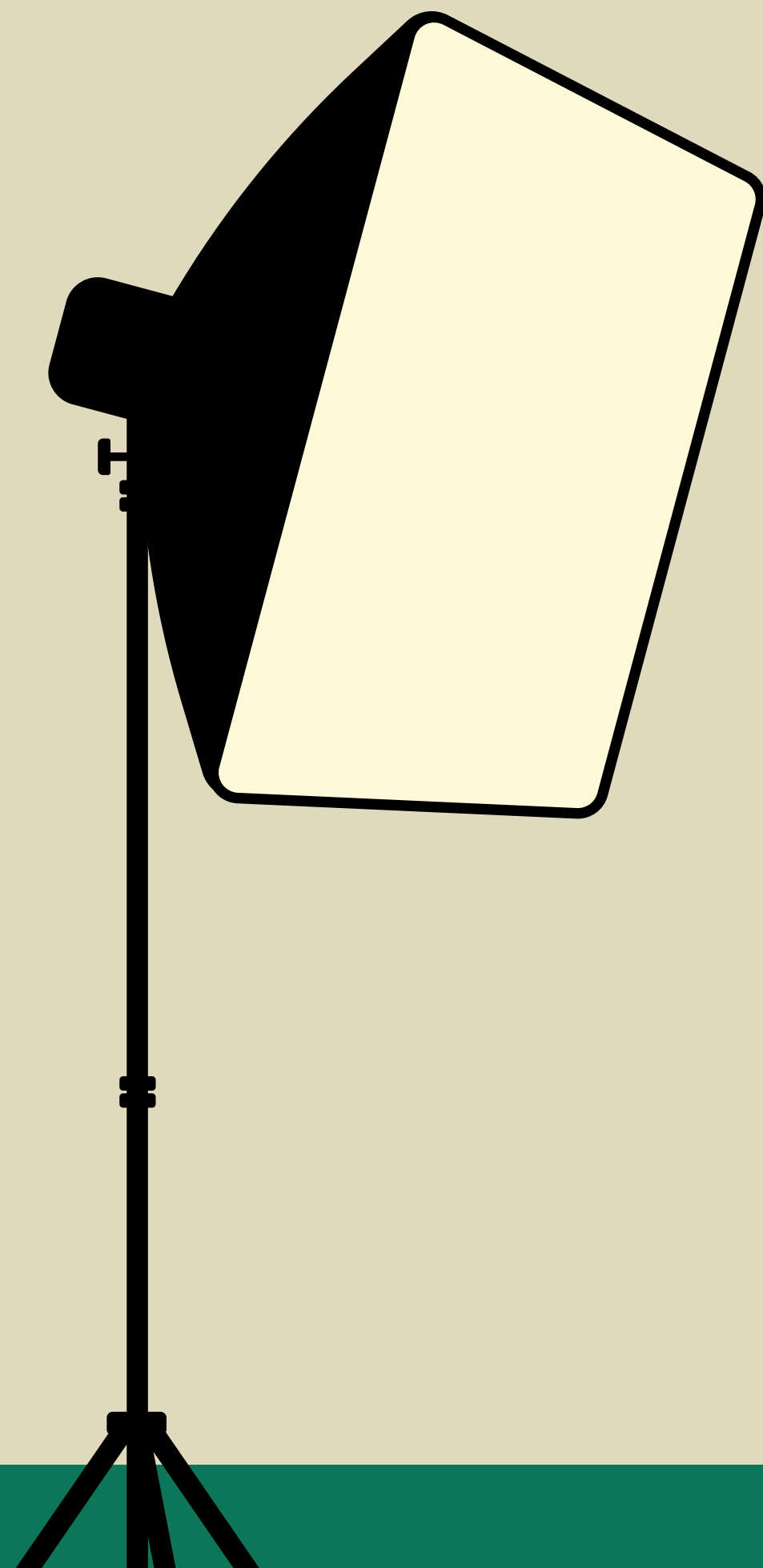


# F.A.Q.'S

# HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK, CAN WE REHEARSE?

For each extracurricular activity, a school district must limit students to a **maximum of eight hours of practice and rehearsal** outside the school day per school week.





