June 5, 2020

Dear Friends,

The Utah Shakespeare Festival and Southern Utah University are thrilled to invite you to participate in the forty-fourth annual Shakespeare Competition which will be held virtually this fall, October 9. While we are very happy that Utah schools and universities are returning to face-to face-instruction, we are unsure if a live Shakespeare Competition this year would be able to meet appropriate health and social distance protocols that would be required to maintain the safety of students. Therefore, we are planning virtual competitions in all of the usual categories: acting monologues, acting duo/trio scenes, acting ensembles, dance duo/trio, dance ensemble, music madrigal, music minstrel, Tech Olympics, tech portfolios, and virtual workshops.

We have a number of very exciting online and virtual innovations that will allow the Shakespeare Competition to provide opportunities for student performance, professional adjudication, and workshop instruction for theatre, dance, music, and tech theatre events.

Southern Utah University and the Utah Shakespeare Festival are highly committed to hosting this event. It is part of our mission, and we want to ensure that it happens under any circumstance. By committing to this format at this time we can guarantee that this event will not be cancelled, and it will allow teachers and students the opportunity to appropriately prepare. We also hope that it will allow schools who would not normally be allowed to participate because of budgets and travel restrictions to participate.

We are saddened that we cannot meet face to face but excited about the prospect of providing the Shakespeare Competition in this format during this time. We are also excited about some opportunities we see by conducting the competition in a virtual format that we couldn’t achieve in a live setting. We know our students will need this valuable resource to connect and learn with each other. Preliminary schedules, modifications, and adaptations for the competition will be sent to participating schools by July 1 so students and teachers can prepare.

Thank you for everything you do for your students. I participated in this event as a student and as a teacher. It is my favorite event, and foundational in our educational programming. It cultivates a life-long love of Shakespeare and celebrates students’ own creative discoveries. We love you and are proud to be partners with you in this inspiring and important educational endeavor. We look forward to sharing this event with you.

Sincerely,

Michael Bahr
Education Director
Utah Shakespeare Festival
At a Glance

**Important dates**
- June 5: Intent to Participate opens
- August 1: Intent to Participate due
- August 7: Registration opens
- September 18: Registration due
- September 25: Competition submissions due
- October 9: Workshops and Award Ceremony

To compete in the competition, follow these steps:

1. **Assemble your competition team**
   - Decide what events your school wants to compete in. Decide which students will be competing in which events.

2. **Complete the Intent to Participate form**
   - Please submit this by August 1. This form will help us better prepare for the competition and will inform us as to which division your school should be in.

3. **Register your team at competition.bard.org**
   - You can make changes to your registration any time while registration is open. After September 18, 2020, any changes are susceptible to a $50 fee and must be made through emailing Richie Uminski at uminski@bard.org. No changes can be made after September 23, 2020.

4. **Pay registration fee**
   - An invoice will be sent to each school by September 21, 2020. Payment can be made by mailing in a check or paying with a credit card over the phone (435-586-7878). Please do not try to pay for the competition until you have received your invoice.

5. **Record competition pieces**
   - See information below on criteria for recording pieces.

6. **Submit competition pieces**
   - See information below about how to submit your competition pieces.

7. **Participate in virtual workshops and the awards ceremony (optional)**
   - Links to these activities will be sent out the week of competition
All competition pieces should be recorded and submitted on the Shakespeare Competition Submission form.

Criteria for video recording
In an effort to create uniformity and a level playing field for all schools, the following guidelines must be followed for all competition pieces.

1. The recording must be a single, continuous, unedited shot from a single vantage point. No zooming in, panning, or other camera movement is permitted. **Any videos that contain camera movement or editing will be disqualified.**
2. No body mics or boom mics should be used. No audio can be added to the video after filming. All audio in the video should be picked up from the camera’s internal microphone.
3. The beginning of the recording should include an introduction by one of the participants which should include ONLY the participant(s) number, the title of the piece, and (if applicable) the act, scene, and character(s). The dance description provided at registration will be given to the adjudicators, so it is not necessary to use it to introduce your piece.
4. No text slides, subtitles, etc. are necessary and should not be added to the video.
5. If the piece is performed on a stage, the only stage lighting that should be used is a general wash. No specialized lighting or light cues should be incorporated.
6. If costumes, props, or set pieces are used, they should be simple and minimal.

