

All Island School Drama and Theatre Festival 2021 (English Medium)

Introduction

This Festival is organized with the objective of providing the students of the schools in the island with various practical and subject related experiences on the subject of Drama and Theatre and directing the students and teachers for creativity and developing their potencies of appreciation through improving the abilities of appreciating drama. Since the subject of Drama and Theatre has been included in the curriculum of Grade 6 to G.C.E Advanced Level which is operational at present, a significant contribution will be provided to the development of this subject by organizing this festival. This festival also contributes for the personality development of the students by inculcating wholesome attitudes in the minds of the students aiming at the development of the Nation. The students who are appreciated in National Level at this festival will be given prominence when they enter their higher studies.

General Rules Governing the Festival

1. **The English medium section of this festival is divided into two categories as follows**
 - Category A Recommended Scenes from the masterpieces of Greek Shakespearean and Modern Western Theatre
 - Category B Role play (dramatic presentation of a part/parts of a dialogue or a story line of the recommended / selected play writings and items that are to be added and revised annually)
2. **This festival is conducted in following section for this year.**
 - Senior Secondary - (from Grade 10 - 13)
- 2.1 If a pupil or several pupils in a lower grade is essential for acting in a particular occasion according to the text of Drama, it can be done by obtaining a prior approval. The request should be submitted along with the application in writing at the occasion of submitting the application or the application along with the script of the drama. If it is observed at the review that the request is justifiable for the success of the production, it is allowed to do so.
3. **Staging the dramas selected for the National level of this festival is divided into two phases as follows.**
 - Phase 1 - (For the Category A)
 - Phase 2 - (For the Category B)

4. Participation

- 4.1 Scripts or productions presented and won places in prior All Island School Drama and Theatre Festivals and Competitions cannot be produced for this festival. However, the scripts and productions produced for other drama festivals/ competitions in the immediate year prior to the year of the All Island School Drama and Theatre Festival is held and received victories are eligible to be presented at this Festival .
- 4.2 Under any grounds, outside artists other than a teacher or a student of another school should not be deployed to satisfy the incidental requirements of artists and in case of deploying a teacher of another school to satisfy the incidental requirements of artists that should only be from the Province to which the presenting school belongs. It is emphasized that it is of vital importance for the subject development of the students if the teachers and the students of the presenting school can practise themselves in order to satisfy the requirements of the artists.
- 4.3 It is the responsibility of the teachers in charge of the subject and the principals to give co-operation in all respect required for making the school participate in this festival and it is the responsibility of the officers in charge of the aesthetic subjects in the relevant Provincial / Zonal offices of Education to encourage the schools of their province and zone to participate in this festival in accordance with the combination of the items assigned for the school, subject to the limitations indicated in the manual of instructions and the Circular of the year.

5. Method of Application

- 5.1 Only the schools which are applying for a drama production of the category A, are eligible to apply under the Category B.
- 5.2 The maximum number of items that a school can apply from Category A is 02 and under category B which is the category of presenting role plays and stories, the school can participate in the festival maximal under two items.
- 5.3 When a certain school which presents a drama that comes under Category A, presents a drama through a item related to selecting a drama in the category of presenting a role play or a story in the Category B, the school should not select the same drama that is selected in the Category A.
- 5.4 Since the submission of applications exceeding the limits for participation mentioned above is a hindrance for the organization and the administrative activities of the festival, schools applying for this festival without considering the limitations and the schools applying by exceeding the limitations, will not be registered under any item of the festival.
- 5.5 The list of the schools, that have submitted their applications to the Ministry of Education formally as mentioned herewith on or before the closing date of applications mentioned in the circular issued in the relevant year for sending applications will be published in the Web site www.moe.gov.lk, the Web site of the Ministry. Any application receiving after the closing date will not be entertained under any circumstances.