# **CAN I RUN SPECIAL LIGHTING FROM THE BOOTH?**

Competing schools shall not place/run lighting instruments from the house or in the light booth.

Wireless light/sound boards may be run from booth, with host site permission.  
(NEW CLARIFICATION)

# **DO I NEED PUBLISHER AND UIL PERMISSION TO ADD ENSEMBLE/TOWNSPEOPLE?**

YES – BOTH – if you are splitting lines, adding dialogue, changing the text, creating a new scene, or if you are using that performers in a way that changes the story. (ex. adding a Greek Chorus)

NO – (only UIL approval email)

If you are not adding/splitting lines and not changing the text or story by using extras.

Waiters, no lines, changing scenery.



# PROGRAMMING LIGHTS

Programming of light cues by participants shall take place at the contest site during the official rehearsal period; THIS INCLUDES THE HOSTING SCHOOL.

Every school starts with a clean slate.

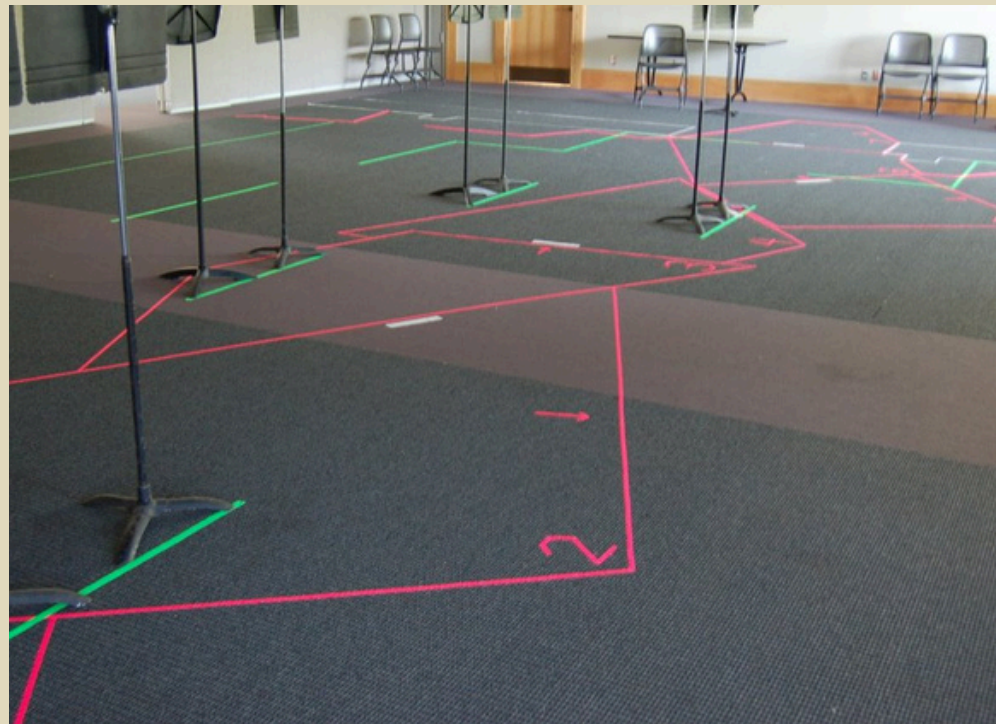
In an effort to be equitable, it is prohibited for schools to bring pre-programmed light cues on a flash drive or other method to the site rehearsal and load the cues to the host's lightboard.





# SPIKE MARKS

Minimal amounts of tape used to mark your furniture or set pieces; typically corners of the set piece.



Spike marks should not be used to outline furniture or scenic pieces or mark entrances and exits.



