

# COMPETITIONS AND CUTTINGS



*If you are performing a copyrighted work in whole or in part at a festival or competition, you are still required to obtain a performance license.*

All cutting requests must be considered on a case by case basis, regardless of whether it's for a festival or competition. Playwrights are the owners of their intellectual property – their plays – therefore absolutely no changes, additions, or omissions can be made without the explicit consent of the author or their estate.

Approval for cutting requests is not guaranteed and it may take several weeks to receive a final answer. In the part of the application where we ask you to confirm the length and requirements of your cutting, please be as specific as possible. Please use the “special requests” section to note if you need to make any changes to casting, such as cross gender casting, expanding a chorus, or making offstage voices onstage characters.

Typically, we recommend teachers request a “scenes-from.” A scenes-from means you are simply having your students perform a full excerpt of a play (i.e. pages 1 through 30, scenes I through V, etc.), and all the text within that excerpt will be performed exactly as written.

If you wish to make additional changes or “internal cuts” to a script, then you need to outline your proposed changes within the application. For example, perhaps you need to make cuts to strong language, or you need to cut specific references to alcohol or smoking. If you wish to cut several lines and scenes throughout a play in order to condense the story, that is considered an adaptation and must be approved by the author or their estate. These sorts of cuts are harder to obtain approval for, so we strongly recommend having a back up plan.

Whenever possible, cuttings of plays will be licensed at a reduced rate of \$45 per performance. Musical cuttings, if approved, can be licensed at \$100 per performance but may be subject to additional fees including rental of music materials.

Monologues and brief excerpts of less than ten minutes typically do not require a license or other permission from Samuel French when performed for audition purposes or for a limited audience of adjudicators at festivals and competitions. Performances of excerpts in the final round of national competitions (such as the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival or International Thespian Festival) may be subject to a license fee payable at the competition. Please consult your competition's rules and regulations for more information and for exceptions.