**REGIONAL THEATRE FESTIVALS**

**Thespys Qualifier and Short Play Festival**

**WHERE & WHEN:**

**Northern Nevada Regional Theatre Conference**

**Jan 8 - Damonte Ranch HS**

**Virtual Regional Conference Option**

**ITF qualifying round for those unable to attend in person**

**Jan 15**

**Southern Nevada Regional Theatre Conference**

**Jan 22 - Foothill HS**

**​**

**Really Rural Regional Conference**

**Jan 29 - White Pine HS -- Ely, Nevada**

**FEES:**

$10 REGISTRATION FEE (BOTH IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL)

$15 INDIVIDUAL EVENT (THESPY) PER PERSON PER EVENT

$50 ONE ACT PLAY SUBMISSION (each person in the play must be registered at the $10 fee but are not charged the $15 IE fee for the one-act.)

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

* There are NO spectators allowed at the in-person Regional. Only registered participants and registered troupe directors are allowed in the IE rooms. Everyone on campus at the event must be registered.
* There is NO audio or video recording of any kind allowed during the in-person regional IEs.

**REGISTRATION**

Registration for both the Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada in person and All Region virtual events will be done through our registration website. Registration for the Really Rural Regional will be done through White Pine High School’s troupe director. Southern, Northern and Virtual Registration will be open in November. Registration information and instructions will be coming soon.

**NEVADA THESPYS RULES AND GUIDELINES:**

(For more specific guidelines and registration for the International Thespian Festival go to: <https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/program-guide>)

The International Thespian Excellence Awards (Thespys®) are an educational program designed to provide constructive feedback for Thespians to improve their prepared theatrical materials, expand their performance and technical expertise, and develop their professional and presentation skills. The program includes 16 oﬃcial categories spanning performance, technical theatre, ﬁlmmaking, and writing. Each entry is adjudicated by theatre educators and professionals based on rubrics that reﬂect national standards in theatre education.

Every year, thousands of students from Thespian troupes around the world participate in the Thespys. They progress from school auditoriums to district and chapter qualiﬁers to the international stage.

Thespians who score “superior” ratings at The Nevada Thespian Regional Theatre Festival (ITF Thespy qualifying round) are invited to the International Thespian Festival, where the top scorers in each category win Thespy Awards and have a chance to earn scholarships for their artistic and educational development. The program is included in the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) List of Approved Contests, Programs, and Activities for Students.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

**For Nevada Regional Thespys and State Showcase auditions:**

* **Nevada students are encouraged to participate in our state and regional events even if they are not inducted Thespians or have an active chartered troupe.**
* All Thespys receiving a superior rating at any of the three Nevada Regional events will be invited to attend the International Thespian Festival Thespys.
* The top 10% of superior Thespys in each category at each regional will be invited to audition IN PERSON at state for the State Thespy’s Showcase.
* All State Thespy’s showcase participants must be IN PERSON on Saturday at the State Festival

**For the International Thespian Festival:**

* Any student wishing to participate in ITF must be an inducted Thespian and attend a school with a chartered troupe.
* For ITF, the Thespian must have active status in the academic year of submission. The ITS academic year runs from August 1 to July 31. For example, a Thespian who graduates early in January is still eligible for the international round in June; a student on track to earn induction in the spring may enter a qualiﬁer in the winter.
* The Thespian must enter their assigned chapter or state/regional Thespy qualiﬁer and earn an overall superior score in an approved Thespy category to advance to the ﬁnal International Thespys round.
* Thespians may submit entries to the International Thespy Award round in any approved Thespy category **for which they earned an overall superior score at their chapter, state/regional or alternate qualiﬁer** (eligibility guidelines must be met).
* The Thespian, upon qualifying for the **international** level, must:
  + Register to attend the International Thespian Festival no later than May 15, 2022.
  + Submit to EdTA their entry(ies) for digital adjudication no later than June 1, 2022. Required Materials:
    - Thespy Submission Form with a “completed” status in the Open Water platform
    - Registration Fee
    - Consent and release agreement Parental consent form
  + EdTA may disqualify prior to or during competition any Thespian who is not in compliance with any of the above eligibility requirements and disqualify incomplete entries. Refunds will not be issued for any Thespian whose entry is disqualiﬁed.
* Thespians who earn an overall superior score in an approved Thespy category (see categories above) advance to the international round of the Thespy Awards, held during the International Thespian Festival in June. Thespians may submit entries for any approved Thespy category for which they earned an overall superior score at either their chapter, state/regional or alternate qualiﬁer (eligibility guidelines must be met).
* The Thespians or groups achieving the highest superior scores in each category in the international round will be honored as Thespy Award Winners. If no Thespians earn a superior score in a category, then there will be no Thespy Award Winner in that category. There is no cap on the number of winners in each category, should multiple Thespians earn identical scores.
* The Thespy Awards Showcase at ITF serves as the closing ceremony to the International Thespian Festival. Top-scoring entrants will be revealed and select top scorers will be invited to perform on the main stage (runners up may also be chosen to perform, time permitting). Performers will be asked to perform their winning selection and technical participants will be asked to create a one-minute “sizzle” video featuring highlights of their longer eight-minute video presentation. Inclusion in the showcase is at the discretion of the showcase producers; not all categories or entrants may be represented. Top scorers and other participants may also be featured on Dramatics.org, in press releases, and on the Thespys website, as well as in other EdTA programs and promotions as opportunities arise.
* Top scoring students in performance and technical categories will be invited to in-person interviews, conducted by the Thespys scholarship committee. The interviews will be focused on the educational and career aspirations of each applicant. The number of scholarships and amount awarded may vary by year. Scholarships will be announced at the Thespy Awards showcase on the ﬁnal evening of ITF.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEVADA REGIONAL:**

