

**National
Society of Arts
and Letters**



2027 Drama Competition

May 20-22

Lexington, KY

First Place Award of \$15,000



2027



National Society of Arts & Letters Drama Competition

May 20 - May 22, 2027 | Lexington, Kentucky

National Competition Rules

1. Competition participants (hereafter referred to as 'actor' or 'actors') are expected to demonstrate a high level of talent and aptitude as well as career potential. An actor may not possess representation through a talent agency or management company. They may not be a member of any of the performance unions (e.g., SAG/AFTRA, AEA, AGMA) at the time of the competition.
2. The Drama Competition is open to actors who are at least 18 years-old but have not yet reached their 29th birthday as of May 21, 2027. Proof of birthdate must be supplied. A copy of a birth certificate, passport or state-issued ID may serve as proof.
3. Actors must be lawful residents of the United States at the time of the competition. A social security number, passport, and/or visa documentation may serve as proof.
4. Actors may not be the immediate family of any NSAL member involved in competition decision-making at the chapter or national levels.
5. Actors must have competed in and been declared the sole first-place winner of an NSAL Chapter Competition prior to entering the National Competition. The actor may choose a chapter in the area where they reside or where they are enrolled in a college, university, or

acting school. If there is no chapter in their hometown or in their place of residence, actors may enter the competition of the nearest chapter. Please see Chapter Competition Contacts on the final page.

6. Actors may not compete in more than one chapter competition.
7. Actors must be present in Lexington, Kentucky for the entire period from May 20 – May 22. Actors must attend the orientation session and member meet-and-greet held on May 20, the competition on May 21, and the Master Class and Awards Dinner on May 22.
8. Expenses related to the competition are the responsibility of the sponsoring chapter.
9. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of the National Competition will perform their selections at the Awards Ceremony on May 22, 2027.
10. The meaning and interpretation of the above rules, along with local chapter and contestant rules, will be determined by NSAL. If such meaning or interpretation is unclear or contested, the decision of NSAL National will be final and binding.

Performance Requirements

1. Actors must present three memorized monologues, one from each of the categories below. The selections must be from published or produced plays. Proof of publication or production will be required. Participants are encouraged to select a variety of comedic and dramatic pieces as actors will be adjudicated on their emotional, intellectual, physical, and vocal ranges. Please note that while some playwrights' work may span from Modern to 20th Century or from 20th Century to Contemporary, actors are encouraged to follow the time periods offered and create variety within their selections.
2. In their application, actors must include the scripts of the scenes from which their monologues have been selected, as well as the plays' publication or production information. Actors must also identify their character name and monologue page numbers for each selection.
3. Upon entering the stage, actors will slate with their participant number, the title of the play, playwright, and the name of the character of ALL selections in the order of performance. This slate will not count towards the performance time.
4. The total performance time may not exceed ten (10) minutes total time for all selections. Transition time will be included in the timing.
5. A chair will be available on stage. Hand props, costumes or recorded sound are not permitted.

6. Actors must wear non-restrictive black clothing and shoes.

Monologue Selection Categories

Category 1, Classical to Modern Theatre (Time Period: Greek/Roman to 1920/1930s)

Category Goals:

- Demonstrate an intellectual understanding of the heightened language.
- Sustain the vocal and imaginative energy through the large thoughts of the text.
- Display the ability to embody the given circumstances of the different time period.

Examples of possible playwrights (this list is in no way exhaustive):

Aeschylus	Aristophanes	Aphra Behn
Anton Chekhov	William Congreve	Noel Coward
Euripides	Jean Giraudoux	Oliver Goldsmith
Henrik Ibsen	Guang Hanqing	Ben Jonson
Christopher Marlowe	Moliere	Zeami Motokiyo
Luigi Pirandello	Plautus	William Shakespeare
George Bernard Shaw	William Brinsley	Sheridan Sophocles
August Strindberg	John Millington Synge	John Webster
Oscar Wilde		

Category 2, 20th Century (Time Period: 1940-2000)

Category Goals:

- Display an understanding of the given circumstances of the play and character.
- Demonstrate the depth of emotional and imaginative choices.
- Display the ability to create strong physical and vocal choices.

Examples of possible playwrights (this list is in no way exhaustive):

Edward Albee	Tina Howe	Yasmina Reza
Samuel Beckett	Langston Hughes	Peter Shaffer
Bertolt Brecht	Eugene Ionesco	Ntozake Shange
Caryl Churchill	Adrienne Kennedy	Jon Patrick Shanley
Christopher Durang	Tony Kushner	Sam Shephard
Michael Frayn	Terrance McNally	Wendy Wasserstein
John Guare	Arthur Miller	Tennessee Williams
Lorraine Hansberry	Neil Simon	August Wilson
Lillian Hellman	Tom Stoppard	Lanford Wilson
Beth Henley	David Rabe	Paula Vogel

Category 3, Contemporary (Time Period: 2001-Present)

Category Goals:

- In addition to the performance goals of the previous categories, contemporary selections should demonstrate the actor's range, identity and/or artistic vision.
- Non-traditional works or devised pieces are acceptable as long as they meet the published/produced criteria.

