WORLD STAGE DESIGN 2025 - EXHIBITION INFORMATION

The curation of World Stage Design 2025 (WSD2025) will hold its mission and our sustainable expression at the core of its decisions and process.

Mission Statement

The heritage of our region we hold with pride. We embrace the stories; we enjoy the creative and we respect the history. *Sharjah World Stage Design 2025* at Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA) is where we explore our next heritage whilst celebrating our past. *Tomorrow's heritage* is today's exploration. We create this heritage with our neighbours, as a global community.

Sustainable Expression

Tomorrow's heritage is dependent on our environment; without it there is no need to create. At World Stage Design 2025 everything we do, we consider our ecological footprint, how can it be reduced, is it minimal, is there an alternative. We ask you to join us to do the same.

Application: All individual designers wishing to submit to WSD2025 must apply online via **AwardForce.** Submissions for both Professional and Emerging designers will open on 13th May 2024 and close on 14th November 2024. The cost is 100 AED per submission. For applications from within Arab-speaking countries, grants are available to subsidize the entry fee.

WSD2025 Exhibition

World Stage Design (WSD) is the first and only designer-based exhibition to showcase and celebrate performance design from individual designers. Held every four years, WSD has now travelled to five cities: Toronto, Canada (2005); Seoul, South Korea (2009); Cardiff, Wales, UK (2013); Taipei, Taiwan (2017); Calgary, Canada (2022). The sixth WSD exhibition will be held in Sharjah, UAE from Saturday 18th until Saturday 25th October 2025.

The WSD2025 exhibition is open to all designers for performance as defined by the categories below and we encourage individual designers to forward their work for consideration by the international selection jury. Designers are invited to attend this global event, which will also programme a schedule of activities, "Scenofest", including workshops, seminars, performances, and guest speakers offering global participation and multicultural exchange.

Exhibition Criteria

Submissions to the WSD2025 exhibitions must be realized performances, installations, site-specific events, etc. produced between September 2020 and September 2024. WSD2025 includes two parallel exhibitions: WSD2025 Exhibition for Professional Designers and the WSD2025 Exhibition for Emerging Designers. The Emerging Designer category is defined for designers who designed their first professional or post-graduate production between September 2020 and September 2024.

Exhibition Categories

The Exhibition will be divided into the following categories.

Criteria: All categories will look for evidence of ecological and sustainable design methods and approaches as a core ethos. *World Stage Design 2025* would like to acknowledge achievement and will award special mention for work in this area.

Performance Design:

This category will look at the designer who crosses several disciplines (more than one design area) in any performance genre. For example, as designers of set and lighting, set and costume, lighting and costume, etc. in any form on a single production across any kind of live design. The submission will be considered across the multi-disciplines it is being entered for, and not a single design discipline.

Space & Object Design:

Space & Object Design as a category in WSD refers directly to design for performance spaces outside of what might be perceived as "standard" scenic/set design. It is likely to include installation, immersive, site-specific, and experimental work but may also be subject to the interpretation of both the designer and ultimately the Jury. Space and Object Design also includes (but not exclusive to) such genres as object-based devised performance, puppet design, mask design, online performance, and community engagement. In this category, scale of work is not an award criterion.

Set Design, Sound Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Video & Projection Design:

This category covers individual areas in design for performance in either a conventional or alternative context. It is up to the designer submitting work to determine in which categories they would like to have their work evaluated by the jury. Each submission is for a single production.

Application for exhibition.
All prospective exhibitors must apply online via our AwardForce website.
You may submit your entry for WSD2025 starting on May 13th, 2024, from 08.00 GST. The portal for submissions to exhibit at WSD2025 will close November 14th, 2024, at 17.00 GST.

You will be asked to complete information about your design submission in your online application, so you may want to prepare your written answers to these sections before beginning your submission.

1. Name, contact information (compulsory), and nationality (optional).

2. Design category, production name, dates, and location.

3. Designer bio (100 words maximum).

4. Design statement (200 words maximum).

5. Digital Files: You may upload a maximum of six digital files in total per entry, and each entry is for only one production and a single or collaboration of designers. These files maybe digital images, videos, or sound files, or a combination of these three. If you would like to submit several productions, then you will apply with a different entry for each production. If you design for multiple categories on one production, you only need to submit one entry, and you may indicate which category is priority for judging.

   Each entry will be charged the fee of 100 AED per submission, that is per production submitted. Each designer may submit up to 10 productions. Please check the currency exchange rate with your banking institution.

   Image files: Submit in Jpeg format with a minimum of 300 dpi at A4 size.
   (2480 X 3508 pixels)

   Sound files: Submit 44.1K or 48K sample rate, 16 or 24 bit, in .wav or .aiff format only. Maximum of seven minutes in length.

   Video files: Submit the URL link on YouTube. Maximum of three minutes in length.

