

# BEFORE WE GET STARTED


Remember to register your attendance and complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in the program.



SCAN ME



The background features three overlapping medals. The top medal is silver and partially obscured. The bottom-left medal is gold and shows a star, a building, and the text 'UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOOLASTIC STATE'. The bottom-right medal is also gold and shows a star, a building, and the text 'UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOOLASTIC STATE'.

**Let's start from the very beginning:  
UIL One Act Play Rules, Planning,  
Updates and Questions!**

**UIL STUDENT ACTIVITY  
CONFERENCE**

Don't Forget Your Why

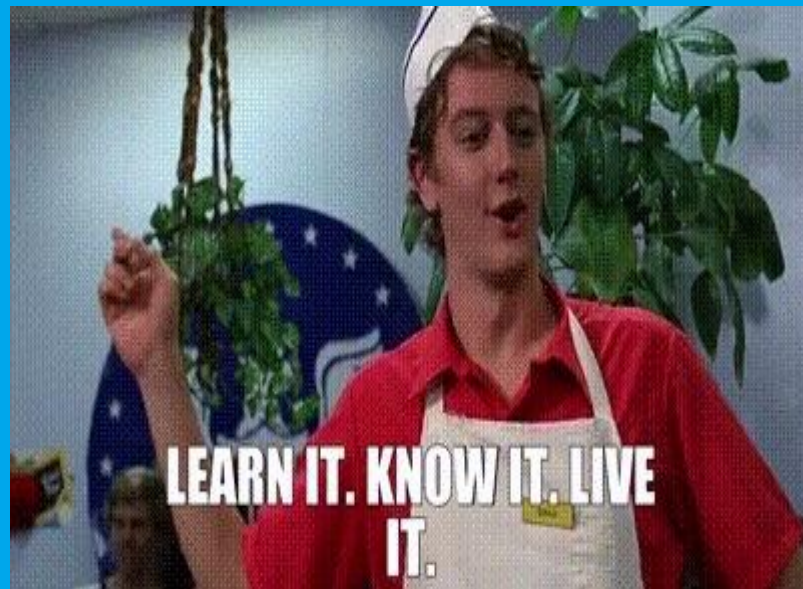
# The Purpose of this Contest



- Foster appreciation of good theatre.
- Satisfy the competitive artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools.
- **Learn to lose or win graciously.**
- Promote interest in theatre during adult life.
- Increase the number of schools which have adopted theatre arts as an academic subject in school curricula.

# RESOURCES AVAILABLE

**UPDATED 27TH EDITION  
HIGH SCHOOL ONE-ACT PLAY  
HANDBOOK FOR DIRECTORS,  
CONTEST MANAGERS AND  
ADJUDICATORS**



<https://www.uiltexas.org/theatre>

# THEATRE HOME PAGE

UIL Home > Academics > Theatre

## THEATRE & FILM

### Overview

High School One-Act Play

Junior High One-Act Play

Theatrical Design

Play Lists

Adjudicator Information

Contest Managers

Resources & Forms

Film

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Theatre Director:  
Paula Rodriguez

Email:  
theatre@uiltexas.org  
prodriguez@uiltexas.org

## Theatre & Film



## Quick Links

OAP High School Enrollment - DUE by Oct 1

Approved Play Lists

Play Approval Submission

Resources & Forms

**HIGH SCHOOL  
One-Act Play**

**HANDBOOK**

**NEW!  
One-Act Play  
Handbook  
CHANGES**   
**2023-2024  
Slideshow** 

**UIL Theatre  
CALENDAR  
2023-2024** 

**PLAY SUBMISSION  
for Plays NOT on  
the  
Approved List**

**HIGH SCHOOL  
Deadline  
December 10**

# 27TH EDITION OF THE UIL ONE-ACT PLAY HANDBOOK

## HANDBOOK

## PDF BOOK

### High School One Act Play Handbook

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Notice of Non-Discrimination**
- **Theatre Constitution and Contest Rules**
  - Section 1033: One-Act Play Contest
  - Section 1034: One-Act Play Contest Ethics Code
  - Section 1035: Theatrical Design Contest
  - Section 1036: Film
- **Official UIL Calendar**
- **Deadlines, Eligibility and Accommodations**
  - The Contest Structure
  - Student Company Size
  - Special Needs Accommodations or Modifications
- **Guide for Directors: The Contest**
  - Contest Structure
  - The Contest

