

DRAMA COMPETITION

6th - 11th February 2012. At Theatr Brycheiniog, Brecon

(Entry Date: Monday 2nd January 2012)

1. Each Club may enter as many Teams as they like. Each Team shall consist of members all of whom shall be 18 years of age or under on 1st September 2011 (date of birth - 01/09/1992 or after), and with membership cards in the YFC Office.

PLEASE NOTE

DRAW FOR ORDER OF COMPETING - will be made in the January Competitions Committee Meeting. All clubs and members must be available from the Monday to the Saturday if they wish to take part in the Festival. Each club will perform on the night they are drawn - a re-draw will only be completed if a club is drawn with a Drama and Pantomime on the same night. One Plus entries will not be re-drawn if this should happen, but the order of performing can be changed in the meeting.

Gala Evening - All winning performances must be available to perform and the top two Pantomimes with all cast members with key speaking parts available. The Chief Steward and Officers to make a decision should a query arise, where commonsense and tolerance should prevail.

WITHDRAWING - After the closing date and the order of appearance made; on no account are clubs allowed to withdraw.

DEPOSIT - all clubs to pay a £50.00 deposit when submitting their entry form, this would cover a club's entire entry whether 1 One Plus or full entries in all categories. If the club however should pull out of the Pantomime or Drama Competitions, then the £50.00 would be kept by the YFC Office - in order that replacement entertainment can be found. If a club should pull out a One Plus entry, then £25.00 will be retained by the YFC Office, and £25.00 returned to the Club.

2. Live musical accompaniment, whether on or off stage, must be by a YFC member(s) (not Associate Member), BUT, a maximum of one musician may be over YFC age BUT must be sited off stage and take no other part in the production. Taped sound effects /music permitted. (The Federation cannot be held responsible for the efficiency or quality of any sound system in any hall/theatre used).
3. A maximum of six helpers who need not be of membership age will be allowed. There is no restriction of helpers who are of membership age. **All helpers who are visible on stage must be YFC Members.**
4. Teams may choose either a single act from a full length play, excerpts from a full length play or a complete one act play.

Note: Photocopies of acting editions currently in print are not acceptable except upon production of a letter from the publisher, the author or the author's agent. To photocopy or reproduce copyright material by any means is to break the Law of copyright and be liable to prosecution.

Similar letters of permission should be obtained for any cuts made in a script, or for the performance of extracts from full length plays, which are still under copyright protection.

5. Members are reminded that in taking part in the Performing Arts Competitions, material of a questionable nature will be penalised. Members are asked to bear in mind that they are performing to a family audience.
6. Royalties for performance must be paid to obtain a licence for each and every performance. This licence to be available prior to the competition for sending to the Adjudicator.
7. Particulars of Stage are on Plan provided and should be returned to the YFC Office by **Monday 23rd January 2012** (prior to the Technical Rehearsal Evening). Plays can be presented in curtain settings with cut-outs. Box sets will be allowed and all sets must be freestanding. Backcloths can be flown, outside of the time allocation. If possible, clubs should indicate whether they will require items to be flown for their performance.

8. **Timing** - Platform times shall not be more than sixty minutes which will include setting, performance and clearing the stage. The performance must be a minimum of twenty minutes.

Note - Any technical aspects e.g. setting microphones, electrical items, keyboards etc. will not be counted in the time.

9. **Technical Requirements.** No technical requirements can be changed after 6.00pm on the night of your performance.

10. **Scale of Marking** If the total platform time exceeds sixty minutes, groups are liable to a penalty of two points for every minute or part minute over sixty minutes.

Acting	40
Production	35
Stage Presentation	10
Dramatic Achievement	15
Total	<u>100</u>

11. **Properties** must be provided by entrants. Set Pieces for Doors, Windows or Fireplaces are permissible. All stage scenery must be fire-proofed.

12. **Lighting.** Please send lighting details on form provided to the YFC Office by **Monday 23rd 2012** (prior to the Technical Rehearsal Evening). You are advised to have someone who knows your lighting requirements in the Gallery with the Lighting Manager at the time of your Play being acted.