* All Nevada Regional qualifying rounds will be adjudicated IN PERSON or virtually. It is recommended that you attend your qualifying round in person whenever possible.
* Social Distancing/Masking Policy
  + At this time all participants are required to wear masks whether performing solo, duo or group.
  + Mask Mandates are also in eﬀect for virtual video submissions.
  + It is important to note that certain masked and distanced performances may impact sound/speech and hide facial expressions, so discovering techniques to emphasize enunciation and characterization will be especially important. Participants may consider using clear face masks to allow facial expressions to be seen by adjudicators.
* Video submissions will be accepted for the “Virtual” regional festival. Digital video submission requirements:
  + Find an eﬀective ﬁlming location.
  + Area should be quiet so adjudicators can hear both you and your track (if applicable).
  + Film in front of a non-distracting background. If possible, choose a solid-color wall or consider hanging a sheet behind you. The color should contrast with your BLACK clothing.
  + Dress in professional ALL-BLACK attire.
  + No costumes or props are allowed.
  + Make sure you are lit well enough to be clearly visible.
  + Before ﬁlming, conduct a full-volume test to make sure you and your track can be heard in the recording.
  + Ensure your blocking is eﬀective and visible when ﬁlmed. Consider whether to increase or decrease your movement or to adjust your camera angle.
  + Video submissions should be recorded as full-body camera shots so that adjudicators may score movement.
  + Shoot your video horizontally, not vertically.
  + Try multiple takes and submit your strongest.
  + No editing is permitted on performance videos (do not stop and start in between slating or transitions, do not add special eﬀects or text). The video should resemble an in-person performance as closely as possible.
  + Performances should be shot in one continuous take so that adjudicators can eﬀectively score transitions.
  + Microphones are NOT to be worn for Nevada Thespys video submissions
  + Listen to and watch your video carefully afterward to make sure you are within the frame and that the accompaniment is not louder than your voice.

**GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION**

**DRESS CODE:**

* **For the Nevada Qualifying events, for all categories (including performance and tech), Thespians will present themselves as a blank slate in “professional business attire”. All IE (Thespys) participants are required to wear ALL BLACK clothing for the regional (in person and virtual) and state qualifying events and showcase auditions.**

**SLATING:**

* For all categories (except playwriting and ﬁlmmaking), Thespians begin with an introduction known as a slate. The slate must include only:
  + The Thespian’s name(s)
  + Troupe number
  + Title of selection(s)
  + Name of the playwright(s) and/or composer(s)

**TIME LIMITS:**

* After the introduction (slating), time begins with the ﬁrst word, musical note, or acting action (if it precedes the ﬁrst word or note).
* If a Thespian exceeds the time limits below, the adjudicator will note the time and a ﬁnal eligibility ruling will be determined. Exceeding the time limit may result in disqualiﬁcation.
  + Solo Acting – 3 minutes
  + Duet and Group Scenes – 5 minutes
  + Musical Theatre – 5 minutes
  + Short Film – 5 minutes plus 1 for credits
  + Tech (including makeup design) – 8 minutes