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- **Notice of Non-Discrimination**
- **Theatre Constitution and Contest Rules**
- **Official UIL Calendar**
- **Deadlines, Eligibility and Accommodations**
- **Guide for Directors: The Contest**
- **Guide for Directors: The Contest Site**
- **Guide for Adjudicators**
- **Guide for Contest Managers: The Contest**
- **Guide for Contest Managers: The Contest Site**

### Guide For Directors: The Contest Site

#### [BACK TO HANDBOOK OVERVIEW](#)

#### ■ The Contest Site

Any access to facilities or equipment at the contest site that a single school is allowed to use shall be made accessible to all companies competing in the One-Act Play Contest at that site. This includes rentals and site visits beyond the official rehearsal. Their availability shall be approved by the DEC. The Contest Manager shall make any decision concerning the use of the facility and that decision shall be final.

#### **There are three primary restrictions:**

1. No rigging from any part of the facility is allowed.
2. Nothing shall be done to the facility or equipment that may damage it or endanger the site crew, audience or participants.

This includes placing lighting, sound and scenic equipment where it may damage the site or endanger the site crew, audience or participants.

The Contest Manager and/or host may require you to eliminate, reduce quantities or restage a

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  - Section 1036: Film
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  - The Contest Structure
  - Student Company Size
  - Special Needs Accommodations or Modifications
- **Guide for Directors:**

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## Theatre Resources & Forms

### Materials & Forms for Play Directors

#### JUNIOR HIGH / A+ One-Act Play

High School One-Act Play **ZONE** or **DISTRICT**

High School One-Act Play **BI-DISTRICT**

High School One-Act Play **AREA**

High School One-Act Play **REGION**

High School One-Act Play **STATE**

**THEATRICAL DESIGN** Contest

**FILM** Contest

**ONLINE** Entry System

ONE-ACT PLAY  
HANDBOOK

26th Edition

**HANDBOOK** 

ONE-ACT PLAY  
FESTIVALS

**INFO HERE**

ONE ACT PLAY  
PARTICIPATION LISTS

- 2022 Participation List 



# Part I: OAP CALENDAR 2023-2024

Dates	Task
August 10 - Nov 4	Window to schedule zone and District OAP Planning Meetings. See the section on <b>Planning Meetings</b>
<b>August 31</b>	Deadline to report bi-district information and adjudicators to state offices.
<b>October 1</b>	<b>Deadline to enroll via SPEECHWIRE ( NEW!)</b>
Nov 4 - Feb 1	Dates to contact and contract the 2nd and 3rd members of a panel for zone and district contests opting to use a panel.
<b>December 10</b>	<b>Deadline for requesting permission to produce plays not on the approved lists and scenic elements that are are not permissible under contest rules.</b>

Dates	Task
<p><b>February 1, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline to organize your district's One-Act Play Contest.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline to set up One-Act Play Meets in SPEECHWIRE</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for executing judging contracts.</b></p>
<p><b>February 10, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline for registering your title in SPEECHWIRE.</b></p> <p><b>ZONE AND DISTRICT CANNOT START BEFORE FEBRUARY 10.</b></p>
<p><b>10 Days Prior to Your First Contest</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline for <u>Contestant Entry</u>, Play, Set info and additional directors to be entered in SPEECHWIRE. for Zone or District contests</b></p>
<p><b>April 4, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>District and Bi- District Certification Deadline</b></p>

# OAP CALENDAR 2023-2024

DATE-	EVENT
<b>April 8-13, 2024</b>	<b>OAP Area Meets (check website)</b>
<b>April 24-27, 2024</b>	<b>Regional Meets</b>
<b>MAY 13-15, 2024 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) <b>reserve your rooms!</b></b>	<b>STATE MEET- 4-6A TBA</b>
<b>MAY 13-15, 2024 (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) <b>reserve your rooms!</b></b>	<b>STATE MEET 1-3A Austin ISD-Performing Arts Center</b>

# SPEECHWIRE ENTRY SYSTEM

## High School One-Act Entry

Contestant entry

Title Entry



CTION - UNDER CONSTRUCTION - UNDER CONS CTION - UNDER CONSTRUCTION - UNDER CONS CTION - UNDER CONSTRUCTION - UNDER CONS

A woman is shown in silhouette, standing on a stage. A single spotlight from above illuminates her, creating a bright beam of light that fades into the dark background. The woman is facing left, and her hair is slightly tousled. The overall mood is dramatic and focused.

