

Performing Arts: Musical Theatre

Competition brief

Skill description

Actors bring characters to life in theatre, film, television and radio. They use speech, movement and expression to interpret a script or improvise a role in a believable and natural way. Actors in musical theatre also use singing and dancing skills.

Entry requirements

This competition is at advanced level. Competitors must be over 16 years of age and studying towards a nationally recognised level 3 qualification (NVQ/SVQ) **or** have the equivalent of 2 -7 years experience and/or training.

Please note that this is a UK competition and does not lead to an international competition

Competition structure

Stage one: enter online between 5 October 2009 – 19 March 2010.

Stage two: competitors will be invited to participate in a live heat.

Stage three: highest scoring competitors across all heats that meet the required standard will be invited to compete at the UK final at Stockport College.

If competitors would like to cancel their entry to the competition they must cancel online by 19 March 2010 to prevent cancellation charges (see competition rules on the website for further details).

About the competition

Up to two competitors may be entered per organisation.

Competitors are asked to prepare a solo excerpt from an existing published musical. The three disciplines that are examined in these brief are singing, acting, and movement but, as is the nature of musical theatre, candidates need to demonstrate their ability in these skills through an integrated performance. This will be performed live in front an audience in a theatre setting. Heats will be held within College theatre departments and the highest scorers across all heats are invited to compete at the UK final held at a Stockport College.

Competition description

Competitors are required to prepare a suitable three to four minute solo performance to be performed live in front of an audience and judges. This should be a piece that shows your craft/abilities/technique at its best. Do not take on material that you will struggle with. Your performance is expected to be at a level the theatre industry would find acceptable enough to consider you for professional casting.

Please help yourself by using material that you genuinely think you could be cast as. You will be required to provide a backing track for your performance

The three disciplines that are examined in these brief are singing, acting, and movement but, as is the nature of musical theatre, candidates need to demonstrate their ability in these skills through an integrated performance.

Selected pieces must come from an existing published work. Competitors are not permitted to use material they have written themselves or material that is not already published. The length of performance should be between 3 and 4 minutes, certainly no longer than 4 minutes (5 marks will be deducted for any piece that exceeds the 4 minute time limit).

Competitors also have the opportunity to participate in the Performing Arts – Acting competition. Both competitions will be held at each heat on the same day.

Marking and assessment

Assessment will be through observation of the live performance.

Marks will be awarded by the judges as follows:

Performer audience relationship	10%
Quality of choice of script	40%
Use of body and voice	25%
Interpretation of script	20%
Professional Understanding	5%
Total	100%

5% will be deducted off the final mark if performers exceed the 4 minute time limit

A panel of judges have been drawn from industry, colleges and training providers. The judges' decisions will be independently moderated and quality assured before being confirmed. There will be a minimum of 2 judges but more normally there will be 3.

Judges will use a marking scheme designed to identify techniques/craft abilities. There are five main categories the judges will consider.

Performer audience relationship: Competitors need to consider carefully where and how the focus is set. Consider how you may have to 'place' or cast people you are talking to in the scene. Take account of the space and your proximity / eye contact with the judging panel.

Quality and choice of Material: This section is designed to explore the quality of your storytelling craft. Ensure that you carefully consider each of the elements in this section as there are a number of criteria the judges will look for.

Use of body and voice: Whilst it is accepted that as young performers your vocal and physical expression is still very much in development, there are still some every important technical elements that need to be expressed with ease and accuracy.

Interpretation of material: This section is designed to explore the imaginative / creative choices available to the material. You will need to make appropriate and insightful decisions about your work.

Professional understanding: From the start of the competition you will need to convey an attitude appropriate to an industrial setting.

Competition rules

- Competitors' pieces must be derived from existing published works.
- The length of performance should be no shorter than three minutes but no longer than four minutes.
- 5% will be deducted off the final mark if performers exceed the 4 minute time limit
- Programme notes must be submitted to the heat organiser before the heat

Contact details

For technical advice about the competition contact:

Phone: 0161 958 3513

Email: jane.andrew@stockport.ac.uk

For general information about competitions please contact the WorldSkills UK contact centre:

Free phone: 0800 612 0742

Email: worldskillsuk@ukskills.org.uk

Web: www.worldskillsuk.org