

2020

National Society of Arts & Letters

Musical Theater Competition

May 20 - 24, 2020

Chicago, IL

\$40,000 in Awards.

NSAL National Annual Awards Competition Rules **&** **Performance Requirements**

1. Contestants must be a citizen or legal resident of the United States or US Territories with a valid taxpayer identification number. Contestants must have a United States Social Security number and a United States residence address.
2. Contestants must show career potential but not be under exclusive contract to a theater, film or television agent at the time of competition and must not be under professional management.
3. Competition is open to contestants who have passed their 18th birthday but not yet reached their 26th birthday as of Friday, May 22, 2020. Proof of birthdate must be supplied. A photocopy of a birth certificate or recent passport will be acceptable.
4. Contestants may not be related to any member of NSAL involved in any decisions relating to the competitions at the chapter or national levels.
5. The best qualified candidate shall represent a chapter sponsoring a contestant at the national competition. National contestants must perform the same winning vocal selections and monologue performed in their chapter's competition. Full competition protocol will be observed at the national level.
6. A contestant may enter the competition of a chapter in the area where he / she has been residing or where he / she is enrolled in a college, graduate program or acting school. If there are no chapters in his / her hometown or place of residence, a contestant may enter the competition of the nearest chapter. Please see the list of chapters and competition chairs below.
7. Contestants may not compete in more than one chapter competition.

8. Contestants must be in Chicago for the entire period of May 20-24. Contestants should plan to check in at the competition hotel on May 20 by 3 PM. Contestants must attend the orientation session, his /her individual vocal rehearsal, the NSAL National Annual Awards Competition, the Master Class and the Annual Awards Dinner. During May 20 -23 the Society will also sponsor special events / activities for society members and contestants. Contestants are expected to attend these events / activities. All expenses are the responsibility of the sponsoring chapter.
9. The national finalists selected by the judges for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will perform at the Annual Awards Dinner on May 23, 2020.
10. The meaning and interpretation of the above rules, along with the local chapter and contestant rules will be determined by NSAL. If such meaning or interpretation is questioned or not understood, the decision of NSAL National will be final and binding.

Performance Requirements

1. Contestants must present two songs and a monologue from memory and in English. A contestant's vocal selections must be from the genre of American Musical Theater. Vocal selections must be from a published, produced work of musical theater and contestants must site publisher and year(s) of publication and initial production on their application. Each contestant must provide the judges with one copy of each one of their songs as well as their monologue upon arriving for the competition.
2. Vocal Selections should include one song from the Golden Age of Musicals (prior to 1960) and the Contemporary Musical Theater era (after 1960).
3. Contestant's vocal selections must include one up-tempo / comedy song and one ballad / soliloquy / lyric song. Selections must demonstrate contrasting characteristics.
4. Contestant's monologue selection must come from a published and produced American play or musical. Contestants must site playwright, publisher and year(s) of publication **and** production on their application.
5. Upon entering the stage, contestants will announce their contestant number, and the order of their performance pieces; including the titles of their songs and the title of the musicals from which they are taken, and the name of their characters in each, as well as the character and play from which their monologue is taken. The announcement time will not count in the performance time.
6. The total performance time may not exceed six (6) minutes for both songs and monologue. Transition time will be included in the timing.

7. Contestants will begin their performance after the timekeeper has announced “begin”. If a contestant’s performance exceeds 6 minutes the timekeeper will call “stop”, at which time the contestant must end their performance.
8. A chair will be available on stage. Hand props, costumes or recorded music / sound are not permitted.
9. Performance attire: Contestants must wear all black clothing and black shoes for their performance in the NSAL National Annual Awards Competition. Contestants are not to wear articles of clothing or jewelry that can be used as props.
10. Contestants will also participate in an adjudicated dance call component of the competition. During the dance call contestants will be taught a dance sequence which they will perform for the judges. Each contestant will be adjudicated on his /her ability to perform the dance sequence. A contestant’s dance score will be counted in their overall competition score. The dance call will be held prior to the vocal performance / monologue portion of the competition. During the dance call contestants should wear clothing appropriate for a professional musical theater dance audition. (Any color is permissible.) A contestant’s clothing should be comfortable and allow for freedom of movement during this portion of the competition. Following the dance call there will be a break in the competition schedule to allow adequate time to for contestants to change from dance clothing into the performance attire outlined in Performance Requirement #9.

Deadlines

Contestant applications are due to the NSAL Chapter nearest their homes or schools by the date set by the regional chapter. For Chapter addresses, see Chapter contacts below.

Chapters must send the application(s) of their finalist(s) to the National Chairs before the April 4, 2020 deadline.

National Musical Theater Competition Chairs:

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