**Planning Ahead**

## FIRST DEADLINE- Bi-District REP Information

- Who is your Bi-District Representative?

See OAP Website for Bi-District planning procedures.

- Bi-district reps shall confer and plan the meet.

**Bi-District *Contest* Information due August 31.**

# Have you had a **District OAP Planning Meeting?**

- Before August 10 your district SHALL not
  - Contact/Hire Judges
  - Draw for performance order

We urge all Directors to attend your UIL district OAP planning meeting in order to have input into specifics of your contest.

## **F.A.Q. Can we zone or no?**

**The League *discourages* zoning with eight or less schools.**

**When nine or more schools are participating in a district contest, the district executive committee (DEC) should divide the district into zones.**

**Zone alignments shall be determined by a blind draw or be geographical to reduce travel.**

**No other methods shall be used.**



# **Helpful reminders for planning meetings**

# High School OAP Planning Meetings

- You shall use TTAO certified judges and **contest managers**.
- Before selecting your judge, check the Bi-District, Area, Region and State contest pages for conflicts.
- No official UIL site rehearsal or contests on Sunday.
- For Panels at the District levels, **only acting judge may be contracted on August 10.**
  - Judges 2& 3 shall be contacted after November 1.

***F.A.Q. DOES THE CM NEED TO BE TTAO CERTIFIED?***

## LOCAL RULES

**Determine local rules which may apply to your contest site**

- Determine critique format for Zone, District and Bi-District.
- Select the best site available.
- Late seating procedures
- **Tech awards? FAQ- *WHAT'S THE SCOOP?***
- Fees, admission....

# CONTEST PLAYS PUBLISHER UPDATES PLAY SUBMISSION



# Publisher Updates

## Do's and Don'ts

- Do Start Early, VERY EARLY,
- If planning on **internal cuts**, they **MUST** be approved by the publishers, regardless if your play was approved by UIL.
- Don't ASSUME if your play is on the UIL Approved list, that profanities, expletives found in the script are permissible.
- The script shall adhere to contest rules.



# Publisher Updates

- You will need to apply for a UIL or “Competition” license.
- You must receive a license, pay royalties before you can perform your play at contest.
  - Read and follow instructions on the publishers’ site.
  - Do apply/pay royalties for all levels of competition.
  - The Adding of characters, even non-speaking ensemble require permission. Contact UIL state office first.

**Do Not hold auditions, begin rehearsals, or make any major production plans before you have obtained written permission from the publishers.**

**“Scenes from” vs  
“Internal cuts” vs “one  
uninterrupted” section**

## Re: Publishers- WHAT *UIL* REQUIRES AT CONTEST

- Your contest manager will check that you have a publisher's license (*UIL/Competition*) to perform.
- The CM will check that your contest dates are included in the license.
- The CM will check that royalties have been paid.
- You will submit the integrity script with live music cues indicated.

CM will check that scenes have not been rearranged or added without written permission.



# **Dramatists Play Service NEW POLICY**

**Questions on selecting a play?**

**Broadway Licensing titles (which includes Dramatists Play Service,  
Playscripts, and Broadway Licensing Musicals)**

***If you are making ANY internal cuts, removing expletives, obscenities, or profanities, any such cuts must FIRST be approved by Broadway Licensing.***

- *You must submit your detailed requests for internal cuts/changes to Broadway, so that they can forward them on to the authors and/or their representatives for approval.*
- *Please note that ALL requests must be submitted prior to ULL's submission deadline of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Broadway cannot guarantee approval of your request after this date.*

# **UIL PLAY APPROVAL PROCESS HAS NOT CHANGED.**

- **DO NOT SUBMIT A PLAY TO US THAT IS ON THE APPROVED LIST.**
- **IF YOU WANT INTERNAL CUTS OR NEED TO CUT PROFANITY, EXPLETIVES, OBSCENITIES, CONTACT THE PUBLISHER AND SEND THE SCRIPT TO PUBLISHERS (ELECTRONICALLY)**

# Remember

## PLAY APPROVAL

- **A SCHOOL'S APPROVED PLAY IS VALID FOR TWO YEARS!**
  - Approved for 2022-2023 season is approved for 2023-2024.

