

## RULES FOR IRREGULARLY RECURRING EVENTS

### IMPROVISATION GUIDELINES

**IMPROVISATION: THE CREATION OF A SCENE, INCLUDING TIME, PLACE, CHARACTERS, CONFLICT, ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT.**

1. FOUR participants must be entered as a team.
2. In rounds 1, 2 and Semi-finals, all participants will remain in the performance room until the round is over. In Finals, participants will be placed in a waiting room (well out of hearing distance) and will be called into the performance room one group at a time to perform. After performing their scene, the groups must remain in the room. The order of performance in finals will be determined by drawing numbers.
3. Situations for the improv. will be placed in sealed envelopes. One participant from each group will select an envelope.  
ROUND 1: The envelope will include a specified **SETTING & TIME.**  
ROUND 2: The envelope will include a specified **SETTING & TIME.**  
SEMIS: The envelope will give **SETTING, TIME, CHAR, CONFLICT.**  
FINALS: There is an additional envelope given. Three participants are given an envelope with **SETTING, TIME, CHAR & CONFLICT.** ONE participant (chosen by the group) will be given an additional sealed envelope which contains a “deus ex machina” or *surprise element*. The second envelope may not be opened by the fourth group member until the other three members have begun the scene. The fourth group member may not enter the improvisation until the final two minutes.
4. The maximum time limit for this event is 5 minutes. The group may take up to the first 2 minutes to prepare. In the final round, the improv must be at least 3 minutes long. A visual warning will be given to all performers at the end of the first 3 minutes, at the end of the first 4 minutes, and the last 10 seconds if the improvisation is not over. At 5 minutes, “TIME” will be called and the group must stop.
5. An introduction consisting of only a title of 10 words or less and the school code is required at the beginning of each group’s performance.
6. All other General Festival Rules apply (except the rule regarding the introduction and the rule regarding memorization).

## **FALL FESTIVAL EVENTS**

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR TWO PERSON – OPEN**

1. The scene must be a continuous excerpt. Minor internal cuts are acceptable.
2. Each actor may only portray one character unless specified by the script.
3. The scene may be a maximum of 5 minutes.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SCREENPLAY**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be selected from AFI's "Top 100 Movies of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century"
4. If there is a musical category then musical movies may be performed but the scene must not include any music.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT WRITTEN THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be written by a current student at the DTASC entered school.
4. The social issue should be clearly stated.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR ANYTHING GOES MUSICAL**

1. The scene must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. The scene must have music.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LAST-MINUTE DTASC**

1. Two weeks before the festival, DTASC will announce a public domain play to be used for this event.
2. Each actor may only portray one character unless specified by the script.
3. The scene may be a maximum of 5 minutes.
4. The scene must have 4 performers.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR STUDENT WRITTEN BIOGRAPHIC/HISTORICAL EVENT (POST 1900)**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be written by a current student at the DTASC entered school.
4. The historical subject should be clear.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN COMEDY:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a published play or musical of comedic intent.

## FALL FESTIVAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR

#### **PLAYS BASED ON MYTHS, PARABLES OR FOLK TALES:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a published play or musical.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR **ABSURDIST:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a published play in the Absurdist genre.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR

#### **STUDENT ADAPTATION OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE:**

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be based on published work(s) that could be considered children’s literature.
4. Must have been adapted by a student or students; may retain the author’s words.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR **LOVERS: FOR BETTER OR WORSE**

1. The scene may be a maximum of 5 minutes.
2. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR **OPEN PARODY**

1. The scene must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 8 minutes.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR **GREEK COMEDY OR TRAGEDY**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. **The scene must be from an ancient Greek comedy or tragedy, translated into English. Cutting is permitted.**

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR **2–4 PERSON SERIOUS**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be a STRAIGHT scene of serious intent from a single professionally produced or published play.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR **PLAYS BY WOMEN**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. The scene must be from a single professionally produced or published play by a woman playwright. Cutting is permitted.

## FALL FESTIVAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage that advocates or has effected significant social change (eg., *A Doll's House*, most of Brecht, *Angels in America*, etc.).

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR IRISH PLAYWRIGHTS\*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a straight scene from a single professionally produced or published play written for the stage by an Irish playwright. Select from list, page H1–11.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR AFI TOP 100\*

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be selected from “100 Years... 100 Movies... 10th Anniversary Edition” — download the pdf “100movies.pdf” from the following url:  
<http://connect.afi.com/site/PageServer?pagename=100yearsList>
4. As there is a musical category, if a musical movie is performed, it must not include ANY music.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN MUSICAL

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. Must have a capella singing.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR TRAPPED

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must have someone or something that is trapped, either physically or psychologically.
4. Must be student written.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN HUMOR

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single professionally produced or published play and must be a scene the author intended to be humorous; it cannot be student written.

