



2008-2009 National Youth Theatre Awards Theatre Guidelines

Theatre Production Criteria:

- Present youth theatre productions in a public performance space within the United States of America.
- Present productions open to the public.
- To qualify as a “youth theatre production,” a majority of the cast and a majority of the principal players must be 19 years or younger. However, actors performing in a non-youth production who are 18 years or younger are also eligible for National Youth Theatre Awards.
- The theatre year for the National Youth Theatre Awards runs to the second-to-the-last Sunday in May, after which the new awards cycle begins. The same run of a show may not be adjudicated over two different theatre years. Any show judged after the cutoff day in May will be considered for next year’s awards. If a show is judged based on a videotaped performance, the performance shall have taken place no more than 17 months prior to the awards deadline for which it will be considered.
- If a production has been previously adjudicated, it can be adjudicated again, but the same performer cannot win a second award for the same role in a remount of the show, nor can the same designer win a second award for the same design, nor can the director win a second award for a remount of a show unless at least some of the principal roles have been re-cast.
- Contact the National Youth Theatre Board of Directors for clarification.

Guidelines for Original Script and Original Productions:

1. Original script and original production means a play or a musical, both the book and the music, which has not been produced previously.
2. Adaptations from published literary works may be adjudicated as “original” work.
3. Musicals or “plays with music” must have mainly original music to be adjudicated in the “original” category.
4. Revues of previously published music will not be adjudicated in the “original script” or “original production” category.

Theatres’ Responsibilities:

1. Theatres should keep us posted on their upcoming shows. The earlier notice, the better our chances of having a judge present.
2. Only two complimentary tickets should be supplied to each judge (or an alternate) for the judge and a guest, subject to availability. You are under no obligation to provide more than the two complimentary tickets per judge.
3. If a judge was scheduled to come and did not arrive, please contact the judge immediately. If you are unable to contact the judge, please contact us as soon as possible in case we are able to get another judge out to the show.
4. If we do not have a judge who can attend your show, but you have made a recording of it and either have permission to send it out for review or will allow a judge to come and watch the taped production, we will be happy to adjudicate your taped show providing the performance took place no more than 17 months prior to the awards deadline for which it will be considered. Be sure to include a program with the video so that we have a complete cast list.
5. Please keep a list of any problem judges to be submitted throughout the season and/or at the end of the season. Judges who are no-shows or are consistently late will be removed as a National Youth Theatre Awards judge.
6. If the program lists more than one name for a character or if any understudies have performed in place of the listed cast member, it is the theatre’s responsibility to inform the judge which actor is being seen at that performance.
7. Theatre personnel should not solicit the scores from the judge.
8. In the event a submitted production is cancelled, each theatre must contact any judges scheduled for that production. It is important to let everyone know as soon as possible.
10. Some theatre companies have more than one venue for their season. Please communicate clearly to the judge which location he or she will be attending at the time of the reservation. Furthermore, the Liaison must have this

information in writing four weeks in advance of the opening. Failure to do so will result in that show not being adjudicated.

11. Please keep National Youth Theatre posted on any changes in theatre contact information including changes in venue, business, address, telephone, contact person, etc.

13. Theatre companies registering for National Youth Theatre Awards adjudication are subject to review by members of the Board of Directors to ensure compliance with the guidelines stated above. Upon receipt in writing of a minimum of three complaints by judges concerning any registered theatre, that theatre company and its productions will be subject to review for continued participation in the National Youth Theatre Awards process.

14. Judges are also subject to review. Theatres have the right to submit in writing any complaints or concerns about judges, especially concerning irresponsibility. Please keep these complaints professional and specific. Address your complaints to the National Youth Theatre Board of Directors. All such letters will be filed and judges will be reviewed concerning further participation.

How the Awards are Determined:

Our judges will submit scorecards for each show they judge. In May, at the official end of the awards season, each judge who has judged a minimum of five shows spread out over a minimum of three different theatre venues will submit a list of nominations, up to two nominations per show. The nominations will be made in order of priority, and will include a score between 1 and 10.

