

Video Recording Details

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, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet.** This will keep the judging process fair and equitable, as well as keep all participants as safe as possible. We require that all scenes are submitted in this format as opposed to in-person action.
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.

CHECK LIST FOR RECORDING YOUR SCENE

We recommend that a teacher, parent, or someone not in the scene be able to record from their computer. This will help the actors focus on the material to give their best performance. If that's not possible, then one student can be designated to record the scene. The computer screen of the person hitting record is the view that will be recorded.

_____ Check your settings to ensure **you are able to record**.

- If you are recording through Zoom, learn how to record your meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)
- If you are recording through Teams, learn how to record your meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)
- If you are recording through Google Meet, learn how to record your meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)
- If you are recording through Cisco Webex, learn how to record your meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)

_____ Check everyone's **video settings** when you are in the meeting room.

- If you are using a platform that has the option for video mirroring (like zoom), it is recommended that all scene partners are on the same setting.
- Some platforms will allow you to touch up your appearance or adjust for low light.

_____ Check everyone's **audio settings**.

- Adjust speaker settings so every performer can be heard at an equal level. Run the scene before you hit record as your sound check and if possible, adjust speaker settings on each actors' device.

_____ Check your **surroundings**.

- What is in the actors' background? A bare background or blank wall is recommended. Virtual backgrounds are NOT recommended.

_____ Check your **lighting**.

- What is the room's lighting like? Make sure everyone is well-lit from the front and can be seen as best as possible.

_____ Check your **positioning on the screen**.

- All scene partners should be a similar distance from the camera, with the same amount of your body on the screen.

_____ **Hide Non-Video Participants**.

- Make sure only the scene partners on the screen for the person recording. .

_____ **Practice your introduction**.

- Please state the names, roles and scene you are performing. "Hi my name is Shelly and I will be playing Ariel. My name is Michael and I will be playing Prospero. This is Act 1, Scene 2 of the Tempest."

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR DIGITAL SCENE WORK

- **Think of the CAMERA as your scene partner and your audience.** When you are speaking directly to another scene partner, we recommend looking into the camera instead of at the person on the screen. This will help you connect more with your scene partner and the audience.
- **Change your name to your character name.** This gives the audience another visual cue to who you are in the scene.
- Focus on **CLARITY** and **CONFIDENCE**: When do digital scene work, less is more. Focus less on props and blocking, and more on the acting and telling a convincing story.

CHECK LIST FOR RECORDING YOUR MONOLOGUE

We recommend using a phone or camera for recording your monologue, but platforms like Zoom, Teams, or Google Meeting will also work. Look over the “Check List for Recording your Scene” if you decide to use a video conferencing platform.

_____ **Position the camera in landscape mode, not portrait.**

- Place your recording device horizontally on a secure surface to avoid shaking.

_____ **Position the camera at eye-level of the performer.**

_____ **Choose a quiet clean setting.**

- What is in your background? A bare background or blank wall is recommended. Alternatively, you can record your monologue in the classroom or school auditorium.

_____ **Check your lighting.**

- What is the room’s lighting like? If you are recording during the day, find a way to bring natural light into the room. In the evenings, avoid fluorescent or high contrast light.

_____ **Check your positioning**

- For monologues, it is best to get as much of your body into the camera as possible. Don’t worry if your feet are cut off, but try to get as much of your body in the camera as possible.
- Know how much room you have to work with as your stage. If possible, put a couple pieces of tape down to mark the furthest points you can move in that will fit onto the screen.

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR MONOLOGUES

- **Think of the camera as your audience.** If your monologue is intended to be directed to another person, pick a point where the person you are speaking to is and focus on that, either above the lens or to the side.
- **Imagine we are all together for the contest.** The monologues should come across as if the judges are in the theater with you as you perform the monologue.
- **Mid-Shot or Long-Shot recordings preferred.** Try to get as much of the actor in the camera view as possible. Close-up audition tape recordings should be avoided.

Video Samples

Sample Virtual Scene Recordings:

These are videos found on YouTube to provide inspiration for recording your scenes through a video conferencing platform. None of these videos are perfect examples of what your submission will look like, as none of them were created under the rules of the Public Theater's Shakespeare Contest. However, we hope this provides some insight into what is possible.

A Zoom Benefit "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from Prague Shakespeare Company: Hermia and Lysander

- What we like: Actors Distance to the Camera, Sound Settings, Using the camera as the audience and scene partner
- What we don't like: The virtual background can be distracting and cuts off some of the actors

The Show Must Go Online: The Two Gentlemen of Verona: Speed and Valentine

- What we like: Actors distance to the camera, creative use of props, backgrounds with limited distractions
- What we don't like: Actors actual names are shown

Romeo & Juliet Zoom from Ohio Shakespeare Festival: Act 1, Scene 4

- What we like: Actors distance to the camera, staging on and off screen, actors play with proximity to the camera for effect

Sample Monologue Recordings:

These are videos found on YouTube to provide inspiration for recording your monologues. None of these videos are perfect examples of what your submission will look like, as none of them were created under the rules of the Public Theater's Shakespeare Contest. However, we hope this provides some insight into different ways that video recording monologues are successful.

2013 ESU National Shakespeare Competition: Multiple submissions

- What we like: Anna's introduction, the placement of the camera and the actor's view on the stage

Lady Macbeth Shakespeare Monologue

- What we like: The actor's use of the stage, clean setting, and simple props
- What we don't like: The camera movement in the beginning of the staging. Cameras should be stationary.

Shakespeare Monologue with Chris

- What we like: The actor's introduction, placement of the camera, clean setting
- What we don't like: This is more of a close-up "audition tape" recording. Mid-shots or long-shots that capture more of the actors' body is preferred.

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 and submit to your teacher.

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 and submit to your teacher.