



EDUCATOR INFORMATION PACKET

The Pittsburgh Public Theater is thrilled to invite you to participate in the Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest, presented by Highmark Pittsburgh, which will be held virtually in February 2021. We have a number of very exciting online and virtual innovations that will allow the Shakespeare Contest to provide opportunities for student performance, professional adjudication, and workshop instruction in theater arts.

While we are saddened to not be meeting in person, we are excited about the prospect of providing the Shakespeare Contest in this format during this time. We know our students will need this valuable resource to connect and learn with each other. This packet includes the details and timelines to help you prepare your students for this year's contest.

[About the 2020/2021 Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest](#)

Students in grades 4-12 are invited to participate as part of their school or an activity group with a monologue or scene from one of Shakespeare's plays. Participating groups receive a free workshop coaching session, a contest T-shirt, and free admission to Virtual Open Stage Matinees. Students are split into the lower division (grades 4-7) and upper division (grades 8-12) for judging purposes.

For 2021, all submissions to the contest will be through video recording. A panel of independent judges will review all video submissions, and will determine which student are invited to participate in the Showcase of Finalists.

The finalists will perform live and virtually through Zoom on February 22, 2021 at 7:00pm.

A Best Scene and Best Monologue winner will be selected in the Upper and Lower Divisions. Each Winner will receive a copy of The Complete Works of Shakespeare and a \$250 Cash Prize will go to the School or Group that the winner is participating from.



At A Glance

EVENT	DETAIL	DATES
INTENT TO PARTICIPATE	Educators will submit estimated number of student participants and other details to help the planning for preliminary rounds	Opens: October 1 Closes: December 11
FINAL ROSTER	Educators will submit final number of student participants and specific details regarding the scenes and monologues that will be performed.	Opens: January 5 Closes: January 22
VIRTUAL COACHING WORKSHOP	Schools and groups will participate in a 60-90 minute virtual workshop, at a time that fits best in the schedule (<i>optional but recommended</i>)	Opens: January 11 Closes: February 5
VIDEO SUBMISSION	Educators will submit all video submissions to be judged in the preliminary rounds.	Opens: February 1 Closes: February 5
FINALIST ANOUNCEMENT	Schools and Groups will be notified of contest finalists.	February 19 at 2:00pm
FINALIST COACHING AND REHEARSAL	Student Finalists will work with coaches and Public Theater staff.	February 20 between 10:00am – 6:00pm
FINALIST SHOWCASE AND CONTEST	The finalist showcase will be presented live online	February 22 at 7:00pm



Contest Rules

REGISTRATION: All schools/groups must be properly registered, in advance, in order to perform in the preliminary rounds. This year, we are not accepting registrations from individuals. All students must have a school or participating community group as a sponsor for their participation.

ELIGIBLE GROUPS: The Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest is open to all schools and groups in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia within a 100 mile radius to the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

ENTRIES: Students can only perform in ONE piece - either one monologue or scene. Students are strongly discouraged from repeating material they performed in the past.

COACHING: Each school group is encouraged to participate in a free virtual workshop and coaching session. More details will be sent in December.

MEMORIZATION: all pieces must be completely memorized; no prompting.

LENGTH OF MONOLOGUE/SCENE: Monologues are restricted to 2-3 minute (approx. 20-50 lines) and scenes to 3-4 minutes (approx. 80 lines, but adherence to time is more important than number of lines). No performance may exceed 5 minutes. **Judges will end the video recordings at 5 minutes.**

Edits and Cuts to scenes and monologues are allowed to adhere to the time limit, upon approval. If you are making any edits or cuts to scenes and monologues to fit the time limit of the contest, please email edu@ppt.org with a word document of the updated text with your suggested cuts.

COSTUMES, SETS, & PROPS: Students are encouraged to focus upon their performance and understanding of the text, so costumes & props should be kept to a minimum. No set pieces are permitted.

SKIP the accent! We want to hear YOUR VOICE.