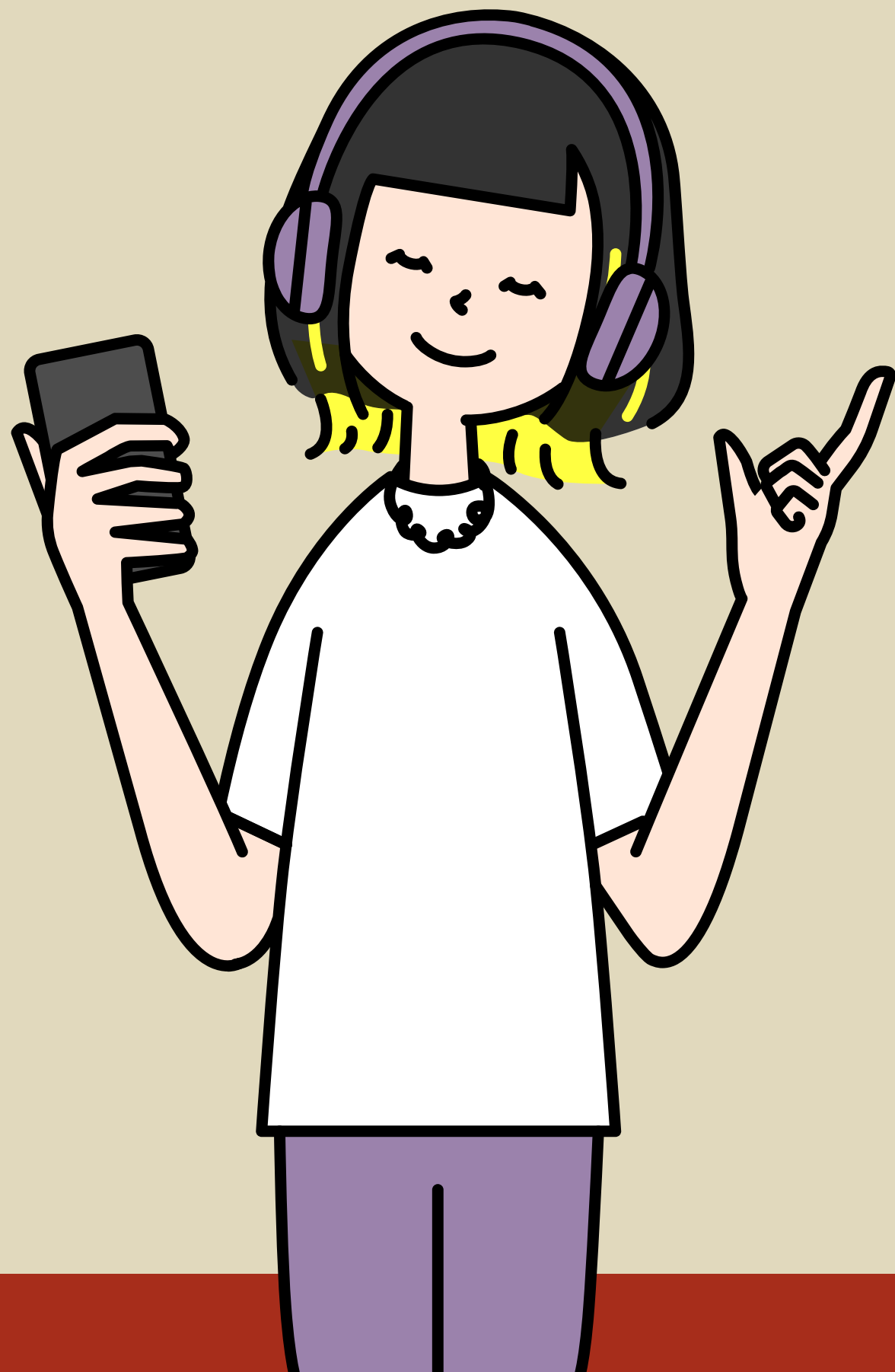
# OFFSTAGE VOICES

...that do not appear on stage may be recorded by anyone, amplified or spoken live offstage by a crew member or a cast member who plays an onstage role.

