



Greater Manchester Drama Federation Amateur (non-professional) Theatre Festival Rules 2025 - 2026

The Festival is open to any member Society that concerns itself with the presentation of dramatic works.

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The Festival consists of two sections – Drama (Full Length Plays) and Other Productions (Musical / Pantomime) defined thus:

**DRAMA SECTION - Full Length Plays** - An entry must be a presentation of Drama in the form of a full-length play. Readings, evenings of one act plays, monologues, musical entertainments and pantomimes will not be accepted for this section. The play must be of two or more acts under the direction of one person.

**OTHER PRODUCTIONS - Musicals / Pantomimes:** This section covers all productions that do not fall under the full-length play section such as musicals or pantomimes. Entries will be judged on their merits as a complete evening's entertainment. **Societies that do not produce a full-length drama and are new members and enjoying their first season as GMDf members, will only be permitted to enter one production into this section.** Once that society has completed one year as a full member and continues into a second year it may enter more than one production into this section.

1. Entrants must not engage, employ or permit the services of professional actors or directors ie the cast and director of the play must consist entirely of amateurs. For the avoidance of doubt, the term “amateur” will refer to an actor / director who, during the previous two years leading up to the performance, has NOT been featured in a stage, film or television production performed or presented by “a for profit organisation” where the actor has had a speaking role, or where the actor / director have received a credit either in the souvenir programme or on the film/television production’s final credit roll. Breach of this rule will exclude the production and all participants from entry to the Festival and therefore, being nominated for any Awards.

There is an expectation from the rights holders that when you secure an amateur performance licence, it is just that.

2. Any queries about the rule 1 must be clarified as soon as possible prior to entry into the Festival, otherwise the production may be excluded.
3. One director is one director. We understand that people have to learn and shadow directors etc, this does not count in this rule. The rule is that the production must be in the overall control of **one person**. If two persons have had control of the production it will not qualify for entry into the Festival.
4. The preliminary entry form must be completed and returned to the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> July. The standard entry / adjudication request form must be completed and sent with the entry fee to the Festival Secretary by the 30<sup>th</sup> August or if it is preferred to “pay per production” at least 28 days before the opening night.
5. There can be no adjudication for any competitive entry in the GMDF Amateur Theatre Festival until after receipt of the subscription fee for membership of GMDF and a signed and dated entry form.
6. The decision of the Board regarding the section into which a production is allocated is final.
7. It is the responsibility of all Societies to seek and produce the appropriate permission to alter scripts in any way either by addition, editing or deletion. Photocopied or scanned scripts will not be accepted. It is not permitted by the rights holders and therefore GMDF cannot accept same. If the rights holder has provided a printing licence this must be shared with GMDF. The Festival Secretary must be advised accordingly when submitting the entry form and, if alterations take place, a properly marked up script should be submitted directly to the adjudicator. In the event of the rights holders being unable to supply a script because it is currently out of print, or only available electronically, the permission that they issue to photocopy/print the script must be supplied to GMDF. Please also read the following advices regarding [Licences to Perform](#) and [Copyright Duration](#).

8. Youth cast cannot have reached their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday prior to first performance. Dates of birth of Youth Production cast will be required and must be given to the adjudicator along with the licence. This also applies to a youth cast member in an adult production.
9. A youth production is a youth production and can only contain cast who have not reached their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday prior to first performance.
10. Scripts must be sent directly to the adjudicator. Details of same will be supplied by GMDF.
11. Two tickets and a show programme must be held at the door for the Adjudicator for the specified date.
12. A valid licence must be made available for inspection by the adjudicator before any adjudication or entry of the production into the Festival can take place.
13. A representative of each competing Society must attend the presentation ceremony at Awards Night. If this is not possible, the Federation Hon. Secretary must be informed at least 7 days in advance so that arrangements can be made for a representative to be appointed to accept any awards on the absent Society's behalf.
14. The Drama Shield winner will be responsible for engraving the shield in like style to previous years which will be held for one year and must be returned to the Federation Hon. Secretary (or any Board Member) no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

**Winners of this Festival are eligible for inclusion in the  
N.D.F.A. All Winners Festival. [www.ndfa.co.uk](http://www.ndfa.co.uk)**