
INTRODUCTION FROM THE STATE CHAIR

Hello all,

Chris Carter - your new High School State Chair here. It is my pleasure to write to you all with some quick updates. We had our first Executive Board Meeting of the year, followed by our High School Division District Chair Meeting this past Saturday and we were very productive.

Many of the things you voted on in the previous survey were passed (things like the original works category and costume construction - the complete list is available in the next section of this document, and you will see them in the proposed Trumbauer Manual.

We are ALSO seeking additional conversation and voting feedback from the districts. A few of these are bulleted below.

First the Pre-1975 Categories. Brian has made the registration information available to all of you so you can see the data trends in registering these categories. While no one wants to see these categories collapse, it is evident that there is very little participation in them. The proposed solutions are ways the district chairs and the leadership teams have used to solve the steady decline. A healthy category consists of 10 or more entries. Anything below five is problematic for many reasons, for example, Logistics, efficiency, and finances, and as I've mentioned before, I had a student place 1st in one of these categories. Still, she competed against no one, and the entire competition left the reward feeling meaningless. (She did receive some fantastic feedback and criticism, so it wasn't all negative.) Please look at the survey and VOTE. Your voice matters, and ultimately, we are all trying to do what is best for students while maintaining the festival's integrity. I don't think anyone questions that commitment and there are many paths forward we could collectively choose.

Second The number one request I have had so far in my tenure as the Vice-Chair, and now filling into the Chair position, is this: "How can we get everyone that earned a superior in a district i.e., the opportunity to compete at the state level?" If we were to solve that puzzle, the answer lies in seeking out larger "professional" venues. Convention Centers. I put out some requests for quotes on the actual cost of such places that can meet our needs, but we all know it will be more than what it is now because our excellent college hosts have provided our current venues for free. That means the entire cost of the festival would need to increase. If we lay the groundwork now for moving to a larger venue to try and remove caps at the district level, is this a goal we collectively as a membership want to accomplish? Or are we satisfied with the festival's size as it is now to keep the costs from increasing? I err' on the side of an increase. You will see a proposed cost schedule in the survey- These numbers may shift as it isn't entirely our (secondary divisions) decision. It is up to the ACT Executive Board to make these choices. However, we have been approved to open the discussion to you, and right or wrong- I would like to elicit your feedback. Feel free to email us with any questions you may have about this subject.

Lastly I have requested a specific technical event- Stage Management- to remove the requirement of it having to be a fully realized, entirely produced production. This is a personal goal, one I have asked of several district chairs before me but, for whatever reason, was shot down and never put up for a vote. Take a look at the proposed individual event rubric and adjudication sheet. This is the only technical event that requires a student to have been part of a fully realized show- and for most of us, that means only 2 or 3 students can even compete in this category per year total. I know not everyone has big programs and doesn't have as many students as I'm accustomed to working with, but I don't think anyone can disagree with the intent of getting more students involved. We have allowed students to use production footage from any theatrical performance to complete their prompt book paperwork. These exercises are similarly done at the collegiate level when studying stage management, and one of our MFA Teachers, whose Degree is actually in Stage Management, has helped to finalize this proposal. Please reach out with additional questions. If I had to choose one of the three things I want a YES on, it would be this one.

A few sponsors have also requested the ability to return to a meeting where all voices can be heard in the same room, and robust disagreements and discussions can be heard. I agree, and the appropriate time for that is at our Annual Summit meeting, which happens at the beginning of the school year. I am adamantly against a meeting like that during the state festival, as I believe it should be a time of celebration, awards, recognition, and fellowship. I look forward to seeing you all at this year's summit.

Thank you for your time and everything you do for the state of Alabama, your students, and the arts.

-Chris Carter

JANUARY 27 DISTRICT CHAIR VOTE RESULTS

1. ENSEMBLE PANTOMIME: Are you in favor of changing "Duet Pantomime" to "Duet/Ensemble Pantomime?" This would include min 2 to max 5 students and it would count toward a student's max 2 events.

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

2. DUET ACTING: Are you in favor of merging The Duet Acting Categories? There would be Duet Acting Comedic and 2) Duet Acting Dramatic

- NOT THE SAME AS ORIGINAL SURVEY, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

3. ORIGINAL WORKS CATEGORY: Are you in favor of creating an Original Works Category where students write and perform their own scenes? For the first year, solo and duets will compete in the same category.