Virtual Contest Additional Details

Criteria for video recording

In an effort to create uniformity and a base level for judging and critiques, all contest submissions must follow these guidelines.

1. The recording must be a single, continuous, unedited shot from a single vantage point. No zooming in, panning, or other camera movement is permitted. **Any videos that contain camera movement or editing will be disqualified.**
2. **Scenes (with two or more students) can only be recorded through a video conferencing platform, such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.** The Pittsburgh Public Theater has explored the use of this technology for the PlayTime playreading series, and have found amazing benefits to the level of intimacy and connection from the actors on the screen. To keep the judging process fair and equitable, as well as to keep all participants as safe as possible, we require that all scenes are submitted in this format as opposed to in-person action. More information and assistance will be provided on how to record and stage a video through video conferencing platforms.
3. Monologues (with only one student) can be recorded in any way that is easiest (with a phone, video camera, or through a video conferencing platform such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams).
4. No body mics or boom mics should be used. No audio can be added to the video after filming. All audio in the video should be picked up from the camera's internal microphone.
4. The beginning of the recording should include an introduction by one of the participants which should include ONLY a participant(s) name, and the act, scene, and character(s).
5. No text slides, subtitles, etc. should be added to the video.
6. If the piece is performed on a stage, the only stage lighting that should be used is a general wash. No specialized lighting or light cues should be incorporated.
7. If costumes, props, or set pieces are used, they should be simple and minimal.

COVID-19 SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- When considering your students' participation and safety, please keep in mind COVID-19 guidelines and resources as they're provided from resources such as the CDC, the State of Pennsylvania, your school and community – including their respective policies, and best practices.
- Teachers or Guardians can assist in the recording of the students' monologue or scene. We realize that some scenes and monologues will need to be recorded from a students' home or outside of school. We ask for as bare of a space as possible, with no distractions in the background.
- It is preferred that no masks directly covering the mouth, nose, or majority of the face are worn in the recorded video submission. If it is not safe, or students are not permitted to take off their mask in his/her school or public venue, it is recommended that they record from home or a location where they can safely do so. All submissions with two or more students must be recorded through a video platform such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Submissions with only one student can be recorded in any format.



Criteria for video and file submissions

All videos and files must be accessible by a single hyperlink. Educators, as primary points of contact, will collect all video hyperlinks and submit with the student roster.

In order to create a hyperlink, you may do any of the following options:

Google Drive / One Drive / DropBox

1. Upload your video/file to a shared drive folder.
2. Right-click the video/file and select "Get shareable link."
3. Make sure that the link can be viewed by anyone.
4. Copy the link provided.

YouTube

1. Create or login to a YouTube account.
2. Upload your video to YouTube using the "Create" button.
3. Select the video file.
4. Complete the prompted information in Steps 1 and 2 (title, etc.) as you like. There are no specifications about what these need to be.
5. Complete Step 3–Visibility. It is up to you whether or not the video is "public" or "unlisted," but it should not be "private."
6. Copy the link provided.

Judging Criteria

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Needs Work</u>	<u>Weak</u>					
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Understanding of Text/Character	Embodied the character and displayed full knowledge of piece and play. The actors always knew their relationship to the other characters, to the world, to the period, social status, and environment	The actors often understood text/character and comprehended the objectives, obstacles and text of the piece	The actors partially, or sometimes, understood text and character	The actors vaguely understood text and character	The actors did not understand character nor text					
Emotional Connection	Connection was clear and was performed in a very mature fashion.	Connected very well to his/her character on all levels	The actors sometimes connected to character emotionally	There was a vague emotional connection to character	Did not connect emotionally to character					
Physical Presentation	Actor took risks and fully embodied character/emotional physicality	Actor did a very good job of being active in his/her physicality	Actor was comfortable on stage	Actor vaguely presented themselves	Did not actively present themselves physically					
Vocal Presentation	Impressive Proper diction and vocal professionalism was shown	Actor was understood, clear, direct and active.	Actor was mostly understood and showed vocal comfort on stage	Actor was vaguely understood	Was not understood					