**ACCEPTABLE MATERIAL:**

* Thespians must choose a piece ﬁtting the acceptable material criteria. Unacceptable selections noted below will be disqualiﬁed.
* Non-Musical Performance Categories:
  + Acceptable
    - Selections from full-length or one-act plays or musicals, written for the theatre and published by a pre-approved publisher.
  + Not acceptable
    - Author-only permission.
    - Any play (or monologue from a musical) not published by one of the pre-approved publishers listed on the Thespys website.
    - Works available through self-publishing platforms.
    - Monologues published independently that are not from a theatrical script (e.g., monologue book, monologue website).
* Musical Performance Categories:
  + Acceptable
    - Songs from a musical that have been used in a musical (regardless of its previous publication as a classical or popular song – e.g., “Forever Plaid,” “Mamma Mia,” etc.).
    - Must be publicly available for sale in a vocal selection or musical score.
    - There must be a copyright mark on the music.
  + Not Acceptable
    - A cappella songs unless originally written to be performed a cappella in the script.
    - Songs from ﬁlms.
    - Songs from television.
    - Popular songs not used in a published work for the theatre.
    - Classical songs not used in a published work for the theatre.
    - Tracks with any background vocals.

**SECURING RIGHTS:**

* It is the Thespian’s responsibility to obtain permission for the use of copyrighted material where required. In certain cases, permission is not required.
  + The performance of a song from a published musical score in an adjudicated category is considered a fair use, and no permission is required.
  + The performance of a monologue or scene from a non-musical play at chapter conference/festival or in an adjudicated category may be subject to an agreement previously negotiated between EdTA and several major publishers. Thespy participants must use a monologue or scene from one of the pre-approved publishers listed on the Thespy website.
  + If there is an exception noted in the approved publishers listing (e.g., Neil Simon or August Wilson plays), you will need to secure permission (and likely pay a fee) in order to use it. You must provide proof to Nevada Thespians that you have secured these rights by the registration deadline date.
  + It is very important to correctly identify the publisher of any material used in a Thespy entry in order to ensure you have permission to perform it. Securing permission from the publisher alone does not grant you permission to use it for a Thespy entry. Please refer to the approved list of acceptable material for detailed information about acquiring rights with approved publishers; not all material from every publisher is approved.

**PROPS:**

* Use of set pieces, props (including handheld), or other personal items is not permitted and will result in disqualiﬁcation. Exceptions:
  + For solo acting, one chair may be safely used.
  + For duet acting, two chairs may be safely used.
  + For group acting and musical theatre, one table and up to six chairs may be safely used.
  + “Safely” – Chairs may be used in a safe manner but should not be used as props (e.g., pushed over, lifted, etc.). Sitting on, laying across, and/or standing upon the chair(s) is usually acceptable, but safety should be the priority (i.e., if a chair has wheels, it would not be considered safe to stand upon).
  + Failure to follow any of the guidelines in this document will result in a disqualiﬁcation.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:**

* Race, ethnic origin, gender, and sexual orientation should not inﬂuence a Thespian’s evaluation. Thespians are encouraged to choose pieces that speak to them, but copyright rules must be followed. For example: Thespians may play a role of any gender regardless of the gender with which they identify, but it is important to note that all copyright rules are to be enforced and the Thespian cannot change pronouns without the express written consent from the publisher.
* Deaf/hard of hearing Thespians are permitted a conductor (adult or Thespian) for musical performances to guide their tempo.

**DISQUALIFICATION:**

* The International Thespian Excellence Awards program is meant to challenge, inspire, and educate Thespians. As you’ll note throughout this document, there are very clear rules to ensure equity among all participants. Violations of these rules can lead to disqualiﬁcation at the chapter or international level.
* Failure to follow any of the guidelines in this document and the program rubrics will result in a disqualiﬁcation.
* Adjudicators will note the reason for the disqualiﬁcation on the evaluation form. Disqualiﬁcations at the state level will be ruled on by the state directors and the tab committee.

