



The Young Theatre at Beaconsfield

THE BURNHAM TROPHY ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

This festival was initiated - and the trophy presented - by ANNE, LADY BURNHAM, the first President of the group, in 1988 with the intention of developing a wide range of theatrical skills, encouraging teamwork and helping promote an interest in all aspects of theatre.

RULES

- 1: All Members of The Young Theatre at Beaconsfield shall be allocated into (*two/three**) groups by the Artistic Director and the Executive Committee; and each group shall be required to give itself a name(!), and to write, produce, stage and perform an original one-act play.

The Play:

- 2.1: There shall be an overall theme to the festival, as selected by the Artistic Director and the Executive Committee, which must be reflected in the content, style or presentation of the play.
- 2.2: The play may be based (subject to the laws of copyright) on a story, poem or book - but must not take the format of a revue or 'skit'; have no fewer than FIVE speaking parts and all members of the group must be involved in the production.
- 2.3: The play must have a performance time of not less than 25 minutes, and not exceeding 40 minutes.
- 2.4: The play should, wherever possible, be scripted, and three copies of that script submitted, at least FOUR weeks prior to the performance date, to the Artistic Director who will forward a copy to each adjudicator. Script amendments can be made up to ONE week before performance, provided copies of those changes are also submitted to the Artistic Director. However if the group has opted for an "improvised format", copies of a detailed synopsis of the storyline together with a list of characters must similarly be submitted to the Artistic Director FOUR weeks prior to the performance date.
- 2.5: All scripts used in the competition shall become the property of The Young Theatre (at Beaconsfield).

Finance:

- 3.1: Each group shall be allocated a production budget of £100* ... although this could be increased to a maximum of £150* by individual group fund-raising.
- 3.2: Groups must account to the Group Treasurer / General Manager for all their expenditure

Technical:

- 4.1: The Executive Committee will be responsible for allocating a Festival Coordinator and a Festival Technical Manager - and for providing a basic festival "stage setting" ; "general lighting cover" ; and a sound system... details of which will be provided to each group, who may be requested to assist with the general "get-in" and "strike" for the festival
- 4.2: Each group may negotiate for and hire equipment, props, costumes etc. from any source provided that the costs can be contained within the production budget.
- 4.3: Each group is required to provide its own sound effects and music; submitting details of its staging, and any special lighting and sound requirements to the Festival Technical Manager THREE* weeks prior to the performance date; and for providing a Stage Manager; and its own Technical Operators.
- 4.4: Each group will be permitted a maximum of 15 minutes in total for setting and striking; and allowed one hour technical rehearsal and one full dress rehearsal - as scheduled by the Festival Coordinator and Technical Manager.
- 4.5: The performance order for each performance shall be decided in advance by lot.

THE YOUNG THEATRE at Beaconsfield
THE BURNHAM TROPHY ONE ACT FESTIVAL [continued]

Marketing:

- 5.1: Whilst the Festival Coordinator is responsible for the general publicity; box-office and programme for the Festival; each group is responsible for providing the Coordinator with TWO A5 pages artwork/layout for their own programme section. This should include cast and crew details; play synopsis and any other details the group deem relevant. This copy must be submitted to the Coordinator no later than THREE weeks before the performance date.
- 5.2: Each group will be given a Ticket Allocation. How the allocation is apportioned within the group is up to them.

Assessment:

6.1: Adjudicators will be asked to assesses the plays on the following basis:-	GODA
SCRIPT: [storyline/script construction/dialogue/originality]	/ 15 max --
DIRECTION: [pace/movement/grouping/inventiveness]	/ 25 max 35
ACTING: [characterization/diction/stagecraft/teamwork]	/ 30 max 40
STAGE PRESENTATION: [set/lighting/sound/ costumes/props. etc/overall effect]	/ 15 max 15
ENTERPRISE & ENTERTAINMENT: [incl. endeavour/ingenuity/achievement]	/ 10 max 10

Note: The remaining **5 points** will be allocated by the Artistic Director and given to the Adjudicator - and should reflect the group's performance in adhering to the rules, deadlines, ticket sales and programme contribution.

Maximum Total: 100 [Achievement Levels:- 65-74 = Merit ; 75-84 = Distinction ; 85+ = Honours]

- 6.2: The Artistic Director and the Executive Committee shall invite a different adjudicator to each performance. At the end of the evening, the adjudicator shall give a public assessment of each play, culminating in announcing the PLACING of the groups for that evening [Individual markings will not be announced, but given to the groups separately.] The group placed first by the adjudicator shall be awarded THREE points, second TWO points, and third ONE point.
- 6.3: At each performance, the AUDIENCE will be provided with their own voting slips - and the total audience vote over all performances shall be incorporated into the overall result. The group placed first in the audience vote shall be awarded SIX points, second FOUR points, and third TWO points.
- 6.4: The overall winner will be the group with the highest total number of points.
- 6.5: In the event of a tie - the group with the higher audience vote shall be declared the winner.

Awards:

- 7.1: The winning group will be presented with The Burnham Trophy after the final adjudication and announcement of the winner - and each member of that group will subsequently be presented with a Certificate of Achievement at the Annual General Meeting the following September.
- 7.2: The winning play may, at the discretion of the Artistic Director and the Executive Committee, be entered in one or more of the local drama festivals the following year - although not necessarily with the same cast, crew or director.



** Adaptable to current circumstances*

End/IRW/Feb06