## **Play Selection- where to find plays?**

**Do not request “cuttings” on social media.  
Illegal and *They don't know your kids.***

**Getting help with editing a play is NOT a violation.**

**FOLLOW COPYRIGHT RULES.**

**What is the secret for finding  
the PERFECT  
Award-winning one act play?**

**PICK A PLAY FOR THE KIDS YOU HAVE.**

## SUGGESTIONS ON WHERE TO FIND SCRIPTS?

- UIL Theatre website
- Participation lists- see *Resources and Forms*
- *Visit* the list of Approved Long and Short Plays
- UIL Drama Loan Library
- Visit play publishers websites
- Increase your audition process. Have the students play with multiple scripts.



# REMINDERS

- **Purchase performance rights through State meet.**
- **Play scripts- You will need to purchase scripts for production. Average is \$10/per script.**
- **Photocopies of plays *without written permission* from the publisher or author are prohibited in OAP, due to copyright laws.**
- **Set additions to the unit set/Approvals- see Handbook**

## **Question: When Can I Submit a Play for Approval?**

Play Appraisal Committee evaluates from

**August 1–December 10 for High Schools and**

**August 1-April 15 for A+/Junior High schools.**

Special Note: **A+/Junior High-** plays need to be submitted at least 45 days before competition.



# Contest rules

## Rules for the unit set

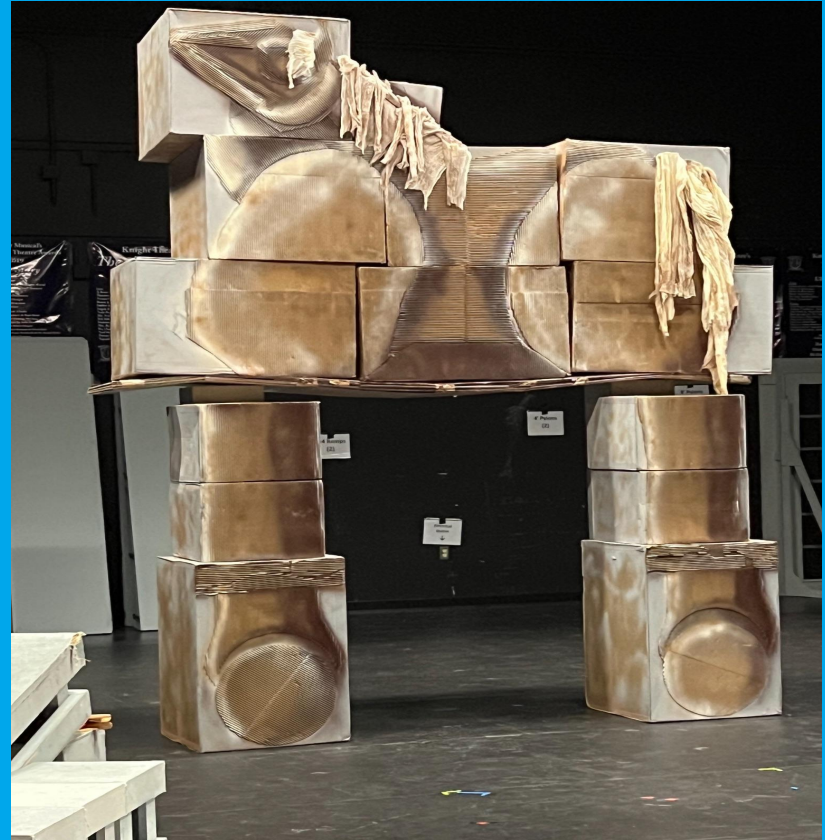
Any action that would damage the unit set, participants or audience members, **is prohibited.**

This includes the slamming/smashing/dropping of any unit set element to the floor for a sound or special effect.

# Stacking- nothing onstage taller than 12ft.

Pylons shall not be stacked HIGHER than 12 ft. (measured from the floor)

**NEW:** No item (including set pieces, properties), unit set element or combination of the unit set shall be taller than 12ft. (measured from the floor)



# Stacking

**No Pylons shall be stacked on 1'x1' CUBES.  
CAPITALS can be added to cubes.**

REPEAT

*No item (including set pieces, properties), unit set element or combination of the unit set shall be taller than 12ft.*

# Architectural Necessity Rules

The use of unit set in front of the curtain line or on the apron is restricted to a 6' combined height (*no change*)

**NEW: *UNLESS* APPROVED BY THE CONTEST MANAGER AND THE HOST SITE AT THE SITE REHEARSAL.** Not allowed at the State Meet.