Offstage voices are not eligible for awards and shall not be listed on entry form or program.







# **CAN WE BRING OUR OWN HEADSETS?**

Only ONE system will be used by all schools and for the entire contest.

A system used exclusively by any performing company is not permitted.

If the host site system is non-functional, the CM can borrow a system from another school and must be available for all rehearsals and performances.

# **CAN I HAVE AID IN DIRECTING?**

## **Outside of the limits of a clinic/festival...**

- You shall not have someone stage/block your OAP entry, nor shall they
- Cast your play, stage your play...
- Coach your OAP Performers on acting, dialects, stage combat...
- Cut/edit your play...
- Design your set, lighting, costumes or props

## **FOR YOUR OAP ENTRY.....**

Directors may continue to rent, borrow, loan costumes, props to all schools. Theatrical supply companies, parents or volunteers may construct or provide scenery, properties or costumes.

# WHO CAN ASSIST ME AT THE CONTEST?

REMINDER: ONLY directors and students on the official UIL entry shall be in the dressing room.

Adults serving as chaperones, not on the official UIL entry, are not permitted in the dressing room, nor onstage during set up, strike performance.



# WHAT TO BRING TO CONTEST (ASIDE FROM PROPS..)

- Integrity Script (before your site/tech rehearsal)
- Permission to perform play- (UIL approval email unless play is on the approved list.)
- Proof of Royalty
- Proof of Payment
- Scenic or other Special Permission UIL correspondence.
- Community Standards Form
- Weapons
- Substitution Form/ Accommodation Letter)





# WHICH VIOLATIONS WILL GET US DISQUALIFIED?

Entries may be declared ineligible for advancement or ranking for any of the following violations:

- Use of ineligible students.
- Exceeding the number allowed in the performing company.
- Exceeding the time limits on performance or set-up or strike.
- The use of firearms, explosives or combustible materials.
- The use of additional unit set.
- The director communicating with the company during the performance.

Ineligible Companies shall be considered for individual acting awards, points and the oral critique. Violations of other rules are considered ethics violations and shall be reported to the appropriate executive committee.



# UIL RESOURCES

- Drama Loan Library form
- List of Approved Plays
- Participation Lists
- Theatre Website
- Theatre Resources: BBC Sound FX, Copyright information
- Online TEACHING Resources
- One-Act Play THEATRE Resources: contest scripts for CM's, Timekeepers, Content recording, UIL Test Slide...



# ALL THE FORMS YOU NEED!!!

- APPEAL To Use An 8TH GRADER – 1A schools only
- ACCOMODATION FORM
- COMMUNITY STANDARDS Form
- CRITIQUE ATTENDANCE WAIVER Form 2024-25
- DRAMA LOAN LIBRARY Checkout Form
- EVALUATION FORM for Play Directors to Evaluate the Contest 2024-25
- LIGHT CUE (Sample Sheet)
- LIVE ANIMAL Request Form 2024-25
- PLAY SUBMISSION for plays not on the Approved List--DUE no later than December 6 (High School) or at least 45 days prior to contest (Junior High)
- SUBSTITUTE ELIGIBILITY Form





**QUESTIONS?**



# **HOT TOPIC QUESTIONS**

- **Costs of mailing scripts to judges**
- **Director's vision statement**
- **Official UIL TECH Award**
- **.....THOUGHTS???**



**STRIVE FOR  
EXCELLENCE,  
NOT  
TROPHIES!**



**NO ONE IS  
ALONE!**

# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PAULA RODRIGUEZ**

**prodriguez@uiltexas.org**

**512-471-9996**

**512-471-4517**



THANK YOU FOR  
ATTENDING



Austin Eval

**We value your  
feedback.**  
Please complete  
conference evaluation  
after your last session.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT  
AUSTIN

