



Proposed Directing Thespys – Category Specific Rules

In a Directing presentation of a realized production, the Thespian must present digital and/or physical documents that showcase the Director's promptbook and other paperwork for a production of a published work written for the theatre. To participate, students need to select material using the [approved publishers and acceptable materials information](#), that publishers have approved for use in the Thespys program. Performances of original work, poetry, fiction, screenplays, television, or any other medium are not permitted. Only one Thespian may be involved in the direction of the production. No collaborations are permitted.

The skills measured by the adjudicators during the presentation are:

- Ability to demonstrate an understanding of the Director's role and specific responsibilities
- Ability to organize Directing ideas, products, and choices that support a realized production.
- Ability to document, present, and clearly explain and justify Directing choices.

In a Directing presentation of a realized production, the Thespian must follow the [aforementioned rules for the International Thespian Excellence Awards as presented in this guide](#), and **also the following rules specific to this category:**

Students are allowed a chance to find titles and themes that appeal to them. The selected play must be published. It may be a one-act or full-length play. Proof of the origin of the source material must be shown, as well as royalty payment or waiver.

- Only (1) one student may be the director.
- Participants are limited to 3 - 16 performers/actors in the student directed scene. STUDENT DIRECTORS MAY **NOT** PERFORM IN THEIR OWN SCENE.
- Performance Elements: Suggested costumes, limited essential props, scenic elements, and music/sound effects are acceptable.
- The event shall not exceed ten (10) minutes. A five (5) minute recorded scene from the selected play for a required uninterrupted memorized performance. One camera, no edits, reasonable distance so that the entire acting area can be seen.

- The remaining five (5) minutes is designated for the directors justification, reflection and questions. An in-person or digital presentation summarizing the work with connections to concept, collaboration, and decision-making choices. Digital media may be used during an in-person presentation as well (participant must provide their own equipment).
 - The Directors video component may be a webinar-style presentation (i.e., a voiceover during a PowerPoint slideshow) or a talking head-style presentation (i.e., talking to the camera).
 - Suggested standard prompts for all technical categories are provided to help guide the content of a video presentation:
 - What are some of your responsibilities as a director?
 - How did the style of the play affect your work?
 - What role(s) did the design elements play in the direction for this production?
 - What did you learn during your directing experience that you can take into other areas of your life?
 - If you led production meetings, describe your process.
 - Any video presentation must display the work so that the adjudicators can see the details. If the details of the documents/photos referenced in your presentation cannot be clearly seen in the video, they should be included in your portfolio of support materials.
- The submitted director's portfolio of materials (bound or digital) that exhibits consistency, clarity, and organization of materials and must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Plot summary of the play.
 - Budget and reconciliation report.
 - Complete ground plan to a scale as it would be staged in a full production.
 - Floorplan for the scene presented.
 - At least 10 consecutive pages from the prompt script/book that includes dense blocking notation, technical cues (lights, sound, etc.), and beats.
 - Why this play
 - Directors choice of title
 - Genre/Style
 - Thematic statement of the play
 - Director's concept
 - Character summary
 - Who are the characters?
 - What are their traits?
 - What are the relationships with each other and their surroundings?
 - Why was this scene chosen with these characters?
 - Casting procedures
 - What was your audition process?
 - Why were these actors chosen?

- Rehearsal schedule.
- Describe your rehearsal process.
- Director's after-the-project self-reflection.
- A focused directing bibliography is required documenting all resources used. The event will be disqualified if no bibliography is presented.

For National Events: All documentation must be submitted prior to the International Thespian Festival along with the student's registration. Adjudicators will pre-screen the Directing Thespys materials before ITF.