- 5.6 Only the format of the General Application Form-A attached at the end of the Circular issued in the relevant year should be used when applying for the Festival.
- 5.7 All the Items applied for should be completed as per the format of general application form A prepared using an A4 paper and separate application forms for each Item should not be sent.
- 5.8 It is essential to use legible hand writing when filling in the application form.
- 5.9 The aforementioned application form should be sent by registered Post to the Director of Aesthetics of the Ministry of Education on or before **11th of July, 2021**. A copy of the application should be sent by registered post mandatorily to the Provincial Director of Education in your Province. It is considered as applied for the Festival only if applications are sent both to the Director of Aesthetics of the Ministry of Education and Provincial Director of Education of your Province within the specified time period. Provincial Department of Education and the Ministry of Education should receive the same information. Applications in contrary to these instructions will be rejected.
- 5.10 The Circular related to the Festival will be published in the www.moe.gov.lk, the Web site of the Ministry of Education and all the Provinces and Zonal Offices will be sent a printed copy. Subsequent to the issuance of the aforementioned Circular, It is expected to orient the schools of the Provinces /Zones by the Officers in charge of the subject of Aesthetics in the Zones and Provinces in compliance with the instructions given in the circular by conducting the required developmental Programs.
- 5.11 Copies of accurate application forms received by the Ministry of Education are daily sent to the Provincial Departments by Post to make it easier for the relevant officers to do the required work by examining the progress of sending applications by schools in their respective Zone/Province for this Festival. Further, only the name of schools that send application forms to the Ministry of Education will be published via the Web site of the Ministry of Education daily. The final list will be published after scrutinizing the accuracy of these applications.
- 5.12 The detailed information with names of the students that are participating should be submitted at the occasion of making instructions prior to the conduct of Provincial or All Island Competitions. Schools which are unable to submit detailed information at the occasion of instructing to do so cannot present themselves for the relevant stage of evaluation.
- 5.13 The initials should be written in English when submitting information later in detail.
- 5.14 The address to which the applications should be sent
- Director of Education
Aesthetic Education Unit
Ministry of Education
Isurupaya, Battaramulla
- 5.15 A summary of 100 words regarding the selected part of the drama in relation to the Items of Category "A" should be sent along with the application form.

- 5.16 Even revised productions of Drama or parts of Drama or parts of copies submitted to earlier Drama festivals or Competitions conducted by the Ministry of Education or other institutions should not be submitted for this Festival.
- 5.17 The submission of application forms in contrary to the aforementioned conditions or by omitting such instructions are considered as negligence on the part of the School and therefore, such applications will be rejected.

6. Stages of the Festival

- 6.1 This festival is consisted of two stages.
- Provincial - With the representation of schools which present themselves under category A and category B
 - National - With the representation of schools which become first in Provincial level (Category A and B), or with the representation of schools which are called for the final round and directly, or with the representation of two schools selected from one item on the special recommendation of the jury as they are in the excellent standard among the artistic and quality productions out of each Item of drama.
- 6.2 Dramas that belong to the category A should be presented only in the National event. If there are a large number of applications sent with the view to participating under the respective items of this category, such applications will be considered in the National level subsequent to evaluating them based on the Province. Unless, they will be generally evaluated as per the availability of opportunities according to the overall participation and the factors of organization.
- 6.3 As per the nature of applying for certain items of dramas, provincial evaluations in two or several adjacent Provinces for a certain item or several items can be staged at one place and arrangements should be made subsequently to evaluate them separately in provincial wise.
- 6.4 The Provincial round should be organized jointly with the Director of Education of the relevant Province and the Director in charge of the Aesthetic Education of the Line Ministry and it is the responsibility of the Director in charge of Aesthetic subject or the subject of Drama and Theatre to assist the Provincial Director of Education in this regard.
- 6.5 It is compulsory for the students who participated in the Provincial Level to participate in the All Island Level too under the same item. In case an unavoidable issue is risen in the Provincial and All Island level pertaining to this matter, such issues should be resolved only after obtaining the consultation and the prior written approval of the Provincial Director of Education and the Secretary of the Ministry of Education respectively.

- 6.6 This National event will be held on 09th and 10th of October, 2021.
- 6.7 The students should present their productions only upon the approval of the principal of the school from which they participate in the festival and when using students and teachers from another school for settling the requirements of artists in incidental aspects, it should be done with the shared consent and the approval of the relevant principals.
- 6.8 In case a student of a certain school participating in solo, duet or group item or a teacher of a certain school who contributed in training the relevant category in a certain school has obtained qualifications to participate in the All-Island Level subsequent to presenting themselves at the Provincial Level, has to get admitted to another school or to transfer to another school before the conduct of the All Island competition, the person should be allowed only for this year to represent the school in which he/she appeared in the Provincial level earlier.
- 6.9 When a student has left school education subsequent to obtaining the leaving from the school, at the time that the final round is conducted, student who has obtained the second place in the Province will get that opportunity if it an individual item and if it is a group item, the school gets the opportunity to replace that student with another student in the school. The information pertaining to this matter should be substantiated in writing.