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

4. COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CATEGORY: Are you in favor of creating a Costume Construction Category?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

5. TECHNICAL CATEGORY CAPS: Are you in favor of reducing the caps on technical categories from 30 to 25?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

6. PLAY FESTIVAL RULES: Are you in favor of adding the rule for Studio and One-Acts: "Lip-syncing is not permitted"?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

7. PLAY FESTIVAL RULES: Are you in favor of changing **FROM** "Fog, haze effects, etc. are not allowed" **TO** "Fog, haze effects, etc. must be approved by the host facility prior to use"?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

8. ONE-ACT RULES: Are you in favor of adding the statement: "If a panel of 5 judges is used, the highest and lowest scores will be dropped before calculating the final average." to the One-Act Rules?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

9a. STUDIO CAPS: Are you in favor changing the formula calculated for Studio Theatre to be based on 14 to account for rounding?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

9b. ONE-ACT CAPS: Are you in favor changing the formula calculated for One-Act to be based on 12 to account for rounding?

- NOT IN ORIGINAL SURVEY, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

10. STUDIO QUESTION: Should a PROP be able to be rolled on the stage if able to be rolled on by one person? (rolling white board, hot dog cart, stroller, etc).

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

11. STUDIO QUESTION: Should a prop be able to be brought out and set down to be used later in the Performance?

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

12. SHOW REPLACEMENT: Are you in favor of adding the procedure to the manual: If a show withdraws after they have been passed to state, the State Chair will draw an additional wildcard as outlined in the wildcard section above. * If time slots have already been drawn, all non-wildcard shows will be offered the opportunity to be placed in a drawing for the timeslot of the school that withdrew. * If a new wildcard card is drawn to replace the withdrawn show, that performance will get the time of the school that won the drawing for the new time slot.

- REVISION: If a show withdraws after they have been passed to the State Festival and there are other eligible shows from that District, the show with the next highest score from that District will be allowed to take that slot. If there are no other eligible shows from that District, a wild card from all other superiors in the state will be drawn.
- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

13. PLAY FESTIVAL WRISTBANDS: Are you in favor of adding a new wristband policy to the manual: **WRISTBANDS:** * Participants may remove their wristbands prior to the performance and give them to their sponsor. *The sponsor will turn all wristbands into the stage manager in exchange for a packet of new wristbands.

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

14. ONE-ACT RULES 10x10: Are you in favor of adding this rule to the manual? Unstable or dangerously stacked 10x10's may be subject to disqualification.

- REVISION: Remove "or dangerously stacked" as that is subjective and would require more defining
- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

15. ONE-ACT RULES LIGHTING: Are you in favor of adding this rule to the manual: Some venues may offer additional lighting opportunities at their discretion. Contact the District or State Chair for specifics.

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

16. IE SELECTIONS: Are you in favor of adjusting the statements to the manual: 1) Individual participants may not use selections they have previously used in any ACT sponsored festival. 2) A school may not enter a selection featured in its Studio Theatre or One-Act Play Festival entry, but may enter a selection from the same show that was not featured in the performance.

- REVISION: 1) Individual participants may not use selections they have previously used in any ACT sponsored festival within the last 5 years.
- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

17. STATE IE TROPHIES: Are you in favor of "All Trophies will all be 2.5 inch trophies on white base with drama topper. The Ranking, Category, and Year will be designated on the NamePlate."

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

18. STATE AWARD BAGS: Are you in favor of adding this procedure to the manual: "Schools unable to attend the Awards Ceremony should pick up their bags before leaving the festival or designate someone else to pick them up. Awards that are not picked up will be mailed to the schools and charged shipping and handling."

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

19. ACTING CATEGORIES: If the new "Original Works" category is approved, are you in favor of adding this statement to the rules of Acting and Duet Acting? "Original scenes are no longer allowed in this category. They must be entered in Category 15. Original Works"

- VOTED AND APPROVED BY DISTRICT CHAIRS

20. STAGE MANAGEMENT: Do you approve for the Stage Management Category to include both Realized and Theoretical Productions?

- NOT IN ORIGINAL SURVEY, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

21a. FEE INCREASES: Do you approve to increase One-Act fees from \$100 to \$150?