Based on these nominations and the scorecards, the National Youth Theatre Awards Committee will calculate the “average score” and the “nominee points” for each nominee as follows:

Nominee Points: The rankings of each judge’s nominations are used to determine the Nominee Points, based on the percentile of each ranking. A judge’s top nominee will always get 100 points. If a judge saw 10 shows, they could make up to 20 nominations. Their top nominee would get 100 points, their 2nd nominee would get 95 points, their 10th nominee would get 50 points, and their 20th nominee would get 5 points. If two or more judges nominated the same performance or person, those Nominee Points will be added together and averaged, and then given a “multiple-nominee” bonus of 10 points to recognize that more than one judge thought it nomination-worthy.

Average Score: An average of the scores from all judges who saw the production or performance.

The Average Score and Nominee Points for each nominee will then be ranked in comparison to all other nominees, and the Nominee Points will also be ranked by awards category. The rank for the Nominee Points, the rank of the Nominee Points by Category, and the rank for Average Score will be added together. That sum will give us the Total Ranking for each nominee.

Awards will be awarded based on the Total Ranking. The actual number of awards will be determined by the Awards Committee, but will generally range from the top 1/3 to the top 2/3 of all nominees. Those who do not receive awards, but ranked within the top 75% of nominees, will be honored as “Nominees.” In determining the awards, the calculations may be broken down into separate regions as the Committee sees fit based on the geographic distribution of plays judged.

The calculation is complicated, but here’s an example:

Judge A reviewed 20 shows and made 40 nominations. The judge ranked Jane Doe as her 3rd nomination with a score of 9.8, and John Smith as her 30th nomination with a score of 8.6.

Judge B reviewed 10 shows and made 20 nominations. The judge ranked Jane Doe as her 15th nomination with a score of 9.2, and John Smith as her 10th nomination with a score of 9.3.

Judge C reviewed 6 shows and made 12 nominations. The judge ranked Jane Doe as his 2nd nomination with a score of 9.3, did not nominate John Smith, but gave him a score of 6.3.

The calculation of the Nominee Points would go as follows:

Jane Doe:

3rd nomination out of 40 = 95

15th nomination out of 20 = 30

2nd nomination out 12 = 91.7

95 + 30 + 91.7 divided by 3 = 72.2 + 10 (bonus points for multiple nominee) = 82.2 Nomination Points, ranking #11 out of 200 nominees, and ranking #3 in her category.

John Smith:

30th nomination out of 40 = 27.5

10th nomination out of 20 = 55

27.5 + 55 = 82.5 divided by 2 = 41.25 + 10 (bonus points for multiple nominee) = 51.25 Nomination Points, ranking #90 out of 200 nominees, and ranking #8 in his category.

The calculation of the Average Score would go as follows:

Jane Doe: $9.8 + 9.2 + 9.3 = 28.3$ divided by 3 = 9.433, ranking #25 out of 200 nominees

John Smith: $8.6 + 9.3 + 6.3 = 24.2$ divided by 3 = 8.067, ranking #150 out of 200 nominees

The calculation of the Total Ranking:

Jane Doe: $11 + 3 + 25 = 39$

John Smith: $90 + 8 + 150 = 248$

Result:

- Jane Doe's Total Ranking of 39 will surely be within the top third of all Total Rankings, and she will win a National Youth Theatre Award.
- John Smith's Total Ranking of 248 will probably fall below the top half of all Total Rankings (in this example, 205 will likely be the half-way mark), but he will likely be a Nominee within the top $\frac{3}{4}$ of the rankings.

Special Awards:

The Awards Committee will evaluate the scorecards and nominations for any possible "Special Awards." These would include any "Artist of the Year" awards, which would be considered for anyone who was nominated for three separate performances or categories on three different shows. Other awards that would fall under this category would be a "Lifetime Contribution to Youth Theatre," the "Creativity Award," or any other award that the Awards Committee may be inspired to present.