

TO: All New Mexico Theatre Educators

FROM: New Mexico Thespian Board

Greetings all! Happy May! I hope your year is full of wonderful theater and fantastic students! Here is the info for this year’s Competition.

* The NMAA One Act Competition and Thespian Festival will happen November 14-16th.
  + Festival will be in person November 14-16, 2024 at Rio Rancho High School in Rio Rancho, NM
  + One act plays will be in person
  + Thespys/Individual Events will be in person
  + We will offer workshops
  + We will offer college auditions
  + We will offer the Distinguished Senior Scholarship Award
  + The thirty-five minute time allotment for one acts will be in place. We will be updating the one act technical category critique sheets and will get them out as soon as they are ready.
  + One act plays MUST follow legal copyright guidelines. Anyone found to disregard acceptable legal rules will be subject to disqualification, fines, and banishment as a school from future events. Please get your rights and be prepared to prove legitimacy of content.
  + Each student may only participate in ONE Thespy and the one act OR two Thespys if they are not involved with the one act competition. If you choose to do two Thespys, one MUST be a technical Thespy.
  + We do not want to get into a censorship debate, however, it is essential that plays that deal with adult content and language be flagged appropriately in order to allow the audience the chance to decide what is appropriate for the students present. Please be prepared to provide a copy of your script THREE weeks ahead of time for perusal.
  + New Mexico state theatre students are welcome to participate in Thespys with the understanding that they are not eligible to compete at the International Festival if they are not official Thespians before they register for the International Festival.
* Students must get Superior ratings to qualify for Nationals.
* For those of you who love the competition aspect, all categories involved with the one act will be in place.
* Registration will be in Open Water again.

The prices will be the same as last year. Registration fees:

School reg $65

Student participant $35 per student

Thespys $15

One Act $350

Additional chaperone shirt $10.

* The deadlines and info on that should be out in the early fall.
* The Code of Conduct must be signed and brought to the event.
* We will be using the 2024-2025 Thespys guide and rubrics. Please look closely at the rules and rights before you bring student to Festival- <https://schooltheatre.org/thespys/> Everything you need can be found on the Educational Theater Association Website but I have included the link here.

Feel free to email your questions to [gael.natal@rrps.net](mailto:gael.natal@rrps.net) or [melissa.souers@rrps.net](mailto:melissa.souers@rrps.net) or [meljase13@gmail.com](mailto:meljase13@gmail.com)

Please note: Schools will be disqualified for copyright violations, such as performing without the rights to a show or adding copyrighted material to student written or out of copyright shows.  In addition, they will be disqualified for the following year.  We cannot accept the liability that comes with accepting or being viewed as encouraging copyright violations.

Content of school plays need to be appropriate for high school viewers.  What is appropriate may vary depending on community standards for each school, so we are reinstating the principal's signature on registration documents indicating that the show is approved for that location.  We are also asking for more specific information about content in order to ensure correct content warnings are available to all directors and students if they do not want to participate in viewing a show.

Set pieces may be banned if it is determined that the construction of said pieces are not safe, do not fit in the intended spaces, or may damage the stage.

Please let us know if there are workshops you would like this year for you and your students.

Look forward to talking to you soon!

Gael Natal & Melissa Souers, Co-Directors, NM Thespian Board