13. Dressing rooms are limited in number, so may have to be shared with members of other casts. Companies must make their own arrangements for make-up of their Casts and bring their own make-up with them.

14. The Official Stage Manager for the Festival, and Assistants are responsible for discipline and silence Back-stage. They will be prepared to help each Production in every way, but their decision is final upon every count.

15. Competitors are advised to begin changing and make-up **at least one hour** before their Play is timed to begin.

16. All Scenery, Furniture and Props must be delivered to the Theatre before 6.00pm in order to allow time for stacking behind scenes.

17. **FIRE PROOFING** - Fire proofing of all sets is of extreme importance. Every piece of every set will be checked thoroughly by the theatre for flammability. They will test with a flame for 15 seconds. [This does not include costumes]. Therefore please ensure that all your props, furniture etc. have been treated with the fire proofing formula which you can buy or make. No straw or hay will be allowed because of the fire hazard. If you wish to use these in your production you need to make a box and stick the hay/straw to it and then fire proof.

18. No Paraffin or Naked Lights allowed.

19. No-one will be admitted to the audience after any Play has commenced.

20. The First Play will begin promptly at 7.00pm.

21. **INSPECTION OF STAGE** Monday 30th January - Friday 3rd February 2012. Producers and Casts will be invited to inspect the Stage and to see the Stage and Lighting Managers at the Theatre for a maximum time in which time the cast will be allowed to do anything on stage. Will Producers please let the YFC Organiser know what day and time they would like to come, so that a rota can be worked out beforehand. (Time allowed to be confirmed). If clubs require items to be flown and if available, these to be brought with them on technical rehearsal nights.

22. **THEATRE** It is to be understood that no Club, Member or Producer should **independently** book or see the theatre beforehand. Producers are asked to contact the Organiser to arrange a Rota/Time Table, for inspection of stage and Technical Rehearsal.
23. **Performing Night.** Clubs will not be allowed a practice on stage. Clubs will be allowed a sound check only with approximately 5 minutes for One Pluses and 10 minutes for Pantomimes and Dramas. Cast members and Club helpers will have limited access to the stage on the performance nights, this will be monitored by the Back Stage Stewards.
24. **Guidelines for Producers & Competitors of Drama & Entertainment Competition.** The notes below are written for your guidance, under the headings given for marking in both the Entertainment and Drama Competitions. They are the points for which the Adjudicator should be looking. These guidelines have been approved by the Guild of Drama Adjudicators.

The aim of a Festival should be to encourage the progressive elements and good standard in amateur theatre, and the Adjudicator will usually award marks for the greater endeavour necessary in the treatment and presentation of a difficult piece of Theatre.

THE DRAMA (ONE-ACT) PLAY

ACTING

Under this heading, the Adjudicator will assess the success or otherwise of the characterisation, combined with audibility of speech, variations intone, pace and pitch, emphasis, gesture and movement. The acting in most cases is adjudicated on a general level, e.g. two teams may present plays with six characters each. In Play One, two of the parts may be played superbly, and four badly; in Play Two, six parts may be played with average ability. Adjudicators should favour the more even performance. A high level of attainment would be expected when the cast was small.

PRODUCTION

This includes attention to such essentials as the interpretation of the spirit and meaning of the play; teamwork; general pace and variation in tempo; grouping and movement; making of points and the creation of a build-up to the climax of the play. Adjudicators should take into account the greater difficulty of producing a play with a large cast.

PRESENTATION

(As for Guidelines for the Entertainment Competition).

DRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Adjudicator will assess the success achieved by the cast in portraying and interpreting the atmosphere, the meaning and the spirit of the play, as intended by the author. The setting, the acting and characterisation, the style of the production, combined together should give a true interpretation of the play. While entrants should guard against allowing their ambition to out-run their ability, they should realise that credit will be given to experimental work in the choice of new forms of work and stagecraft.