

## NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DRAMA ASSOCIATION

### Play of the Year Competition - Rules of Entry

- 1 The annual competition is open only to member groups of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Drama Association. One or two full-length plays may be entered each year by each group.
- 2 Normally, any full-length play performed between and including the first Monday in September and the Saturday following the last Monday in May is eligible for entry. The Executive Council of the Association has the right to discontinue the competition at any time during this period. Plays with musical content, and pantomimes, which can be fairly assessed may be entered but a collection of one-act plays is not permitted. However, an evening of one-act plays may be entered where they are written by the same author and where the author's clear intention was that they should be performed together.
- 3 Each group must complete the application form and shall pay such entry fee as the Executive Council of the Association shall from time to time decides. This fee should be paid before the date of the performance and is not refundable.
- 4 At least one month's notice must be given. Groups may enter at any time prior to one month before production, even though the title of the play to be performed may not be known at the time of entry.
- 5 Nominations for the Sidney Hopkin Memorial Trophy, an award for the best performance by an inexperienced player of any age appearing for the first time on the adult stage, must be entered on the application and not at a later date.
- 6 The Stephen Godward Trophy is awarded for 'outstanding contribution to the production by a young person or persons of 19 years of age or under on the day of the first performance of the run'. Details of eligibility must be entered on the application form. Youth members in adult plays will be considered as well as those from youth group productions. In the event of dual casting, only the performance visited by the adjudicator will be considered.
- 7 All efforts will be made to provide a substitute adjudicator if the designated adjudicator is not available or has a conflict of interest. The Association will appoint a moderator to ensure that, where a substitute adjudicator has been used, arrangements will be made to ensure an effective moderation process. In the interests of the competition, should it not be possible to appoint a substitute, then the group may not be able to enter their production and fees paid will be refunded.
- 8 A bona fide copy of the script must be sent to the Competition Coordinator at least twenty-one days prior to the first performance. Photocopies are NOT acceptable unless the play is an unpublished original script or a published play is out of print and permission from the copyright owner has been obtained. Groups entering plays must be prepared to satisfy the Executive Council that they have complied with all the copyright and performance rights requirements.
- 9 The group shall provide seating accommodation for an adjudicator and a guest giving a good view of the acting area. It may be necessary to provide a small table and sufficient light for

the adjudicator to take notes. Interval drinks must be provided. Very occasionally, groups may be asked to seat a moderator and their guest. Every effort will be made to ensure that this is done at minimal cost to the host group.

- 10 Marks will be awarded under the following headings: Acting, Direction, Set Design, Costumes and Technical Presentation, in accordance with the Association's current marking guidance. The Belper Cup and the Peter and Joan Martin Front of House award are entirely in the gift of the adjudicator and are awarded entirely at their discretion.
- 11 Before each performance the adjudicator can enquire as to the facilities available and the conditions under which the play was staged. The group will receive a written adjudication after the end of the show's run. The adjudication will be sent to the Competition Coordinator who will forward it to the group, usually within two weeks after the show.
- 12 The results of the competition will normally be announced and trophies presented at a social function in June, of which members will be notified. Competing groups will be required to send at least ONE representative to this function.
- 13 It is the responsibility of the individual or group winners to see that the trophies awarded to them are engraved as soon as possible in a size and font to match that already used. All trophies are the property of the Association and must be returned to the Competition Coordinator not later than 15 working days prior to the social function. It is the responsibility of the holder (or the society of which the holder is or was, at the time of performance, a member) to ensure the return of any trophy held to the Competition Coordinator.
- 14 Groups are recommended to make their own insurance arrangements. The Association will not be responsible for any damage, loss, injury, or death occurring during the period of the Competition.
- 15 All communication should be made via the Competition Co-ordinator and not directly with the adjudicator unless this has been authorised and arranged.
- 16 In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Executive Council of the Association shall be final.

Amended at the Executive Council meeting 9 October 2023