

1. **VENUE** - The County final will take place at the Queens Theatre, Barnstaple on Sunday 24th February 2019
2. **REPRESENTATION** – Groups may enter one team
3. **ELIGIBILITY** - All competitors must be 26 years of age or under on 1st September 2018 and a full member of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.
4. **SUBSTITUTION**
If more than half of the original team members are unable to go forward to subsequent rounds, then the next highest placed team will represent the Area/Region. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**
5. **CONTENT/MATERIAL (TASTE/DECENCY)**
 - 5.1. **Members are reminded that in taking part in the Performing Arts competitions, material of a questionable nature will be penalised. Members are asked to bear in mind that they are performing to a family audience.**
 - 5.2. Producers/writers must carefully consider how taste, sexual matters, violence and strong language is dealt with. Every audience includes people of different ages (including young children), cultures, religions and sensibilities. Audience sensibilities and standards do vary widely and producers/writers should be very mindful of this at all times.
6. **BACKSTAGE**
 - 6.1. A maximum of six helpers who need not be of membership age but must still hold current associate membership cards will be allowed. There is no restriction to the number of helpers who are of membership age. All helpers who are visible on stage must be YFC members under the age of 26. To note: If using a prompt they must be of membership age.
 - 6.2. **Producer** Each production must have **one** appointed; there are no restrictions of membership which applies to this position. i.e. they do not require a membership card.
 - 6.3. **Team liaison person** Each production must have **one** appointed; as a member of the cast, this person will make decisions on behalf of the team.
 - 6.4. **Live musical accompaniment MUST** be performed by an in age YFC member(s) with valid membership card (not Associate Member) and can be sited on or off stage. Taped sound effects/music is permitted. (NFYFC cannot be held responsible for the efficiency or quality of any sound system in any hall used).
7. **RISK ASSESSMENT**
 - 7.1. All productions **MUST**, as part of the competition, submit a detailed Risk Assessment of the production that covers all activities both on and off the stage. **Teams entered are responsible for producing a Risk Assessment that is adequate and suitable for all activities within the production.**
 - 7.2. There are no marks awarded for the Risk Assessment but if it is not forthcoming by the deadline, that team will be disqualified. The stage and theatre manager(s) hold the right, under these rules, to refuse an activity that does not meet current safety standards. The stage manager and theatre staff have full authority to stop a production that is not safe.

- 7.3. All teams must abide by the Health & Safety and fire safety Regulations of the theatre. All stage scenery must be fireproofed. Copies of the any theatre regulations will be sent to teams. Note this information should be recorded in the Risk Assessments

8. USE OF THEATRE

- 8.1. Where published works are used within the production, the team **must** provide original copies of the script **and the** adapted script for use by the judges at all stages of the competition. If providing published scripts, do not photocopy scripts, (original copies only) unless written authorisation has been obtained from the publisher and a copy of the authorisation accompanies photocopies. Similar letters of permission should be obtained for any cuts made in a script, or for the performance of extracts from full-length plays, which are still under Copyright Protection.
- 8.2. Teams will be requested to send in 3 copies of the script/resume/plot (photocopies are NOT allowed). If any amendments/ cuts have been made to the original, these must be highlighted with both the original wording and the new amendments. **To photocopy or reproduce copyright material by any means is to break the Law of Copyright and be liable to prosecution.**
- 8.3. ***It is the responsibility of the team to ensure the correct Royalties are paid for each performance.***
- 8.4. Where appropriate, Clubs must pay Royalties to publishers – A PRS form is available on the NFYFC website on the competitions resource page. This should be completed and returned to NFYFC prior to the event.
- 8.5. Details of the theatre chosen for both the Regional and Final Competitions will be forwarded to all teams taking part. Such details will include a plan of the stage, available lighting, electrical equipment, etc. Visual effects, electrical appliances, etc., belonging to competing teams must not interfere with the theatre lighting and must be in accordance with the safety regulations pertaining to that theatre. NFYFC and the Theatre Management will not be responsible for providing any equipment or material that is not available in the theatre and included on the list of available equipment.
- 8.6. Any performances at height or deemed to be high risk (i.e. use of silks or wires to suspend the performer) must be notified to NFYFC in writing before the County and Area rounds. The performances will then be agreed to and signed off by our insurance company and also host theatres if applicable.
- 8.7. If pyrotechnics are to be used in the performance NFYFC must be notified beforehand and competence in using pyrotechnics must be proven by the competitors, likewise use of smoke machines must be notified to NFYFC before County and Area Rounds.
- 8.8. Competitors to note that under no circumstances must live animals be used at any round of the competition. Due to animal welfare and insurance purposes.
- 8.9. Teams competing in the Regional and Final competitions must prepare and submit a stage plan to the NFYFC Competitions Department before the competition, showing the stage setting, lighting etc. Details of any inserts to be included in the curtain setting, back-cloths to be flown (a maximum of 3 flight bars will be available for flying cloths and props only), a list of basic furniture, a lighting cue sheet and any information about costumes/props, etc., that have been prepared by the members should be attached.
- 8.10. Visual effects, electrical appliances, etc., belonging to competing teams must not interfere with the theatre lighting and must be in accordance with the safety regulations pertaining to that theatre. NFYFC and the theatre Management will not be responsible for providing any equipment or material that is not available in the theatre and included on the list of available equipment. Any additional equipment required must be arranged with the theatre via NFYFC and may incur additional costs to the team.