Examples of playwrights could include (this list is in no way exhaustive):

Annie Baker	Quiara Alegría Hudes	Tarell Alvin McCraney
Nilo Cruz	David Henry Hwang	Martin McDonagh
Lisa D'Amour	James Ijames	Dominique Morriseau
Jackie Siblies Drury	Branden Jacobs-Jenkins	Lynn Nottage
Qui Nguyen	Richard Greenberg	Rajiv Joseph
Robert O'Hara	Stephen Adly Guirgis	Moises Kaufman
Suzan-Lori Parks	Katori Hall	Young Jean Lee
Sarah Ruhl	Jeremy O. Harris	Tracy Letts
Sanaz Toossi	Ike Holter	Nancy García Loza

Questions? Please contact

National Chair Dr. Emily Goodell, NSALDrama27@gmail.com

Contestant
Number



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

2027 Annual Awards Competition

May 20-22, Lexington, KY

www.arts-nsal.org

DRAMA

Please print in black ink or type — complete all four forms.

CONTESTANT APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Cell phone (____) _____

Current Address: Street [Apt. No.] _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Last four digits of Social Security # _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____ Sex _____ U.S. Citizen [] Yes

Other form of legal residence and citizenship or legal residence. _____

Enclose a photocopy of passport, birth certificate or other document verifying date of birth and citizenship or legal residence.

Address where you can always be reached:

c/o _____ Telephone (____) _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**Note: Contestant must include two recent headshot images.
Please make these be two different images not two of the same.**

[Add an extra sheet if necessary]

[illegible]

Institution	Location	Dates Attended	Degree

[Add an extra sheet if necessary]

[illegible]

Outstanding teachers and institutions where you studied and/or directors with whom you have worked and location(s): _____

Honors, Awards [as related to theatre] _____

Newspapers or other media where publicity about you should be sent:

Name: _____

Address or email: _____

Name: _____

Address or email: _____

Name: _____

Address or email: _____

Send completed application to the Chapter nearest your home or school residence.
You can find this on the Chapter contact list.

(Contestants do not write in this box.)

(TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAPTER)

To: Name of Chapter _____

Drama Chair Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER APPLICATION _____

Note: Contestant must enclose two differing, recent headshots images and a photocopy of the document verifying birthdate, permanent address, and citizenship or legal residence.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

2027 National Annual Awards Competition

CONTESTANT CERTIFICATION FORM

Please type or print in black ink

Contestant Name: _____

Chapter to which application is submitted: _____

Competition Information: Monologue Selection Categories

Category 1. Classical to Modern Theatre (Time Period: Greek/Roman to 1920/1930's)

Title of Classical Play: _____

Playwright: _____

Name of Character: _____

Scene & Act: _____

Category 2. 20th Century (Time Period: 1940-2000):

Title of Modern Play: _____

Playwright: _____

Name of Character: _____

Scene & Act: _____

Category 3. Contemporary (Time Period: 2001-Present):

Title of Modern Play: _____

Playwright: _____

Name of Character: _____

Scene & Act: _____

Certification: I certify that all of the information on this form and application is true and complete. I agree to conform to the rules and regulations of this competition and to be available from May 20 - 22, 2027 at the national competition should I be the Chapter first place winner. My name and photo may be used in NSAL publications and for publicity purposes on our website, social media and YouTube.

Contestant Signature (Required): _____

(If application is submitted by email, please type in full legal name. A hard copy signature will be required if the contestant is the Chapter first place winner.)

TO BE COMPLETED BY CHAPTER

Printed Name and Signature _____
(NSAL Chapter Drama Chair)

Printed Name and Signature _____
(NSAL Chapter Sponsor who will attend competition)

Chapter Contacts for National Drama Competition

National Society of Arts and Letters

Alabama: Birmingham Chapter

Chair: Les Filmer

205-608-3093

les.fillmer@earthlink.net

National Society of Arts and Letters Arizona

Chair: Devi Hajduk

602-350-1720

mhajduk@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters Arkansas

Chair: Jane Balgavy

501- 425-6139

janemorganbalgavy@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters Florida Chapter

President: Shari Upbin

shariupbin@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Hawaii Chapter

President: Brother Gary Morris

408-202- 9703

gmmorris@chaminade.edu

National Society of Arts and Letters Illinois Chapter

Co-Chair: Robert Brooks

Co-Chair: Emily Goodell

robert@robertbrooksjazz.com

GoodellEmilyM@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters Indiana Chapter

Chair: Johh Armstrong

johnarmstrongiu@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Iowa Chapter

Chair: Wayne (Wyn) Kischer

wkischher@icloud.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Kentucky Chapter

President: Twyla Martins

859-396-3842

trmarts@mac.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Saint Louis Chapter

President: Jeanne Zarucchi

zarucchi@umsl.edu

National Society of Arts and Letters

New Jersey: NJ, Delaware, and New England

President: Judy Martorelli

973-267-0952

smartorelly@verizon.net

National Society of Arts and Letters

New York Chapter

President: Margaret Johnson

716-451-4004

Mjohnson12339@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Ohio River Valley Chapter

Ohio and West Virginia

Chair: Karen Parlett

304-615-0076

kparlett@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Pittsburgh Chapter

Chair: Mindy Rossi-Stabler

(412) 860-9917

mindystabler@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters

Washington, D.C. Chapter

President: Ron Ivey

ronaldjivey@gmail.com