

PDA Original One-Acts

Due: Thursday, December 7, 2023

NEW THIS YEAR: Entries in the Thespys Playwriting category will be submitted at the same time as the PDA Original One-Act Competition.

PDA ORIGINAL PLAYWRITING AWARDS:

- First, Second, Third are invited to perform at the festival using a modified Reader's Theatre format.
- Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth (or Honorable Mentions) are awarded at the discretion of the judges

Original One-Act Play Entries & Adjudication Information

- Original One-Act Plays should conform to the following criteria and will be judged with these guidelines:
 - **FORMAT**
 - Adjudicated using the Thespy Awards Rubric.
 - A title page, cast of characters, description of setting (Time/Place) and appropriate stage directions should be included. Entries should be typed, and pages should be numbered.
 - Important Note: Only the name of the school and the Thespian Troupe # may appear on the title page of the play; the student's name is not permitted to appear there.
 - **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**
 - Adjudicated on a scale of 1 to 4.
 - Clear relationship of characters to each other.
 - Characters should be vivid and three-dimensional.
 - Characters should be named.
 - An age range for characters should be indicated.
 - Include a brief physical description of each character.
 - **PLOT DEVELOPMENT**
 - Adjudicated on a scale of 1 to 4.
 - Clear Beginning, Middle, End.
 - Exposition, Inciting Incident, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Conclusion.
 - **EFFECTIVE DIALOGUE**
 - Adjudicated on a scale of 1 to 4.
 - Active (versus narrative).

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Plays will be read and critiqued by a playwriting committee comprised of professional playwrights and/or playwriting instructors.
- On the form, please indicate if the play is to be considered for PDA, Thespian or both adjudications.
- Any number of original, one-act plays may be submitted by a school; but teachers are encouraged to exercise discretion in selecting plays to be submitted.
- For each play submitted there is a \$15.00 entry fee.
- For PDA award recognition, plays may be written by no more than three (3) authors in collaboration.
 - Plays written by a class or a group (of more than 3) for a class project are not eligible.
 - For PDA, up to the "top" six plays will be recognized, with the top three performing during the festival.
 - The PDA President will notify schools in ample time. (No later than the re-opening of school in January.)
- For Thespy Award recognition, only ONE playwright will be recognized.
 - Any script that receives an average score in the Superior range will be recognized as Superior and passed on to Nationals

Format for Presenting the Original One-Acts at the Festival:

- The emphasis on the PDA Original One-Act competition is on the writing; therefore the presentation at festival follows a Reader's Theatre format instead of a main stage production.
- Schools will not need to provide a full set, and costuming can be either all-blacks or a simple use of color to represent characters.
- The use of hand-held props are allowed, and blocking should be at a minimal.
- Chairs or stools, small tables and music stands for scripts will be available from the host school.
- In order to accommodate more schools in the one-act festival, the Originals will be presented on Saturday in a studio setting instead of the main stage.
- Only the top three scripts selected by the playwriting judges will be presented at the festival.