In other words, imagine you are competing at the competition itself and have recorded your competition piece with a phone or camera.

Criteria for video and file submissions
All videos and files must be accessible by a single hyperlink. In order to create a hyperlink, you may do any of the following options:

Google Drive
1. Upload your video/file to a google drive.
2. Right-click the video/file and select “Get shareable link.”
3. Make sure the option “Anyone with the link” is selected.
4. Copy the link provided.

YouTube
1. Create or log-in to a YouTube account.
2. Upload your video to YouTube using the “Create” button.
3. Select the video file.
4. Complete the prompted information in Steps 1 and 2 (title, etc.) as you like. There are no specifications about what these need to be.
5. Step 3- Visibility. It is up to you whether or not the video is “public” or “unlisted,” but it should not be “private.”
6. Copy the link provided.
Facebook
1. Create a post.
2. Add your video to the post.
3. Under your name, make sure the privacy option says “Public.”
4. Post your video to your Facebook.
5. Click on the video, and copy the link in the address bar.

If there is another option you are more comfortable with (vimeo, etc.), you are welcome to use a different platform as long as you can submit a link to your video.

IMPORTANT: Once you have your link, test it by doing the following:
1. With your browser (Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc.) open, click “File.”
2. Select “New Incognito Window” or “New Private Window.” This allows you to view your video as if you were one of the adjudicators.
3. Paste your link into the address bar and make sure it works.

All submissions must be submitted using the Shakespeare Competition Submission form by the end of the day on September 25, 2020.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- **What are the dates of the competition?**
  All competition pieces must be submitted online by September 25, 2020. Workshops and the announcement of awards will occur October 9, 2020.

- **How do we register?**
  An intent to participate form should be submitted by August 1, 2020. Registration must be submitted online at www.bard.org/competition no later than 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 18, 2020. Any change of registration after September 18, 2020 is subject to a $50 fee per change. No changes of entries will be allowed after September 23, 2020.

- **How much does it cost to compete?**
  The base registration fee for each participating school is $200. Each additional competitive event is $75. Because of a grant from the Utah State Office of Education (Professional Outreach Program in the Schools) registration fees are waived for all public and charter schools in Utah.

  The Ye Olde Improv Competition is separate and has its own registration process and fees.

- **What Southern Utah University performances will take place during the competition?**
  SUU’s fall production of *Much Ado About Nothing* will be offered virtually. More information will soon be available at bard.org/competition.

- **When is the deadline for registering?**
  You must register by 11:59 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2020. After submitting your registration, you can make adjustments at any time up until this date.

- **What is the sweepstakes award?**
  The sweepstakes award is an overall acting award and is tabulated based on acting monologues, duo/trio, and ensemble scenes.

  Dance, music, and technical entries are not included in tabulation.
• **What are the time limits for competition pieces?**
  Mono (one person): two to four minutes  
  Duo/Trio (two or three characters): three to five minutes  
  Ensemble (no less than four people): six to ten minutes  
  Dance Duo/Trio (two or three dancers): three to six minutes  
  Dance Ensemble (no less than four people): three to six minutes  
  Music Minstrel: three to seven minutes  
  Music Madrigal: six to ten minutes

• **Do I need props and costumes?**
  Use of props and costumes is optional. Scenes will not be judged based on costumes, make-up, or props.

• **What is the Music Competition?**
  The Music Competition allows students to explore and develop a relationship with the music of the Renaissance. Details are included in this information packet and available online at bard.org/competition.

• **What is Tech Olympics?**
  Tech Olympics is a competition in which student teams demonstrate technical skills. Events include rigging, costumes, hair and make-up, lighting, audio, carpentry, stage management, and props. Each team has one to eight members. A single student may compete in multiple events. Students will not be told exactly what each event requires until the competition begins.

