



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
THEATRE  
ASSOCIATION**  
*Connect. Create. Cultivate.*

## HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DIVISION

### Musical Theatre Competition

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Fees:** SCTA requires that every student who participates in a SCTA program be a member of SCTA and pay convention registration.

#### **Judging and Awards:**

1. A panel of judges will be used for each category. Entries will be randomly placed into groups and assigned judges
2. Adjudication in each category will be written critiques with scoring.
3. Each student will receive an overall score from the video submissions.
4. An overall Top 16 will be named (based on high school) in each category and be invited to perform at the SCTA convention. All Top 16 will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony with the Top 5 receiving special recognition based on their performances in person at the SCTA convention.

#### **Competition General Rules**

1. SCTA does not have rules regarding adult content, but encourages age-appropriate works.
2. All performance selections must come from a published play/ musical.\*\* Songs may **not** come from movies, television, etc. All performers must have permission to perform their pieces (see below).
3. All performance entries must be memorized.
4. No props, costumes or character makeup of any kind will be allowed. Do overs are not permitted.
5. A school may not enter any selections or a cutting from its One-Act play entry.
6. Maximum Length of entry must be no longer than 5 minutes. The slate does not count towards the overall time.

#### **\*\*Gaining Rights to Perform:**

Due to new rules set by the Publishing houses, the choice of performance material takes careful consideration. Please follow the specific guidelines for each publishing house in the new document: [Licensing Guidelines for ICs](#)

#### **Musical Theatre Competition Rules**

1. All performance selections must come from a musical play or revue.
2. All performance entries must be memorized.
3. The accompaniment must be music only. No vocals are allowed on the accompaniment. A student may not sing a cappella. Microphones will not be used.
4. No props, costumes or character makeup of any kind will be allowed.
5. Choreography and movement is acceptable.
6. The number must be appropriate and within the student's range of ability.
7. Before the musical selection, the student must present a slate. In the slate (introduction), the contestant must state their first and last name, the name of their school, title of the song and the musical it is from. NO other information should be given (i.e. no summary, name of character being

portrayed, etc.).

8. Maximum Length of entry must be no longer than 5 minutes. The slate does not count towards the overall time. The timer will begin with the first word or blocking of the piece.

### **Filming Expectations and Tips:**

1. Camera - Only one stationary camera may be used. No closeups. Please make sure that the entire student is visible on the screen (head to toe). This may limit your blocking a bit as you will need to make sure you are always in the camera shot.
2. Sound - Film in a quiet space. Just like a live performance, please make sure that you project your voice so the microphone on your device can pick up everything you are saying.
3. For the Video: a free-standing microphone or body mic may be used. However if the microphone is held by the actor, it will be considered a prop and could disqualify the submission. There will be NO MICROPHONES at the competition site for the final round.
4. If possible, try to film against a wall that does not provide a lot of distractions (not a lot of pictures, etc.). We want to see you and all your hard work.
5. Likewise, please make sure you are not wearing the same color as the wall behind you.
6. As you would in person, take care in choosing what to wear. Try not to wear clothing that is distracting or that does not allow you the freedom of movement you need. Keep jewelry and hair out of your face so the adjudicators can see your facial expressions.

### **Submitting Your Entry**

This year, videos will be submitted through a google sheet, provided by SCTA. Teachers or sponsors should upload videos to the web-you can choose where videos are hosted, but we suggest a folder (shared with [ed@southcarolinatheatre.org](mailto:ed@southcarolinatheatre.org))-, and then link videos in the provided spreadsheet. Specific directions on HOW to do this (as well as a video) will be sent with the spreadsheet.

**You will complete the provided spreadsheet by October 8**

**The Top 16 list will be posted on the SCTA Website- High School page, and each teacher will be notified by email by Thursday, October 26.**

**Please see below the rubric used for video evaluation.**

## MUSICAL THEATRE Judges Evaluation

The student in this category will be judged on tone, vocal expression and interpretation, diction, technique, characterization, movement/dance, appropriateness of selection and scene.

Participants will be graded on the scale of one to six:

- 1 = Unsatisfactory
- 2 = Aspiring to standard
- 3 = Near standard
- 4 = At standard
- 5 = Exceeds standards
- 6 = Superior Work

### #1. Artistry/Expression(6 points)

- Does the musicality of the performer fully express the music and story?
- Are pitches and rhythms accurate?
- Is the performer's storytelling integral to the character and situation?
- Does the performer fully engage their audience?

### #2. Technique:(6 points)

- Is the vocalist expressive in phrasing and dynamics?
- Did the performer show mastery of the technique needed for their particular selection?  
(Is belting or head voice placement required and fully executed for this song?)
- Was breathing, alignment, and vocal placement well developed?
- Was the performance well-rehearsed and memorized?

### #3. Characterization:(6 points)

- Does the performer show artistry through physicality, expression and storytelling?
- Was the performer invested in their character?
- Was the character well-developed and believable?
- Was characterization fully integrated in the vocal line and phrasing?

### #4. Language/Diction: (6 points)

- Is text crisp, well-pronounced, and articulated appropriately for the character?
- Did the performer show a thorough understanding of the text?
- Did the performer fully communicate the meaning of the lyrics?
- If dialect was used, was the dialect well executed?

### 5. Choice of Song (6 points)

- Did the performer select an appropriate song for their voice type/instrument?
- Did the character and genre show the performer's full range of abilities and personality?

TOTAL POINTS Possible: 30