**Nothing shall be done with the unit set that may damage it or endanger the site crew, audience or participants**

**THE CONTEST MANAGER RULING IS FINAL.**

# PROPERTIES ALLOWED WITH SIZE OR QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS

Bookcase/shelves/storage  
furniture/TV/entertainment centers-

- **MAX Height standing is 6ft. Any item on top of shelves, bookcase... shall not exceed 12ft when measured from the floor.**
- Commercially-made Dolly or Handtrucks
  - **Limit 2 total per school.**
  - **not to exceed 52" L x 41" W x 44" H for set up/strike only.**
  - If used as a prop, must be script driven.





## **PROPERTIES ALLOWED WITH SIZE OR QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS**

Fireplace- new height - 5'Hx6'W x 4' deep

Properties- Any Handheld properties- handheld doors, puppets, jail bars, sticks SHALL NOT EXCEED 6' tall x 4' wide

Street Signs, Commercial, Signs and Lamp Posts-SHALL NOT EXCEED 8' high x 3' wide. **This includes stands**

**No item (including set pieces, properties), unit set element or combination of the unit set shall be taller than 12ft.**

# PROPERTIES ALLOWED WITH SIZE OR QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS

Stumps- SHALL NOT EXCEED  
24" high x 24" wide X 3' long

Glider/Outdoor  
Swings/hammocks- shall not  
exceed 6ft H x 4' W



# Scenery and Properties

## Self-Supported Scenery

Twelve linear feet, measured along the base, of lightweight, non-metallic and self-supported scenery is permissible. Sections may be used in conjunction with or attached to unit set elements. ( no change)

No one section of ***Self- Supported Scenery*** may exceed 4' high by 8' long. The width at the base shall not exceed 8 inches. ( no change)

**Scenery shall not be used as as handheld properties, they must be self-supported.**

# DECORATIVE Stage Properties

Any and all items used to decorate the interior or exterior of a setting. (i.e., pictures, garden decorations- i.e. string twinkle lights, lamps, sconces, clocks, books, ornaments, dishes, plaques, coats of arms, mirrors...

**Schools will be responsible for storing extra stage properties if site is unable to house all items in storage space.**

## **FABRIC/Standard AREA RUGS, CARPETING AND RUNNERS**

**SCENIC ground covering** is prohibited.

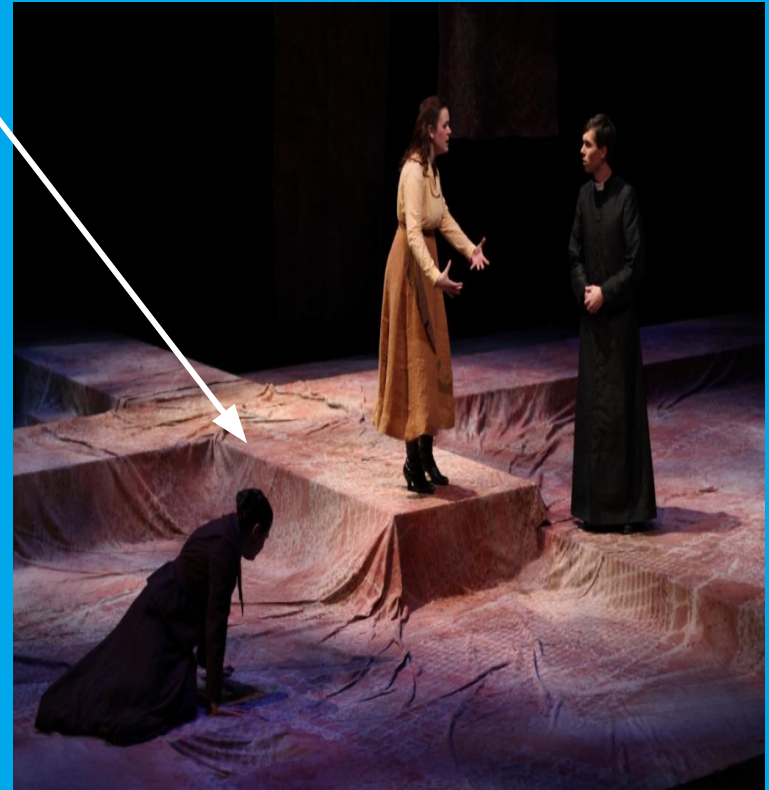
The covering of the stage floor with fabric, vinyl materials or other textiles, where participants stand/move, is prohibited.