All files should be clearly labeled as follows:
Designer's last name, show title and file number.

For example, Ahmed Nasr submitting for a production of *The House* would submit three files as the following:
nasr_thehouse_1.wav
nasr_thehouse_2.jpg
nasr_thehouse_3.jpg

6. **Selection Process**

The two Selection Juries (Professional and Emerging) are approved by the WSD2025 Planning Committee and have been selected to represent a diverse representation of discipline, gender, and nationality. They will remain anonymous until the opening of the exhibition in Sharjah. They will make the final selection from the initial digital submissions to curate the two exhibitions to be assembled in Sharjah. This will be a total of 100 exhibitors, but the Jury retain the right to increase or decrease this number by 10%. Designers who are selected to exhibit are required to take responsibility for the delivery of their work to and from Sharjah, and they are invited and encouraged to attend WSD2025 while bringing their work to be on display. The cost of travelling to Sharjah and transporting exhibits is the responsibility of the individual exhibitor. An exhibitor package will be shared in May 2025 with all information required.

On close of applications the Jury for both Professional and Emerging categories will enter the first round of judging independently to identify the definite short list to progress to Exhibition. These votes will be tallied via our independent award platform *AwardForce*.
Once this stage has completed the second round will commence, when a discussion to jointly confer on undecided entries. Please see below for a timeline of activities.

The Award Jury will be chosen from amongst the international presenters and keynote speakers for WSD2025. Awards may be awarded in each of the categories. The Award Jury will view the work anonymously between the 18th and 23rd of October 2025, when the winners will be announced.

Should any applicant have difficulties with online application please contact infowsd2025@spaa.ae for assistance.

Exhibition Timeline

13ᵗʰ May 2024	Online application of WSD2025 Professional and Emerging Designer Exhibition submission opens
14ᵗʰ November 2024	Online application of WSD2025 Professional & Emerging Designer Exhibition submission closes
7ᵗʰ April 2025	Announcement of selected entries
5ᵗʰ May 2025	Exhibitors receive Exhibitor Package and Final Contract
26ᵗʰ May 2025	Deadline for final layout WSD2025 exhibition.
16 – 17 October 2025	Exhibitors install exhibition
18ᵗʰ October 2025	Opening Ceremony
18ᵗʰ – 25ᵗʰ October 2025	WSD2025 (Exhibition and Scenofest)
23ʳᵈ October 2025	Awards Ceremony
25ᵗʰ October 2025	Closing of Exhibition

Terms and Conditions

1. Sharjah Performing Arts Academy (SPAA) and OISTAT (International Organisation of Scenographers, Theatre Technicians and Theatre Architects) is promoting an international design exhibition in a single stage, open to professional and emerging designers.
2. The final decision for exhibition shortlist lies with the Jury.
3. Members of the Professional Jury are not permitted to enter, members of the Emerging Jury are able to enter the Professional category only.
4. The fee for the competition is AED 100 per entry and must be paid at the time of submission by Credit Card. Entrants from the 22 Arab speaking countries are eligible for a fee subsidy.
5. These countries are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
6. The nationality of the designer is the determining factor of the locale of the design, not the Production location or the nationality of the Writer, Director etc.
7. The Award of 1ˢᵗ, 2ⁿᵈ and 3ʳᵈ for each category could be amalgamated. For example, the Awards Jury may choose to award a joint. This would negate a second place.

Entry Requirements

8. You can enter the Exhibition Competition via the World Stage Design Awards platform from Award Force. The World Stage Design 2025 Award Force page can be found [here](#) or accessed from the on the World Stage Design, website [here.](#)

9. You may enter up to a maximum of 10 entries per person.

10. Payment must be made at the time of submission.

11. You may upload a maximum of six digital files in total per entry. You may upload less, but more than 6 and the entry will not be presented to the jury.

Jury

12. The two Selection Juries (Professional and Emerging) are approved by the WSD2025 Planning Committee and have been selected to represent a diverse representation of discipline, gender, and nationality.

13. They will remain anonymous until the Exhibition opens.

14. The Award Jury will be chosen from amongst the international presenters and keynote speakers for WSD2025.

Competition Schedule

15. The competition documents and conditions will be available from the 13$^{th\,of}$ May 2024 on the [World Stage Design 2025 website.](#)

16. Written questions can be sent by email to infowsd2025@spaa.ae

17. Questions must be received no later than October 31st, 2025.

18. Competition entries are to be uploaded electronically to the World Stage Design 2025 Awards website. Entries can be submitted between 13th May 2024 – 14th November 2024.

19. Entries submitted after this date will not be considered by the jury.

Publication

20. WSD 2025 will respect and acknowledge the copyright of all participants.

21. A catalogue illustrating selected entries will be published and will be available to download from the WSD 2025 website.

22. WSD 2025 and OISTAT will offer the results of the competition to the international press (publications covering theatre design and architecture).