Greater Manchester Drama Federation
Full Length Theatre Festival Rules 2026 - 2027

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

---

1. The festival consists of two sections – Drama (Full Length Plays) and Musicals and Pantomimes defined thus:

   - **DRAMA SECTION - Full Length Plays**
     - An entry in this section 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 in this section.
     - To be eligible, the production must be sufficient length not to fall within the one-act festival and will typically consist of more than one act with an interval.
     - Where an interval has not been included in the script by the author, this may still be considered for inclusion assuming it is of sufficient length.
     - Any decision to accept a production into this section will be at the discretion of the Full-Length Festival Secretary, in consultation with the GMDF Board.

   - **MUSICALS AND PANTOMIMES – Full Length**
     - This section covers all productions that do not fall under the drama 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.

2. The decision of the Board regarding the section into which a production is allocated is final.

3. Entrants must not engage, employ or permit the services of professional actors or directors, i.e. 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.

4. 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. Assistant directors are not considered directors for this rule.

5. The preliminary entry form must be completed and submitted by 1 July 2026. The standard entry / adjudication request form must be completed and submitted with the entry fee by 30 August and / or at least 28 days before the opening night. Late entries will not be accepted

6. 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.

7. To be a considered a 'Youth Production' the cast must be predominantly under 18 with at least 80% of performers in this category. Any performer over the age of 18 must not be a significant part within the production and be included for necessity of the script. The determination of what constitutes a Youth Production under these criteria rests at the discretion of the GMDF Board.

8. A performer's age will be taken to be that which it is on the last night of the production.

9. 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. The Festival Secretary must be advised accordingly and, if alterations take place, a properly marked up script should be submitted with the entry. The consent of the Publisher and/or copyright holders to any alterations must also be attached to the entry. Please read the following advice regarding Licences to Perform and Copyright Duration.

10. Photocopied scripts will not be accepted. It is not permitted by the rights holders and therefore GMDF cannot accept same. In the event of the rights holders being unable to supply a script because it is currently out of print, the permission that they issue to photocopy the script must be supplied to GMDF.

11. Scripts must be sent directly to the adjudicator. Details of same will be supplied by GMDF.

12. Two tickets and a show programme must be held at the door for the Adjudicator for the specified date.

13. 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.

14. A representative of each competing Society must attend the presentation ceremony at Awards Night. If this is not possible, the Board must be informed at least seven 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.

15. The Drama Shield and Board Award winners 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 Board no later than 1 May each year.

16. Any queries about the rules must be clarified as soon as possible prior to entry into the festival, otherwise the production may be excluded.

17. Winners of this Festival are eligible for inclusion in the NDFA All Winners Festival.