\*Check Section H for suggestions.

## **FALL FESTIVAL EVENTS, CONTINUED**

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR NOEL COWARD PLAYS\***

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single play by Noel Coward.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR OPEN DRAMA**

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single professionally produced or published play of dramatic intent; it cannot be student written.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYS\***

1. Must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 5 minutes.
3. Must be from a single play that has won the Pulitzer Prize.  
If a musical is selected, may use only the libretto (no singing).

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MUSICAL: THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE\***

1. Must have 3 to 10 performers.
2. Must be a maximum of 8 minutes.
3. It's a musical — a capella singing is required.
4. Must be from a single professionally produced or published musical written for the stage; it cannot be student written.
5. Performed scene(s) must reflect the American Experience. Coach must be able to justify the scene(s) used, in case there is any question from Rules.

\*Check Section H for suggestions.

## **SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL EVENTS**

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE'S WISE FOOLS**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR CROSS GENDER SHAKESPEARE**

1. The scene must have 2 to 4 performers.
2. The scene must be a maximum of 5 minutes.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 2-PERSON ROMANTIC SCENE:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2 participants
3. May be from any of Shakespeare's plays except the featured plays.
4. Must be a romantic scene.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SECONDARY PLOTS OR MINOR CHARACTERS**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2-4 participants
3. May be a collage
4. Must be from a single play; may not be from the featured plays.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LAST MINUTE SHAKESPEARE:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 4 participants
3. Approximately one month before the festival, DTASC will announce a specific Shakespeare scene to be used for this event.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR COMEDY & TRAGEDY IN THE SAME PLAY**

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3-10 participants
3. Must be from ONE Shakespeare play, not including the featured plays.
4. Must show both comedic and tragic intent in the play.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE'S WOMEN:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2-4 participants
3. May be from any of Shakespeare's plays except the featured plays.
4. Must be a scene with a woman as the main character, but may have both male and female characters.

## SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL EVENTS, CONTINUED

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WICKED – SHAKESPEARE’S VILLAINS:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.
4. Must feature one of Shakespeare’s villains.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR LISTEN TO MY DREAM:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must have one or more scenes where a character talks about a dream they had.
4. Must be from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR MODERN PLAY BASED ON SHAKESPEARE:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from ONE modern professionally produced or published play based on Shakespeare.
4. May be musical or non-musical; singing is allowed (but not required).

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR DISGUISES:

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Text must have one or more characters in disguise at least part of the time.  
The disguise must be a complete physical transformation of the character either in costume or mask (i.e., Beatrice and Benedick at the dance, Edgar in *King Lear*, Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Ford in *Merry Wives*, etc.)
5. DTASC costume rules apply – the disguise is not created by costume at the festival; it is in the text.

### HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR THEME COLLAGE\*:

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be from any THREE of Shakespeare’s plays, not including the featured plays.
4. A single theme must unite all three plays.
5. The theme and the names of all 3 plays must be stated in the intro.
6. All lines must be from those 3 plays.
7. Scenes may be separate or combined at the director’s discretion.  
(NOTE: If you are doing a combined scene with the 3 plays intermingled, the script you turn in at the registration table must have Scene & Line Number for each line, to make it easier to deal with any questions in Rules.)

\*Check Section H for suggestions.

## **SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL EVENTS, CONTINUED**

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR WORKING CLASS\*:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must feature at least one character (nurse, servant, soldier, etc.) who works for a living.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S ROMANTIC COUPLES:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.
4. Must feature one of Shakespeare’s romantic couples (Romeo & Juliet, Antony & Cleopatra, Beatrice & Benedict, etc.).

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE’S FAMILIES:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. May be from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must have two or more members of the same family (any family relationship).

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR 2-PERSON SHAKESPEARE HUMOR:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. Only 2 participants
3. Must be a STRAIGHT scene from any one of Shakespeare’s plays except the featured plays.
4. Must be a scene of comedic intent, not a parody.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR CSI SHAKESPEARE:**

1. 5 minute limit
2. 2–4 participants
3. Must be from a single Shakespeare play; may not be from the featured plays.
4. Must include a crime, such as murder.

### **HIGHLIGHTED RULES FOR SHAKESPEARE THE MUSICAL:**

1. 8 minute limit
2. 3–10 participants
3. Must be based on a single Shakespeare play; may not be based on a featured play.
4. Book by Shakespeare, lyrics and music from any source; i.e., the spoken words must be Shakespeare’s dialogue, but the songs do not have to be from Shakespeare.
5. No parody — must follow Shakespeare’s intent.
6. It’s a musical — a capella singing is required. **NO MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT IS PERMITTED** — no iPods, no CDs, no instruments.