7. Drama text and the content

- 7.1 The Dancing themes/ stories/ songs/ dialogues/ drama series that are created and produced for this competition should not cause racial, religious, caste discrimination and other anti-social behaviour and such ideas should not be produced through these creations and they should not be interpreted in a manner that such ideas are promoted. Moreover, the competitors should avoid presenting creations by which a certain social group gets embarrassed due to the presentation of different racial, religious, cultural and political ideologies that a person adopts and represents.
- 7.2 All the creations should be appropriate and should not be contradictory to the accepted values of the School System and the language they use should not be informal. This matter should be considered carefully when selecting the presentations related to the items of the category 2.
- 7.3 The scripts which are not compatible with the above mentioned conditions in relation to the content will be rejected from the 1st round of this festival.
- 7.4 In the drama productions of the category 1, the script of the drama should be written by the principal, a teacher or a student of the school.

8. Evaluation

- 8.1 The Ministry of Education will appoint the Board of Evaluators for the evaluation at the Provincial Level and the All Island Festival out of the pool of expert resource personnel recommended by the Subcommittee of the State Drama of the Sri Lanka Arts Council.
- 8.2 Since the evaluation of a Drama is a complex process where it is required to specifically evaluate about 10 different fields within one creation, the Board of Evaluators and evaluation that takes place in this Competition in any occasion will not be based on the mathematical/numerical factors. Minimum of three and maximum of six members of Evaluators will be appointed in the National Level based on the requirements on the fields of evaluation. The evaluation given by the Board of Evaluators appointed to a certain Item with their mutual concurrence pertaining to each field of evaluation will only be accepted by the Ministry of Education as the final judgment.
- 8.3 As per the geographically different distribution of Dramatic Art of this Country and as per the procedure adopted in all the other leading drama festivals and competitions conducted by the government, the Provincial Evaluation of this festival will be conducted by a General Evaluation Board. All the creations of the Category A and B that will be made to undergo a Provincial Evaluation will be graded as follows according to their level of quality. This classification is done in order to encourage to make the creation better before the National Level is conducted and a kind of guidance pertaining to the standard that should be maintained in a creation belonging to Grade A will be published in www.moe.gov.lk, the Web site of the Ministry of Education.

A Grade - A good production

B Grade – A satisfactory production

C Grade - A weak Production

- 8.4 Incidental elements such as makeup, drama costumes and background creations will not be evaluated in the Provincial level. When presenting the drama which will be selected and presented in the National festival, incidental elements related to the creation should be used.
- 8.5 It is allowed to use recorded music and sound combinations if required for certain items in this festival. However for the use of such music/sound appliances, the respective school should find suitable means/options, since the organisers of the festival are not liable to provide with electricity from main supply to the halls where the dramas are staged.
- 8.6 Using fire in the dramas is banned and fixing lighting equipment and using smoking machines is totally banned.
- 8.7 Fixing a new background and removing a fixed background should be done within 10 minutes. The school that presents the first item under a certain item too should fix the background before the Evaluation Board after the evaluation Board got seated.

- 8.8 The main curtain should be kept open all the time and fixing and removing backgrounds should be done in a way it can be seen by the Evaluation Board and the others. The relevant school is entrusted upon the creative challenge of preparing the background in a way it can be easily fixed and used safely during the performance and removed easily from the stage at the end within the allocated time period. The backgrounds which are not fixed and removed during the given time will be rejected from evaluating them under the background creations.
- 8.9 In the evaluation of Dramas presented for any item of the Festival, the staging of Dramas belonging to all the Items other than the Items in the Category B will be compulsorily be done on a theatre with a proscenium Stage which is suitable for staging a Drama.
- 8.10 If the evaluation of drama is done through more than one Board of Evaluators in any Festival Occasion, it is compulsory to provide schools with a time table including the location of such Boards of Evaluators and the Items submitted to the relevant Boards at the earliest possible.
- 8.11 Equal places will not be offered under any item. Additional Dramas under a certain item from a Province will not be selected to the All Island level excluding the 1st place and the recommendations of the Jury.
- 8.12 Dramas and Drama elements determined by the Evaluation Board as items that do not satisfy the required achievement level will not be selected from the Provincial level to the National level or for receiving awards in the National level.
- 8.13 In case one or several conditions pertaining to the number of persons participated and the range of classes that can take part in the competition are violated in any occasion of the Festival in accordance with the conditions mentioned under the Items in this Circular, children should not pay compensation for that. Since it is a joint responsibility of teachers who contribute in the presentation of the creation in compliance with the Circular, the right to hold the certificates by all the teachers representing the school will be revoked.
- 8.14 If it is revealed that any fraudulent activities have taken place in relation to the aforementioned facts of this Circular in any occasion of the festival or after the festival, disciplinary action will be taken against the teachers responsible and the disciplinary orders recommended will be executed against such teachers including the abolishment of the right of presenting drama to any Festival or Competition representing the School system in any occasion in the future.
- 8.15 It is the responsibility of the respective school to come to the school where the relevant Evaluation Board is located prior to the scheduled time indicated in the time table and to get registered before the time that the Organizing Committee invites you on the stage to perform the item according to the time table. Any school that does not report to the relevant Evaluation Board at the given time will be considered as a non-participatory school.
- 8.16 Residential facilities will not be provided for the students of the schools that participate in the National round by the Ministry of Education. The Ministry only

