

“BIG Things Ahead!”

Washington State Jr. Thespians Festival 2011

Saturday, October 29, 2011; River Ridge High School, Lacey WA

About Individual Events (I.E.)

Closely following the structure of the WA State Thespians High School Individual Events, the Junior Thespians I.E. are designed to showcase individual and small group acting and musical theatre talent in your school as well as give your students constructive feedback from adjudicators who are professional theatre artists.

All students participating in each event will watch each other's performances in the same room and be seen by the same adjudicators. The language in the adjudication rubrics aligns with what students can expect at the High School I.E. as well as at the National Jr. and Sr. Thespians Festivals.

The 2011 WA State Jr. Thespians Festival will have six I.E. events in two categories:

SOLO EVENTS:	DUO/GROUP EVENTS:
• Monologues	• Duo Acting • Group Acting
• Solo Musical	• Duet Musical • Group Musical

Individual Events FAQ's

Who can participate in I.E.?

Any student registered for the Festival may participate in I.E. Only students from the same school may combine to enter Duo/Group Acting or Duet/Group Musical events. The option to participate in I.E. is included with festival registration and no additional fee is required. Some festival attendees may wish to only participate in the workshops and observe IE performances.

May a student participate in more than one event?

Each student may register for one or two events. If registering for two events, they may be the two different solo events OR one solo event and one duo/group event. No student may participate in more than one duo/group event.

Is I.E. competitive?

Performers with a combined score in the top 10%tile will receive special recognition in addition to recognition for participation. There is only one round of performances, however, and I.E. is more of an opportunity to see and be seen by other middle school performers and to get written, constructive feedback from professional adjudicators. It's also a great way to prepare for high school I.E.—where top scoring students *do* advance to additional levels of competition.

How long should the material cutting be in each event?

All performance events are limited to five minutes total, except MONOLOGUE which is limited to 3 minutes total for the two contrasting pieces, with a 15 second grace period, after the introduction.

How does the music work for the Musical events?

No accompanist will be provided. Students must bring a non-vocal, instrumental recording of their accompaniment cutting *and a means to play it* such as a boombox or iPod speakers. Do not sing over a soundtrack!

Individual Events FAQ's Continued

What should students expect at the Event?

Each Event will be assigned a session of time and a performance space at the Festival, and the same two adjudicators will see all of the participants in each category. All event participants will be in the room to see and support each other's performances. Students will be called up to perform in a pre-set order, but students participating in more than one Event category should request to perform earlier in the order to get to their next Event location in a timely fashion.

How should students introduce their piece?

All scenes should have an introduction which may only include students' name, title of selection, characters played, and the name of the playwright. Time begins once a performer concludes the introduction. Play summaries, playwright biographies, and life histories are not necessary!

Can I coach my students who will be participating in I.E.?

A student may be coached for any of the categories by their own drama teacher, a guest director, a private acting or singing coach, or a choreographer. It is up to the individual teacher/sponsor to determine how involved they will be with each entry—good luck deciding!

Can my students perform pieces from our recent, current, or upcoming school play or musical?

Yes.

Should students wear costumes?

No costumes, coordinated clothing, or theatrical makeup are allowed. Participants are encouraged to dress how they would for a general audition or job interview.

What about props and furniture?

If absolutely necessary, only integral hand props may be used. All performance spaces will be equipped with three chairs and a table.

What type of material should students perform?

Material may only be drawn from published scripts written for theatre. Works from other forms such as movies, poetry, fiction, and song lyrics are not permitted.

Does my student have to achieve a certain score at State I.E. in order to qualify for the 2012 National Jr. Thespian Festival in Denver, CO?

Any Troupe member may participate in I.E. at the National Jr. Thespian level—regardless of participation at the State level. I.E. participation at the State Jr. Festival, however, will be an invaluable preparation experience for students ready to take a stab at nationals! For more information about nationals, visit <http://schooltheatre.org/events/junior-festival>.

Rules Specific to Each Event

Monologue Rules

1. Students must present two contrasting selections that may be from different time periods, styles, genres or moods.
2. Only one character from each selection may be used.
3. The actor plays only one role in each selection, but may act and react as if others were present.
4. The two contrasting selections combined cannot exceed three minutes.
5. The introduction must be for both selections.

Duo Acting Rules

1. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
2. Each actor in the scene may only portray one character.
3. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.

Group Acting Rules

1. Each participant must be actively involved in the scene.
2. Each actor in the scene may only portray one character.
3. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.

Examples of Group Acting scenes: “thief revelation scene” in *The Diary of Ann Frank* and “the rude mechanicals” scene in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Solo Musical Theatre Rules

1. Performers may use nonvocal, instrumental only, recorded musical accompaniment.
2. Performer should bring both the recording and the means to play it with them. (Live accompaniment is not allowed).
3. Performers play only one role from the selection.
4. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.

Duet Musical Theatre Rules

1. Performers may use nonvocal, instrumental only, recorded musical accompaniment.
2. Performer should bring both the recording and the means to play it with them. (Live accompaniment is not allowed).
3. Performers play only one role from the selection.
4. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.

Group Musical Theatre Rules

1. A group consists of not less than three nor more than fifteen students.
2. Performer should bring both the recording and the means to play it with them. (Live accompaniment is not allowed).
3. Performers may use nonvocal, instrumental only, recorded musical accompaniment.
4. Performers play only one role from the selection.
5. Selection cannot exceed five minutes.

Examples of Group Musical scenes: “Coffee Hour” from *How to Succeed* or “Forget About the Boy” from *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.