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ITF:**

* **All initial adjudications at the international level will happen virtually using an online adjudication platform.** Adjudications at the chapter level may be virtual or in person. While the rules and guidelines for digital submissions are largely the same as in person for each category, Thespians are encouraged to recognize and prepare for the inherent diﬀerences in presenting their categories digitally. Thespians should optimize their submissions for the online format to receive the best feedback and the best scores.
* If advancing to the international round, Thespians must present the same work they qualiﬁed with at the chapter, state/regional, or alternate qualiﬁer.
* Substitution Policy
  + Only inducted Thespians who earned overall superior scores at their chapter, state/regional, or the alternate qualiﬁers are eligible to participate in the international round. Substitutions are not permitted in any solo, duet, or technical category.
  + For group musical and acting categories, all Thespians who participated as part of a group in the chapter, state/regional, or alternate qualiﬁers are not required in order to perform in the international round. A group may enter the international round with fewer performers (if appropriate for the material) or substituting a few diﬀerent students if all the original students cannot participate. This is not intended to allow completely diﬀerent groups to perform at diﬀerent levels; please contact us if you have more than two substitutions in a group of six or more.
* Social Distancing/Masking Policy
  + Participants submitting a collaborative entry (group/duet entries) are expected to follow current masking and social distancing rules and recommendations while rehearsing and producing their ﬁnal submission video. If participants are unable to perform safely together, they should consider submitting individual category entries instead.
  + For example, if a mask mandate is in eﬀect, participants should wear masks in their video submission. If requirements state that individuals not housed together are required to maintain a distance of six feet, participants should record their video at the recommended distance.
  + It is important to note that certain masked and distanced performances may impact sound/speech and hide facial expressions, so discovering techniques to emphasize enunciation and characterization will be especially important. Participants may consider using clear face masks to allow facial expressions to be seen by adjudicators.
* Digital video submission requirements
  + Find an eﬀective ﬁlming location.
  + Area should be quiet so adjudicators can hear both you and your track (if applicable).
  + Film in front of a non-distracting background. If possible, choose a solid-color wall or consider hanging a sheet behind you. The color should contrast with your clothing.
  + Dress neatly, in proper attire as written in the guidelines. No costumes or props are allowed.
  + Make sure you are lit well enough to be clearly visible.
  + Before ﬁlming, conduct a full-volume test to make sure you and your track can be heard in the recording.
  + Ensure your blocking is eﬀective and visible when ﬁlmed. Consider whether to increase or decrease your movement or to adjust your camera angle.
  + Video submissions should be recorded as full-body camera shots so that adjudicators may score movement.
  + Shoot your video horizontally, not vertically.
  + Try multiple takes and submit your strongest.
  + No editing is permitted on performance videos (do not stop and start in between slating or transitions, do not add special eﬀects or text). The video should resemble an in-person performance as closely as possible.
  + Performances should be shot in one continuous take so that adjudicators can eﬀectively score transitions.
  + Microphones are acceptable in order to improve audio quality, provided that they are worn and not handheld. Be sure any mic packs and wires are securely attached and not distracting from the performance.
  + Listen to and watch your video carefully afterward to make sure you are within the frame and that the accompaniment is not louder than your voice.
* By submitting a performance or technical Thespy video, you are granting permission for EdTA to use your video during the International Thespian Festival and for possible future promotion of the Thespys, International Thespian Festival, EdTA, and the Educational Theatre Foundation.
* No performance or technical category may be ﬁlmed for rebroadcast or other use without prior written approval from EdTA.

DRESS CODE IF QUALIFIED FOR ITF:

All black is not required for submissions at ITF, however, it is asked that participants dress neatly in simple, modest outﬁts in black or dark colors - “business casual” attire. To understand styles that constitute this “business casual” tone, see these examples or search the web for “business casual for students.”

* + Acceptable footwear is neutral and includes character shoes (dance shoes, if appropriate for the scene), dress shoes (such as Oxfords), or sneakers in unobtrusive tones and patterns, free of logos if at all possible. Refer to the images in the business casual link in the above bullet point for more examples of acceptable footwear.
  + Theatrical makeup, costumes, and props are not permitted.
  + Clothing should be appropriate to the situation yet allow easy movement for the actors to accommodate the action of the performance.
  + Avoid distracting items such as large/dangling jewelry, light-up footwear, or fashionably distressed attire.
  + To be as inclusive as possible, no student will be disqualiﬁed for clothing.

**NEW INDIVIDUAL EVENT/THEPSYS CATEGORY RULES.**

**Rules for all Thespys events can be found at:** [**https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/categories**](https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/categories)

**MAKEUP DESIGN *\*\* NEW CATEGORY:***

In a Makeup Design presentation, the Thespian must prepare and present five makeup design renderings for a published work written for the theatre. Designs for performances of original work, poetry, fiction, screenplays, television, or any other medium are not permitted. For the purposes of Thespy adjudications, teeth and hair are considered part of the makeup design and should be included in the materials outlined below. Only one Thespian may be involved in the design. No collaborations are permitted. Designs for either theoretical or realized productions are acceptable.

