



## **THESPYS 2023**

The Thespiean Excellence Awards (or Thespys) are intended to be a non-competitive, educational offering for students. Students have the opportunity to receive constructive feedback from professional judges on their prepared theatrical material and technical designs.

*The goal for participating students is to find their strengths and weaknesses and to grow as theatre artists. **Competing in the Thespys is optional and open to all ITS Thespiean delegates affiliated with schools attending the Festival.***

*Any student, troupe director or registered chaperone is able to attend any of the Thespy sessions as an observer. Seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. Keep in mind that these events include an adjudication process; *audience members need to remain quiet throughout each session.* Entrance and exits to the rooms are at the discretion of the door guard.*

**To ensure high quality and solid preparation, we encourage directors to hold troupe auditions before submitting their Delegate Thespy Form. Once selected, please make sure to view any pieces that may be performed to ensure the content is suitable for all high school audiences and is a good fit for your student(s).**

### ***Event Categories:***

#### **Performance**

Solo Musical Theatre Dance  
Duet Musical Theatre Dance  
Group Musical Theatre Dance  
Solo Acting  
Duet Acting  
Group Acting  
Solo Musical Theatre Performance  
Duet Musical Theatre Performance  
Group Musical Theatre Performance

#### **Technical**

Costume Design  
Costume Construction  
Theatre Marketing  
Short Film (3 genres)  
Scenic Design  
Lighting Design  
Playwriting  
Stage Management  
Props Design (BETA)  
Directing (BETA)  
Sound Design  
Make-Up Design

## **Please review the Thespy Rubrics and Program Guide**

### **Thespys Rubrics:**

[Thespy Rubrics - All except Dance, Props, and Directing](#)

[Directing Thespy Information & Rubric - BETA TEST](#)

[Props Thespy Information & Rubric - BETA TEST](#)

## **Thespy Program Guide - 2023:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x3x2Sa8UZbjKLDXSEHtoBmX2gcikTbIc/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x3x2Sa8UZbjKLDXSEHtoBmX2gcikTbIc/view?usp=drive_link)

### ***Judging Process for Thespys:***

A team of expert judges will be selected to evaluate each thespsy category. Each team will consist of three judges. They will give written feedback on festival forms and individually rank each event as Superior, Excellent, or Good. These scores will then be combined to award the competitor(s) an overall ranking of (4) SUPERIOR, (3) EXCELLENT, (2) GOOD, or (2) FAIR in the category. In the event that there should be more than three judges, only the top three scores will be used. In the event that there are only two judges, the highest score will be counted twice.

**Copies of the judge's evaluation forms will be provided to directors in a packet or via email at the conclusion of the Festival.**

*The rankings are compiled in the following manner:*

SUPERIOR + SUPERIOR + SUPERIOR	= SUPERIOR
SUPERIOR + SUPERIOR + EXCELLENT	= SUPERIOR
SUPERIOR + SUPERIOR + GOOD	= SUPERIOR
SUPERIOR + EXCELLENT + EXCELLENT	= EXCELLENT
SUPERIOR + EXCELLENT + GOOD	= EXCELLENT
EXCELLENT + EXCELLENT + EXCELLENT	= EXCELLENT
SUPERIOR + GOOD + GOOD	= EXCELLENT
EXCELLENT + EXCELLENT + GOOD	= EXCELLENT
EXCELLENT + GOOD + GOOD	= GOOD
GOOD + GOOD + GOOD	= GOOD

### ***Recognition for Participants***

*Recipients of overall Excellent or Superior ratings receive certificates for individual achievement. In addition, every Superior award recipient will receive a medal.*

**Anyone receiving an overall Superior rating is automatically eligible to compete in the Thespys Competition at the International Thespian Festival.** Students choosing to participate in this event must secure the rights to perform their selections. ITF events are separate from the Michigan Thespian Festival and require an additional fee and separate registration if you want to attend.

### **Judging and Score Sheets will be on OpenWater:**

To streamline the judging process and make sure everyone has access to their scores and notes, we will be moving Thespy registration and judging sheets to the OpenWater website (this is the same site used for Thespian Scholarships). This will require directors to go onto Openwater to put in their students Thespy information after they complete the initial registration excel sheet. This is something new and an added step, but we hope it will alleviate any issues that we have had in past years with paper judging during festival.

The link to register your Thespys can be found [Here](#)

You must register all of your Thespys on Openwater by Oct. 27th (in addition to listing on your excel registration spreadsheet that you email to [mithesfest@gmail.com](mailto:mithesfest@gmail.com))

### **General Rules for all Thespys:**

- **Students competing in Thespys MUST be a member of the International Thespian Society and need to be affiliated with an attending school's theatre arts/drama program.**
- **Students are allowed to compete in a maximum of (2) events.** Schools can send up to (2) participants/groups per category.
- **All Individual Events/Thespy participants must be registered for the Festival by Oct. 27th. Thespys are NOT an option after Oct. 27th (no late registration for these events). This means listing them in your registration spreadsheet and registering them in OpenWater.**
- **Music-related events must provide their own music and whatever device is necessary to play that music at an appropriate volume for their piece. The Festival does not guarantee use of a provided music player. You are advised to have a backup copy of your music. If you wish to use a CD, you must bring a CD player.**
- **For Performance Events there is no use of props.** Use of props will result in an automatic reduction of one full ranking.
- **Please refer to the FULL Thespys Program guide as it details event rules and guidelines and provides links to rubrics and other resources. The student is responsible for learning, understanding and adhering to all the rules and regulations set for by EdTA as it pertains to the Thespys Program.**
- Any event going overtime is automatically lowered one full ranking. Timing will begin on the first word or action after the introduction (slate).
- No Thespy events can be added after the 10/27 deadline. Changes or substitutions can be emailed to the Thespy Coordinator until Nov. 10th. Only drops are allowed after Nov. 10th. There are no refunds for any drops or changes.

### **PLAYWRITING AND SHORT FILM SUBMISSIONS**

You must register these events with your Delegate form (by Oct. 27th) but the actual work must be submitted according to these rules:

**You will submit your files and/or links to Openwater when you register for the Event. There will be a space on the registration page to submit these. Playwriting and Short Film submissions MUST be uploaded to Openwater by Nov. 10th.**

*\*As a reminder, the Michigan Thespian Festival follows the International Thespian Festival rules and forms set by the Educational Theatre Association. Specific rules for each event category are available for download via this link:*

<https://thespys.secure-platform.com/a/page/categories>

If you have questions about the Thespys, please contact our Thespy Coordinator:

**Megan Weeks** [mweeks@michiganthespians.org](mailto:mweeks@michiganthespians.org)

**The student performers' schedule for Thespy events will be available when directors check-in at the Festival.** However, if you anticipate a problem with scheduling, please contact Megan Weeks as soon as possible. *Thespy events take place on the Friday of the Festival.*

*Please note:*

Students scoring Superior in more than one event and wishing to advance to the International Thespian Festival, will have to choose which event they would like to compete with at the International Festival; they will only allow one event per person. Dance is not a Thespy category at the International Festival.