provides information of the schools from which such facilities can be obtained for the ease of the students that require residential facilities.

- 8.17 National and Provincial results will be declared on the same day of conducting the relevant round.

9. Discipline

- 9.1 The principals and teachers in charge of the crew should pay special attention on the safety, conduct, and guardianship of the students brought to the centres where particular occasions of the festival are held.
- 9.2 The guardianship of girls will be vested to lady teachers while the male teachers will be vested with the guardianship of boys.
- 9.3 The guardians will be liable for any undue incident, if happened. Parents should not be made involved in any of the occasions related to this festival.
- 9.4 It is considered that all the schools applied for and taking part in the festival and their related parties are abided by all the aforementioned rules and regulations to be followed at any occasion of the Festival and to accept the judgment by the Evaluation Board with no condition.
- 9.5 No appeal against the judgments made by the Evaluation Board should be forwarded and such appeals will not be entertained referring to the clause 9.4 of this circular through which a school is regarded as to comply with the judgment by the Evaluation Board right at the initial occasion of applying for the Festival.
- 9.6 Disciplinary action will be taken against those teachers or students if any, in case their behavior disturbs the procedures in the organizing of the Festival or if engaged in any unsuitable acts.
- 9.7 It is prohibited to bring journalists or photographers at any occasion of the Festival to cover up the items related to one's own school without prior permission of the Ministry of Education.
- 9.8 The Festival is an official duty of the Ministry of Education. Official correspondence pertaining to a particular school at any occasion of the Festival should be made only among the principal of that school, the related Provincial Director and the Director/ Aesthetics on behalf of the Secretary to the Ministry of Education. Any other parties of one's school should not be made intervened into such official correspondence and it is the responsibility of the principal not to make involved any parties / stakeholders outside the system of education in any such correspondence.
- 9.9 Since time tables of the phases of the National Festival are provided, participation in the pre-instructing meeting scheduled to be conducted in Colombo is compulsory. The schools which do not complete and submit the format named "Principal's special declaration" along with the signature of the principal provided prior to participating in the final round will not be permitted to stage their dramas.

- 9.10 The inability of any school to refer these rules and regulations or not referring these rules and regulations will not be a matter of excuse. Action will be taken against those responsible parties considering that the detrimental effects that can be caused to the children in any such case are due to the fact of irresponsibility / carelessness of those responsible.

10. Establishing Identity

- 10.1 It is required for all the participants to keep stand by a valid identity card to be produced at any point of proof of identity is necessary.
- 10.2 A list of names certified by the principal will be accepted as a valid certification only for the students of primary section,.
- 10.3 For the students with neither the national identity card nor the postal identity card, a photograph of him/her with the signature of the student should be signed by the principal of the respective school and certified by the relevant Divisional Director of Education or Director/ aesthetics or by any subject Director of the educational zone.
- 10.4 Those who are unable to prove their identity will have to be expelled from the Festival

11. Awarding Merits and Certificates

- 11.1 A process of awarding certificates to the students who win in Provincial level should be organized in Provincial level. Certificates will be awarded to the National level winners by the Ministry.
- 11.2 Certificates will be awarded for the following aspects in relation to the respective specializations of the Items.
- The Best Production 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places
 - The best Direction
 - The Male Student who presented the best role playing. 1st , 2nd , and 3rd places (for the Category A)
 - The Female Student who presented the best role playing. 1st , 2nd , and 3rd places (Category A)
 - The best Make Up (Category A)
 - The best costume design (Category A)
 - The best Stage set Design (Category A)
 - The Best Music composition / Best music - voice combination (Category A)
 - The Best Choreography
 - The Best Stage Management (Category A)
 - The Best role playing/ Story-Telling, 1st , 2nd , and 3rd places (for the Category B)
 - Special Merit awards of the Evaluation panel
- 11.3 The selection of the male or female student for the performance of best role playing should be based on the gender of the performer but not the gender of the role played by him/her.