- 8.11. Teams must supply a single A4 sheet with title of production and cast list before the County Final and amendments to that must be supplied immediately after the County Final.
- 8.12. Teams must provide 'biographical' details of their production, (information about the YFC Club/County Federation, how the Production came about and any other useful information (for the compere no later than 14 days before the competition Regional Final or National Final.
- 8.13. Filming and photography is permitted by supporters (family and friends) however they must register with NFYFC on the day of the competition and be given a wristband. To note that any videoing or photographs are for personal use and should not be placed on the internet or social networking sites. These procedures will ensure that NFYFC are taking reasonable measures to keep our members under the age of 18 years safe from potential harm.
- 8.14. There will be **NO** admittance to anyone in any part of the auditorium or backstage whilst a team is performing.

CHECK LIST: Items to be sent to Devon YFC prior to your Group Competition. **Entry Form listing all participants including 6 backstage persons over the age of 26 (associate membership requirement)**

- ✓ **Parental Consent Form for all under 18s**
- ✓ **Compare notes: Synopsis about team and production**
- ✓ **Cast List**
- ✓ **Original Scripts x1 via email**
- ✓ **Stage Plan**
- ✓ **Technical Requirements and lighting plan – can be noted on separate script**
- ✓ **Risk Assessment**
- ✓ **PRS Music Form**

Entertainments 2019

9. PROCEDURE

- 9.1. An Entertainment may include straight singing, singing with movement, dancing of any kind, drama, sketches, humour - either visual or spoken (though anything of a dubious nature would be penalised) - magic or conjuring, instrumental performances, mime etc. - the list is endless. But, like making a cake, the ingredients must be weighed and balanced, mixed and blended to make the whole performance.
- 9.2. A play is not to be included in Entertainments. (A play can be defined as following a story from beginning to end).

10. TIMING

- 10.1. Platform time allowed will be up to 30 minutes. This must include setting and striking the set. If the total platform time exceeds 30 minutes, teams will have marks deducted at the rate of two points per minute, or part thereof, from the overall score.
- 10.2. A maximum of one hour will be allowed for teams to use as they see fit to include technical preparations and rehearsal time

11. SCALE OF MARKING: Potential 100 Points

Variety and Balance **20**

In an Entertainment, there are many types of performance that can be included and these may be performed either by the whole company, by a group or, if available, by talented individuals. A balanced programme should be varied, including many different items, combining together around a main theme or idea which links the whole show together.

Originality and Entertainment Value **35**

The value of an Entertainment is assessed by its variety, attack, and the life and zest it shows in achieving and maintaining a high standard. The show should have originality and audience appeal. The items presented should be lively and varied and should move swiftly from one item to another, preferably linked by a main theme or idea. Design should be bold and colourful, and the show should be presented with precision, speed and enjoyment.

Effectiveness of Set **10**

This covers such factors as stage setting, properties, lighting, costumes, make-up and sound effects. Adjudicators should appreciate the difficulties of presenting a performance under strange conditions in a strange hall. Within the limitations of the hall, the Adjudicator will look out for touches of detail, which give atmosphere to a production. They will also look for an appreciation of the value of lighting other than as a means of illumination. Credit will be given for the aptness of costume and make-up to the characters and the performance, as well as to the manner in which they have been designed and made.

Use of stage by performers **10**

This is exactly what the heading states. An Adjudicator will look for a production that involves all aspects of the stage through movement and grouping. The use of rostra and steps giving varying degrees of height adds another dimension to the stage. Not only does the space available run from stage left to stage right, from upstage to downstage, but elevation from rostra varies the levels available from high to low. Movement patterns and grouping shapes must vary and change as the show demands.

Overall Affect **25**

This section is mainly concerned with the general impression made on the Adjudicator by the performance. Consideration will be given to the kind of Show presented, or the type of entertainment chosen. With the latter, its dramatic merit, and the suitability of the play to the cast, will be judged. But, with both types of performance, the originality, the teamwork and the endeavour shown by the cast in their performance, as well as the standard attained, will be assessed.

AWARDS The Horrell Drama Cup will be presented to the winning team.
The Best Male Actor will receive The Actors Shield.
The Best Female Actress will receive the National Westminster Bank Cup.
The Woolway Perpetual Trophy will be presented to the highest placed Club in a theatre competition who have not competed in a County Final during the previous five years.

The winning team will represent Devon at the South West Area Competitions Weekend in Weymouth on 10th March