• **What is the Portfolio Competition?**
  The Portfolio Competition is designed to showcase design and technical students' work. Portfolios should be a single PDF file focusing on students’ tech work.

• **Does my dance piece need a description?**
  We require each dance number to have a brief paragraph description of the concept. You will provide this during your registration, and a copy will be given to each adjudicator.

• **How can I get more information?**
  Visit www.bard.org/competition for more information about the competition.

• **How many students can compete?**
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acting Monologues</td>
<td>Three participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Duo/Trio Scenes</td>
<td>Two groups of two to three participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Ensemble Scenes</td>
<td>One scene of four or more participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Duo/Trio Dance</td>
<td>One group of two to three participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Ensemble Dance</td>
<td>One group of four or more participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Minstrel</td>
<td>Two groups of one to ten participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Madrigal</td>
<td>Two groups of six or more participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Olympics</td>
<td>One team of one to eight participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio Competition</td>
<td>Three participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  There is no limit to the total size of the group.

• **How are acting, dance, and music performances scored?**
  Each acting mono and duo/trio scene will be scored by three different adjudicators in a preliminary round. An adjudicator will not judge more than one piece from a single school. The top 6-12 pieces in each division will then be scored and ranked by three new adjudicators. Each participant in a mono or duo/trio scene is given a rating score in the preliminary round. Finalist mono and duo/trio scenes will be given a ranking and rating score in the finals round.
Acting ensembles, dance duo/trios, dance ensembles, and music performances will be scored and ranked by three different adjudicators.

Final placings are tabulated based on rankings. If there is a tie for any of the first three places, rating scores will be used to break the tie.

Any performance going over or under time will be disqualified and unable to receive a first, second, or third award. The piece’s final rating score will also be dropped 60 rating points (out of the total 300) for the final sweepstakes tabulation.

Rating scores are determined using the following scale for each of the different criteria on the judge’s sheet. All of the categories are added up to give a rating score up to 100 points. The three rating scores from each judge are added together to give a final rating score up to 300 points. A well-rehearsed and prepared competition piece should expect to receive a score of 50 from each judge. Anything above a 50 is exceeding the expectation.

**Fair:** The competitor has not displayed any mastery of the particular skill. *One point*

**Emerging:** The competitor has shown a beginning level of understanding and application of the particular skill. *Three points.*

**Standard:** The competitor has displayed a good understanding and application of the particular skill. They have met the basic expectation, but there is room for growth in this area. *Five points.*

**Above Average:** The competitor has exceeded the basic expectation and has displayed an excellent understanding and application of the particular skill. There is little room for growth in this area. *Seven points.*

**Superior:** The competitor has mastered the particular skill. There is little to no room for growth in this area. *Nine points.*
Mission Statement

The Shakespeare Competition cultivates the art of theatre, dance, and music, by providing active observation of peer and professional performance, educational creations based on Shakespeare’s plays and poems, and personal evaluation by working theatre and dance professionals.

Costs/Number of Students

The base registration fee for each participating school is $200. Each additional competitive event is $75. Because of a grant from the Utah State Office of Education (Professional Outreach Program in the Schools) registration fees are waived for all public and charter schools in Utah. There is no maximum to the number of students each school can bring.

Divisions

Any school, public or private is eligible to participate in the competition. No student may compete for more than one school or group.

Competitors at the Shakespeare Competition are divided into six divisions: Buckingham, Oxford, Cambridge, Westminster, Stratford, and Essex.

**Buckingham, Oxford, Cambridge:** The public high school divisions are determined by school enrollment and state activities association alignment. School enrollment of the current year only includes grades ten to twelve. Schools should not count ninth graders in their enrollment total, but are welcomed and encouraged to have ninth graders compete as part of their team. When registration begins, the largest third of schools will be assigned to the Buckingham Division, the next third to Oxford, and the smallest third to Cambridge.