Items and Item Numbers

Category A – Scenes from Recommended Masterpieces

EA.1 Reproducing the scenes from Recommended works of Foreign Dramatists

It is expected to reproduce the selected scenes/sections from the works of recommended Dramatists.

EA.1.1 Senior Secondary Section: Recommended Foreign Dramatist: Tennessee Williams

- It is expected to reproduce a suitable section from any play by renowned American playwright Tennessee Williams.

EA.2 Reproducing the scenes from Greco-Roman and Shakespearean Plays

EA.2.1 Senior Secondary Section: Greek and Roman Tragedies

- It is expected to reproduce a suitable section from any Greek or Roman Tragedy.

EA.2.2 Senior Secondary Section: Shakespearean Dramas

- It is expected to reproduce a suitable section from 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare.

General conditions that is applicable for the items numbered EA.1.1, EA.2.1, EA.2.2

- Participation is limited to the students from grades 10-13.
- Maximum duration of performance is 15 minutes.
- Number of participants may be decided according to the requirements of the text.
- The selected portion must comply with the original text and must not be altered or disfigured.
- The selected portion must be suitable to the school.
- All the other incidental arts should not be used in a way of damaging the original text.
- It is allowed to use Live and Recorded music.

Category B – (Role Play and Story-telling)

The aim of the role play item is to evaluate the acting ability of the performer through his or her verbal theatrical presentation. It is expected to select a part of a monologue/soliloquy of a character in a recommended drama and present it theatrically.

When presenting a story, it is expected to theatrically present a local/foreign folk tale, fable or any suitable contemporary story.

EB.1. Story-telling -Theatrical performance/ presentation of a story

EB.1.1 Senior Secondary Section: (10-13 Grades) Group - Story-telling

- Must present any local or foreign folk tale, a fable, or any suitable contemporary tale, in such a way that its characters, dramatic situations are highlighted in its theatrical performance.
- It is allowed to use costumes, props, simple and essential stage settings such as a table, a chair etc. in a minimalistic manner.
- There is no categorization of gender. (Both male and female students can take part irrespective of their gender.)
- The duration should be in between 05 -08 minutes.
- Maximum number of participants are 05.
- It is allowed to use musical instruments/ hand puppets/ puppets etc. that can be handled only by those 05 performers.

EB.2. Role Play Items

EB.2.1 Senior Secondary Section: (10-13 Grades) Single - Monologue Presentation

- Recommended Text: Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
- There is no categorization of gender. (Both male and female students can take part irrespective of their gender).

EB.2.2 Senior Secondary Section: (10-13 Grades) - Duet – Dialogue Presentation

- Recommended Texts: A Dolls House (Henrik Ibsen), Julius Caesar (William Shakespeare).

General conditions that is applicable for the items numbered as, EB.1.1, EB.2.1, EB.2.2

- The duration should be in between 03 -05 minutes.
- The sense of the original product should not be damaged while the text of the original product should not be changed.
- Liberty will be there for the positive interpretations of the sense of the original text.
- The selected part of the dialogue should be presented by memory. When evaluating items under the Item of Solo, the quality of acting will be assessed prominently, and in addition, the duration of the presentation will also be considered.
- No allowances to prompt the text.
- The Evaluation Board can stop the presentation once it exceeds the prescribed time duration of a particular Item.
- All the students should present their item in a black T-shirt and jeans and should not wear make up or costumes of the character.

- Anything other than an essential instrument needed in acting or other simple stage setting (for eg: a table / chair) should not be utilized.
- No background music or sounds should be used.
- No singing should be included.
- Duet presentations will be assessed as a single unit and the participants in the duet will not be evaluated seperately.
- There is no need for the selected dialogues / parts of the dialogue being divided in an approximate proportion in between the two presenters.