**The following items are prohibited if participants will walk/stand on it-**

No Camo-netting, Artificial turf,

Wrestling/boxing *flooring*

Q: *Tumbling mats?* (contact the state office for approval)



## **Rugs**

**Rugs shall not cover more than 50% of  
each  
visible unit set item.**

# Architectural Trim

## Architectural Trim

- Trim shall not cover more than 50% of the visible surface of the unit set element.
- They shall not extend more than 6" in any direction from the edge of the unit set element.

**Each section of trim shall be constructed so as to fit a specific unit set piece, including the 1'x1' cube. You shall not use a single piece of trim to cover multiple set elements, including 1x1 cube.**

# **Special Doors and Windows**

**PERMISSIBLE-** Two lightweight, non-metallic and non-wooden doors, entryways or windows (i.e. constructed from softgood or foam)

**NOT TO EXCEED 4' wide X 8' tall X 6" thick.**

They shall be supported by or suspended between unit set elements using standard "store-bought" devices. They may be hinged. They may be used as two consecutive pieces (side by side).

**Scenic flats are not permissible.**



## Setting up and Strike

- Set up may be accomplished with a closed or open curtain.
- Cast, Crew or director(s) may set properties or set pieces in front of the curtain line. The director shall declare that choice during the official rehearsal period.
- **If setting up with an open curtain- your company controlled lighting including lamps and candles- shall be turned off when set up is complete. Company controlled lighting will need to be turned off with the closing blackout.**

The rise of the choreographed set up....

**Choreographed or staged "setups" or "pre-shows rituals in view of an audience" shall be considered a part of the action of the play. (examples)**

**The Contest Manager will instruct you to stop. If you fail to do so, the CM may start the performance time. If in doubt, check with the State Office.**

## Stage Lighting

Flashlights, twinkle/string/ rope-style, lights may be used as properties and **shall not count towards the 6 allotted stage lights.**

**No laser pointers nor laser flashlights.**

# Clarification on programming lights at contest

Programming of light cues by participants **shall take place at the contest site and during** the official rehearsal period. In an effort to be equitable, it is prohibited to bring pre-programmed light cues on a flash drive or other method to the site rehearsal and load the cues to the host's lightboard.

This does not prohibit the host site from programming cues **for all participants** prior to the rehearsal. Programming prior to the official rehearsals is strongly encouraged when schools have 60 minutes or less to rehearse.

# REMEMBER- Critiques have changed

## CRITIQUES CAN OCCUR *BEFORE* OR AFTER RESULTS.

- BUT ONLY at Z, D, Bi- either before or after awards.
- Area and Region only
  - after all shows
  - Judges submit ballot to CM. Verify their rankings.
  - Judges critique shows ( **judges are not aware of final tabulation**)
  - Judges verify tabulation and awards.
  - Awards ceremony- Acting awards judge remains through ceremony.
- State meet- Critiques held post awards.

# HOW MANY CLINICS?

- **A school may have no more than 5 festival/clinics per contest year total.**
- **A school can choose to have a critic come to their school rather than travel to a festival. NO MINIMUM # OF SCHOOLS REQUIRED.**

# Aid in Directing

Only those persons listed as Directors shall direct the UIL one act play entry. Outside of the limits of a clinic/festival-

- You **shall not** have someone stage/block your play **nor shall they**
- Cast your play nor
- Cut your play nor
- Design specifically for your play.....

Directors may continue to rent or loan costumes to all schools. Theatrical supply companies, parents or volunteers may construct or provide scenery, properties or costumes.

## Who *Can* Direct the contest play?

- **Full-time employees of the school districts** the plays represent.
- **A Retired teacher with 20+ years** may be hired and paid for directing the one-act play.



# Music

- Music log is NOT REQUIRED.
  - There is no time limit on recorded music. ---  
*ok, you can't go over 40 minutes.*
  - **Live music shall not exceed 19 minutes of the total performance time.**
  - **School is responsible for copyrighted music.**

**OAP Tabulation Survey**

**Click the QR CODE**  
**for a brief survey**  
**on the current OAP**  
**Tabulation system**  
**known as TALK**  
**TAB.**



**Have a great year!  
Reach out if you  
have any issues!**

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512-471-9996**