**Westminster:** The Westminster Division will primarily be composed of charter schools. Because of their state activities association alignment, some charter schools may be placed in Buckingham, Oxford, or Cambridge.

**Stratford:** The Stratford Division includes any junior high school or middle school, regardless of school enrollment. Eighth or ninth graders may participate in the Stratford Division if they are enrolled in that school. They may not compete for a high school if they’re not enrolled at that high school.

Schools with enrollment that includes high and junior high grades should register as two separate schools, one in Stratford and the other in the appropriate high school division.
Essex: The Essex Division includes schools or groups that are not members of state middle or high school associations. This includes homeschool groups, alternative schools, and after-school clubs.

Workshops

Workshops will be offered for the students and coaches. These are taught by professional artists and technicians. Students and coaches are encouraged, but not required to attend. Acting workshops will include text, voice, movement, improvisation, and stage combat. Technical workshops include lighting, audio, carpentry, costumes, and portfolio building. Various dance and music workshops will also be taught.

The Production Portfolio Workshop will teach students how to create portfolios. Using examples from the production portfolio competition, this workshop will cover content, presentation, display, labeling, and resumes.

Acting Competition

ACTING MATERIALS AND EVENTS
The Shakespeare Competition is limited to material from William Shakespeare’s plays, sonnets, and poems. In each division a full contingency consists of the following: three monologues, two duo/trio scenes, and one ensemble scene. Sweepstakes score is calculated based on only these events.

Monologues: A monologue is one person portraying the role of one person. A monologue may also consist of an interpretation of a sonnet or one of Shakespeare’s poems. The time limit is two to four minutes, with a fifteen-second allowance. Timing begins after the introduction. Any participant going more than fifteen seconds under time or over time will be disqualified and unable to receive a first, second, or third place award. Their final rating points will also be dropped sixty points.

Duo/Trio Scenes: A duo/trio is a scene between two or three characters with an emphasis on interpretation and relationships. Time limit is three to five minutes, with a fifteen-second allowance. Timing begins after the introduction. Any scene going more than fifteen seconds under time or over time will be disqualified and unable to receive a first, second, or third place award. Their final rating points will also be dropped sixty points.

Ensemble Scene: The ensemble scene will consist of no less than four participants. Scenes may be from any of Shakespeare’s plays with an emphasis on interpretation and ensemble work. Time limit for scenes is six to ten minutes. Timing begins after the introduction. Any scene thirty seconds under time or over time will be disqualified and unable to receive a first, second, or third place award. Their final rating points will also be dropped sixty points. Scenes that violate the participant limit of no less than four participants will be disqualified.

REGULATIONS
Students may not be entered in both monologues and duo/trio scenes, but any student may participate in the ensemble scene, including contestants in either one of the other two acting events.
A participant may not use a cutting in mono or duo/trio scenes from a play or be involved in an ensemble scene from which he or she has already participated in previously at the Shakespeare Competition. No material performed by a participating school can be repeated in any form by that school. He or she may use material from the same play as long as he or she plays a different character from that play.

*Use of props and costumes is optional.* The scoring of the scenes is based on the quality of the scene, and does not include costumes, make-up, and props.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Scenes will be evaluated based on voice (diction and projection), body (physicalization, blocking, and movement), character (objectives/motivation, tactics/actions, presence, and communication), and text (language, understanding, rhythm, and tempo).

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

The first place senior of a sanctioned high school in the monologues and the duo/trio scenes will be awarded scholarships to Southern Utah University’s Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.

A best performance award, the Larry Lott Acting Award, will be given in the ensemble scene, accompanied by a $1,000 scholarship to winners who are graduating seniors from sanctioned high schools. The awards for best performance in the ensemble scene will be chosen by the panel of adjudicators.

Awards for first, second, and third place will be given in monologues, duo/trio scenes, and ensemble scenes in each division. Finally, a first, second, and third place sweepstakes award will be given in each division.