### The skills measured by the adjudicators during the presentation are:

* Ability to demonstrate an understanding of the makeup design process
* Ability to demonstrate an understanding of the artistic and practical constraints that impact design and the relationship to the unifying concept
* Ability to research and understand the connection between style, period, locale, genre, and other historical and cultural influences and design choices
* Ability to document, present, and clearly explain and justify design choices

In a Makeup Design presentation, the Thespian must follow the [aforementioned rules for the International Thespian Excellence Awards as presented in this guide](https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/program-guide), and **also the following rules specific to this category:**

### The Thespian must prepare:

1. Five makeup renderings (either five different characters or a single character through five looks).
   * No more than five makeup renderings will be permitted.
   * Renderings should be at least 8 inches tall and must be in full color; large and detailed enough for the adjudicators to easily understand the design choices (whether in person or digitally).
   * Renderings may be presented on a display board, in a portfolio (bound or digital). The board or portfolio page should be clearly and neatly labeled with a title block that contains the following information:
     + Play or musical title and author(s)/composer(s)
     + Performance dates and facility in which it took place (if applicable)
     + Character’s name, act, and scene
     + Entrant’s name and troupe number (optional)
2. A portfolio of support materials (bound or digital) that must include the following:
   * One-page design statement that includes:
     + Unifying production design concept.
     + Theme of the show/recurring motifs.
   * Research, including:
     + Summary of given circumstances from the script.
     + Functionality requirements.
     + Genre, locale, and setting of the play (or other explanation of the world of the play).
     + Artistic and practical needs that impact the construction.
     + Sources of inspiration for design and color palette (if used).
   * Budgetary requirements or other constraints and considerations.
   * Sources of inspiration for design and color palette (if used).
   * Techniques used within the design.
   * Preliminary sketches.
   * Makeup plot showing who wears what makeup when.
3. A five- to eight-minute in-person or digital presentation summarizing the work with connections to concept, collaboration, and design decision-making. Digital media may be used during an in-person presentation as well (The participant must provide their own equipment).
   * The 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 are provided [insert link] to help guide the content of a video presentation. Also consider these category-specific questions.
     + What research did you do to arrive at the final makeup look?
     + How do you apply this makeup or style the hair this way?
     + Were you responsible for applying the makeup or teaching the actors how to apply it on themselves? If the latter, what challenges did you encounter while teaching the actors how to apply the look?
   * 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.
4. Optional written essay response to share additional information about the makeup design with the adjudicators.

**PLAYWRITING (FORMERLY PLAYWORKS) *\*\* NEW CATEGORY***

Thespy Playwriting (formerly Playworks) is sponsored by Concord Theatricals and nurtures original student-written plays from the page to the stage. In a Playwriting adjudication, the Thespian must write an original short play. The plays must be the original work of a single Thespian writer. Collaborative works or adaptations are not permitted, nor are plays that include music, lyrics, or dialogue written by anyone other than the submitting writer. Only one play may be submitted per student. Professional directors and dramaturgs will help the chosen finalists workshop and present their plays with student actors.

### The skills measured by the adjudicators are:

* An understanding of how the elements of the play create an intentional structure
* Ability to create well developed characters
* Ability to create authentic dialogue that supports and amplifies the action

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### The Thespian must prepare:

1. A typed (12-point font) short play on any subject with a running time of 30 minutes or less (approximately 30 typed pages).
2. A cover page that should include the title of the play, the student’s name and email address, school name, troupe number, and the troupe director’s name and email address.
3. A character synopsis page listing the name and a brief description of each character.

For Playwriting adjudication, the Thespian does not need to make a presentation – the work should stand alone. Adjudicators will supply feedback on the online adjudication form.

**PLAYWRITING DEADLINE:**

Like other Thespy categories, writers must qualify at a chapter event or at the EdTA qualifying event in order to be eligible. Qualifying students in this category will be adjudicated for ITF earlier than other Thespy categories, in order to facilitate virtual coaching sessions with a professional dramaturg and director prior to Festival. Up to four of the top scoring students will be selected to workshop their pieces at ITF, culminating in a live staged reading at the festival. Qualifying students must be reported to EdTA by March 1, finalists will be notified by April 1st.

**PLAYWRITING RIGHTS:**

All work is protected by copyright from the moment it is created. Writers own their plays and have exclusive control of the rights to produce, publish, and adapt them. By submitting work to Thespy Playwriting, you agree to allow the International Thespian Society (at its discretion) to mount a staged reading of your play. The society may also (at its discretion) publish your script (or portions of it) and submit it to Concord Theatricals for their publication consideration. All other rights remain the exclusive property of the writer.

**RULES FOR ALL EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT:** [**https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/categories**](https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/categories)