

In The Spotlight Drama Festival

Festival guidelines

- Any public school in New South Wales may enter. Only three items from each school may nominate for selection for In The Spotlight Drama Festival.
- In 2021 the festival will be virtual. Schools are encouraged to be creative, by exploring the use of their local environment, situational drama and staging theatre for film. All works must be play built to meet copyright guidelines to stream the event online.
- The item can be drawn from any genre; circus, comedy, commedia dell' arte, puppetry, scripted drama, play built piece, movement, mime, documentary drama, musical theatre, mask theatre etc.
- Time Duration
 - Preschool, Primary and Secondary Schools – up to 10 minutes duration (recommended 5 – 6 minutes)
 - Items should not be HSC major works
 - Short and dynamic performance items are encouraged to audition.
- Number of performers in each item
 - Primary Schools – up to 30 performers (or the size of one class)
 - Secondary Schools – up to 26 performers (or the size of one drama class).
- Minimal stage properties and unlimited hand properties may be used.
- If selected for the In The Spotlight Drama Festival, no variation to your performance, including cast size, timing, stage properties etc. may be undertaken without approval of the In The Spotlight Drama Festival Coordinator.
- Inappropriate language and controversial themes such as violence, sex, drugs and alcohol or political themes (including racism and sexism) should not be explored. Sensitivity should be displayed in the treatment of themes such as romantic relationships, depression or suicide. These themes are not suitable for primary or junior secondary students. If you are concerned about the content of your item please contact the In The Spotlight Drama Festival Coordinator.
- Music and song lyrics can help communicate the intent of an item. Care should be taken to ensure that music and lyrics utilised are appropriate to the theme of the work. All music must be legally purchased on behalf of the school. Songs with inappropriate lyrics or intent will not be accepted. Please upload a copy of all song lyrics used in your item to your nomination.

Copyright

- To meet copyright guidelines for a virtual festival in 2021, all works must be play built original pieces.
- If your item involves the use of a sound recording, sound effects, script, published text (including children's picture books or novels), visual images and/or graphics, please ensure your school has secured the right to perform the piece for a public audience and stream online to a public audience.
- Schools are responsible for obtaining copyright approval for their item and paying all licensing fees. When a school requires additional copyright permission, schools must submit the copyright approvals and usage with the nomination form, advising the conditions of approval and any attributing that is required.
- It is best to establish that your chosen material meets copyright guidelines before you commence. Please refer to the [Smartcopying](#), [APRA/AMCOS](#) and [ARIA](#) websites for further copyright information.

Cost

- All successful drama item/s will be required to pay a participation fee of \$110.00 including GST. This fee will partially contribute to paying for student certificates of participation, editing and production costs.
- The participation fee will be processed via interschool journal from school accounts upon return of the School Acceptance Form. Elderslie High School will initiate the interschool journal. The coordinating teacher/s is responsible for advising their School Administrative Manager or Business Manager.
- The following financial considerations will become the responsibility of your school:
 - Participation fees for multiple items
 - Costuming, props and makeup
 - Teacher relief costs associated with filming the item
 - Costs associated with filming the item
- Festival merchandise and student workshops will not be available in 2021.

Audition video

- Schools applying to participate in the festival must upload their audition video to the nomination form. Schools are encouraged to be creative, by exploring the use of their local environment, situational drama, and staging theatre for film.
- Should you want to sharpen your skills in videoing your item, the festival committee suggests you view the [Creative Teachers digital resources created by](#)

[The Arts Unit](#). Here you will find event technical support for audio, video and projection, lighting, staging and safety.

Selection criteria

All items will be assessed by the audition panel, based on the following criteria:

Performance

- Material appropriate to group.
- Sustained characterisation, belief, role, credibility (appropriate to style).
- Expressive performance skills – voice, movement, focus, tension, symbol, timing, pace, energy, rhythm, use of levels.
- Ensemble work, group cohesion.

Use of material

- Material appropriate to group.
- Challenges actor and audience.
- Understanding of concept, text, coherent journey and sustained narrative/idea.

Entertainment value

- Engage and sustain interest in either comic or dramatic form.

Elements of production

- Use of space and awareness of space.
- Effective use of available resources including set elements, costume, props, lighting, sound.
- Establishing and maintaining an appropriate style.

Enquiries

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