**State Conference**

**Individual Event Competition Guidelines**

*Opportunity is missed by most people*

*because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.*

*--Thomas A. Edison*

In order to be competitive in individual events at State and qualify more people for performance at Lincoln, an emphasis on high-quality preparation is necessary. While these guidelines may seem challenging, the payoff comes when you are recognized for your hard work with Excellence Ribbons, Superior Ribbons, and Best of State trophies! And let’s not forget that this will ultimately make you stronger artists as well! Put in the effort, and you will become a better actor, director, or designer!

Indiana Thespians uses the guidelines for the National Individual Events Showcase Guide for the International Thespian Festival. It is attached. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING THEM!** Please read them carefully and email me (rpalasz@lcscmail.com) with questions if you have them. I will assist you in any way that I can!

**CHANGES THIS YEAR**

1. There is no longer a separation between Novice and Experienced. This is to line up with the national rules.
2. As a result of #1 above, we are able to enter a maximum of five entries in each category.
3. The cost for each entry is $10, up from $5.

**Deadlines for Performance IE’s**

Note: failure to meet more than **two dates** or **any of the payment deadlines** will disqualify you for the event. Any money paid for the event will be forfeited. I hate to get tough, but if we want the results, we have to set a high standard of discipline for what we are doing.

* **September 8, 2015—**Orientation Meeting

***Between September 8 and October 28, you need to pick your categories! And the earlier that you pick your piece(s), the more time you have to prepare. Email me or see me to stay after school to talk about your selections!***

* **October 28, 2015—**Deadline for Selecting categories for IE’s; **THIS YEAR I MUST SUBMIT TITLES AND PLAYWRIGHTS WITH REGISTRATION, SO AFTER THIS DATE, YOU MUST STICK WITH YOUR SELECTIONS!**
* **November 30, 2015:**
	+ Deadline for down payment and paperwork for State to be submitted; this includes fees for IE’s. **If you miss this part of the deadline, you are unable to go at all.**
	+ Deadline for first coaching session (for acting pieces)
* **December 18, 2015:** Deadline for second coaching session
* **January 9, 2015:** Deadline for paying remainder of State (***Failure to meet this deadline eliminates you from attending State at all)***
* **January 13, 2016:** Deadline for third coaching session
* **January 17, 201:** Family and Friends Preview Night

***You are required to perform your piece on this night.***

* **January 22-24, 2016:** State Conference at the Vincennes University

**Coaching Sessions for Acting IE’s**

You are responsible for scheduling at least three 30 minutes sessions for coaching on your acting pieces. Times begin at 2:20 and end at 3:55. I will meet with up to four groups per date. Dates are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * October 19
* October 20
* October 21
* October 22
* October 26
* October 29
 | * November 2
* November 5
* November 23
* November 24
 |
| * December 1
* December 2
* December 3
* December 8
* December 10
* December 15
* December 17
 | * January 5
* January 6
* January 7
* January 12
* January 13
 |

***You are responsible for ensuring that your coaching times do not conflict with other obligations, such as fall show and musical! Be sure you sign up early so you are able to get your desired coaching times!***

Here’s what we will do at the three sessions:

1st session: Bring me your cutting. We will block and ensure that the piece will work

2nd session: Refine piece with lines memorized. Add in your slating (introduction/conclusion) and work the transitions (for monologues). I will work with you using the rubrics the judges use!

3rd session: Fine tune and polish your presentations. We will continue to use the rubrics the judges use!

You will be surprised at what we can accomplish in a 30-minute session!

**Deadlines for College/Thespian Scholarship Auditionees**

Those who are doing the College and/or Thespian Scholarships will be responsible for registering on [www.getacceptd.com](http://www.getacceptd.com) and paying the fees on there by the prescribed deadline. At this time there is a $15 charge for each type of audition.

* **November 25, 2015:** Deadline for down payment and paperwork for State to be submitted. **If you miss this part of the deadline, you are unable to go at all.**
* **November 30, 2015:** Deadline for showing Mr. Palasz your portfolio on [www.getacceptd.com](http://www.getacceptd.com)
* **January 17, 2016—**Family and Friends Preview Night

***You are required to perform your piece on this night.***

* **January 22-24, 2016—**State Conference at the Vincennes University

**Deadlines for Film IE**

* **October 2, 2015: Full script due**

You should have a typed script ready for me to read and offer suggestions for revisions. We may end up going back and forth on revisions!

* **November 2, 2015: Storyboard due**

Again, this may go back and forth for revisions. You should attach a copy of the script to the storyboard. See me for copies of a storyboard if you need them.

* **November 25, 2015:** Deadline for down payment and paperwork for State to be submitted. **If you miss this part of the deadline, you are unable to go at all.**
* **November 30, 2015:** Deadline for showing Mr. Palasz your portfolio on [www.getacceptd.com](http://www.getacceptd.com) (College and Thespian Scholarship applicants only )
* **December 11—First edit of film due**

Get this edit as good as you can get it, with all sound and visual effects!

* **January 17, 2016—**Family and Friends Preview Night

***You are required to perform your piece on this night.***

* **January 22-24, 2016—**State Conference at the Vincennes University

**Coaching and Deadlines for Design/Stage Management IE’s**

We will set deadlines for these individually, as each event is a bit different. However, **you should declare your IE by November 24!**

**How To Get Started!**

Read scripts! Read any script you can get a hold of. The public libraries have a great selection and the Theatrefolk webpage posts PDFs to select plays on the last Sunday of every month! **Check out the selection in C310!** Don’t just go for the “classics” either. There are some real gems in one-act plays that you may never have heard of before! Also keep in mind that as you read, not every play will be as fun, engaging, or work for IEs as you would like. But it makes the ones that are fun, engaging, and work for IEs that much easier to recognize!

Read with an eye out for pieces that could work. Here are some questions to think about as you read:

1. **Does it meet the requirements of the competition you are entering?** See the competition guidelines for this information. Be especially mindful of the time limits. You should try to use most of the time available to you to showcase yourself!
2. **Is it appropriate?** Don’t think you have to go for shock value. Judges want to see good acting, which means you understand the lines, you are connected to the other actor(s) on stage, and everything you do has meaning.
3. **Can you portray the role?** In the past, I have said “don’t try to play anyone older than late 20’s. You are a teenager, and the judges know this. You aren’t going to fool anyone!” But hey, if you think you can believably play someone much older or younger than you really are, go for it! I’ve heard from other states that the judges do like these attempts if they are done well!
4. **Does it have tension?**Tension should be apparent within the first 30 seconds.
5. **Can it be logically cut?** Just like with the tension, the audience should be able to know the “who,” “what,” and “where” of the scene within the first 30 seconds.