**Dance Competition**

Based on the already established model used for drama, the competition incorporates a dance section limited to choreography inspired by literary text, sonnets, or poems of William Shakespeare. Oral critiques are given by the adjudicators, and dance workshops are offered for teachers and students in technique and composition. It is required that each dance number have a brief paragraph description of the concept, which is provided during registration.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. The choreography must be motivated by and integral to a sonnet, poem, or scene written by William Shakespeare.
2. The dance can be of any genre.
3. Schools may enter a duo/trio dance and/or an ensemble piece.
4. The evaluation will be based on the choreography as it is showcased through a quality performance, not only the skill of performers.
5. Music is to enhance the choreography. Highly popularized music is discouraged, unless part of a strong choreographic choice and addressed in the description.
6. Awards will be given in each division, with the best overall entry being awarded a scholarship.
Music Competition

The purpose of the Music Competition is to encourage students to explore and develop a relationship with the music of the Renaissance. Students are encouraged to utilize creative combinations of instruments. The use of period instruments is not required.

At this time there will be no divisions in this competition. There are two categories of competition: Minstrel and Madrigal.

MINSTREL

- Two entries per school in any combination of small and large groups. A school may bring two small groups, a small and a large group, or two large groups.
- Repertoire: Please see online list and sources to purchase music. NOTE: Repertoire of the period with any instrument combinations is desired. Creativity in combinations is encouraged.
- LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT ONLY; all performers must be STUDENTS ONLY. This includes accompanists
- Performance time is between three and eight minutes; Groups will have fifteen-minute slots including onstage comments from adjudicators.
- Please provide at least one copy of music.
- Minstrels will be divided and judged in two groups – small and large.
  - Small Groups: A solo or small ensemble of one to five individual parts; Groups may be a mixture of voice and instrument, all instruments, or unaccompanied/accompanied solo.
  - Large Groups: A solo or small ensemble of six to ten people; Groups may be a mixture of voice and instrument, all instruments, or unaccompanied/accompanied solo.

MADRIGAL

- Two entries per school in any combination of small and large groups. A school may bring two small groups, a small and a large group, or two large groups.
- Repertoire: Any madrigal up to the year 1650
- LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT ONLY
- Performance time is from six to ten minutes; Groups will have fifteen-minute slots including onstage comments from adjudicators.
- Please provide at least one copy of music.
- Madrigals will be divided and judged in two groups – small and large.
  - Small Groups: A choral group with a of six to sixteen people without instruments.
  - Large Groups: A choral group with a minimum of seventeen people.

Tech Competition

TECH OLYMPICS

One team of one to eight members per school is allowed. A team member completes one or more of the following events: audio, lighting, props, carpentry, costumes, stage management, hair and make-up, and rigging. Awards are given to individual event winners as well as overall team winners, based on design, execution, and accuracy. More information about Tech Olympics will be available on bard.org/competition later.
PORTFOLIO PRESENTATION COMPETITION

Students can enter their technical and/or design portfolios for review by professionals at the competition and receive a written evaluation and possible awards. More specific information regarding the Portfolio Competition will be available on bard.org/competition later.

1. Each school is allowed three entries.

2. The portfolio should show the student’s design/technical skills. It may include a resume, draftings, renderings, models, photos, sketches, and research designs.

3. By entering the Portfolio Presentation Competition students acknowledge that their portfolios may be used during a Portfolio Adjudication and Workshop.

4. The first place winner will receive a scholarship to SUU only if the winner is a high school senior.

EVALUATION

A panel of judges will review the portfolio displays and judge them based on ease of comprehension, presentation, and overall effect. The judges will provide written critiques to each participating student after the competition weekend.

The judges will pick the top portfolio per division, and the best overall portfolio will be awarded a scholarship.

Production Showcase

Select performances from all event areas may be shared on the Utah Shakespeare Festival’s website and social media accounts. These performances will only be shared with the performer’s permission.

Hosts and Sponsors

The Utah Shakespeare Festival and the Southern Utah University College of Visual and Performing Arts host this event. It is sanctioned by the Utah High School Activities Association.