- NOT IN ORIGINAL SURVEY, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

21b. FEE INCREASES: Do you approve to increase Studio from \$75 to \$100?

- NOT IN ORIGINAL SURVEY, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

21c. FEE INCREASES: Do you approve to increase Group from \$25 to \$40?

- NOT IN ORIGINAL SURVEY, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

21. MANUAL: Do you approve the manual as previously presented with additional edits from the results of today's discussion and votes?

- AFTER REVISIONS ABOVE MADE, REVOTE NEXT WEEK

ITEMS TO RESURVEY AND REVOTE

The items below will be on a survey you will receive to give input to your District Chair

1. CLASSICAL ACTING TO INCLUDE DUETS: Are you in favor of altering the 1) Solo Acting Comedic pre1900 and 2) Solo Acting Dramatic pre1900 categories to also include pre1900 duet performances?

- The Pre1900 Duet category is currently very small and numbers in the current solo categories would not be significantly affected.
- This would keep all of the Pre1900 entries together and duets would not be competing with more contemporary selections.

	Solo	Duet	Total
04n. Acting Dramatic pre1900 (Solo & Duet)	36	0	36
04i. Acting Dramatic pre1900 (Solo & Duet)	29	7	36
04v. Acting Dramatic pre1900 (Solo & Duet)	34	4	38
05n. Acting Comedic pre1900 (Solo & Duet)	11	3	14
05i. Acting Comedic pre1900 (Solo & Duet)	14	5	19
05v. Acting Comedic pre1900 (Solo & Duet)	10	6	16

2. DUET ACTING YEARS TO MERGE: Are you in favor of merging 1) Duet Acting Comedic pre1975 with Duet Acting Comedic 1975-present AND 2) Duet Acting Dramatic pre1975 with Duet Acting Dramatic 1975-present?

- This would still leave the categories within a good operational range.
- This is how the musical duet category is.
- If the Classical Acting Proposal above is desired, this category would be basically everything after 1900.

	2021		2022		2023					
	D	S	D	S	D	S				
12n. Duet Acting Dramatic pre1975	4	3	7	5	4	1				
12i. Duet Acting Dramatic pre1975	1	0	5	2	7	4				
12v. Duet Acting Dramatic pre1975	7	7	3	1	9	7				
14n. Duet Acting Dramatic 1975-present	37	18	41	19	36	20				
14i. Duet Acting Dramatic 1975-present	17	11	34	21	29	20				
14v. Duet Acting Dramatic 1975-present	12	11	19	15	15	12				
13n. Duet Acting Comedic pre1975	5	5	11	5	5	4				
13i. Duet Acting Comedic pre1975	4	4	5	3	9	3				
13v. Duet Acting Comedic pre1975	0	0	5	4	9	9				
15n. Duet Acting Comedic 1975-Preset	52	20	56	22	52	29				
15i. Duet Acting Comedic 1975-Preset	31	20	41	25	42	26				
15v. Duet Acting Comedic 1975-Preset	22	15	16	14	28	22				

Duet Act Dramatic			
2023			
D	Pre1975	Total	
N	40	3	37
I	36	3	33
V	24	2	22

Duet Act Comedic			
2023			
D	pre1975	Total	
N	57	3	54
I	41	4	37
V	27	3	24

3. ONE-ACT CAPS: Are you in favor changing the formula calculated for One-Act to be based on 12 to account for rounding?

- Before 2022, The maximum number of One-Acts going to state was 15 and the formula was calculated on 13 to account for rounding. In 2022, Load-out time was added to the schedule and the maximum number of One-Acts going to state was changed to 14, but the way the formula was calculated was overlooked and not changed to match.

4. STUDIO JUDGES: Are you in favor of adding the statement: "If a panel of 5 judges is used, the highest and lowest scores will be dropped before calculating the final average." to the Studio Rules?

- This lines Studio up with One-Acts.

5. GROUP FEE INCREASE: Are you in favor of increasing the Group Participation Cost from \$25 to \$40?

- When Group Events were standard IEs, the participation cost was \$10/person to participate. When Group Events were removed, the cost was set at \$25 which is not even the amount of 3 participants previously.

6. ONE-ACT FEE INCREASE: Are you in favor of increasing the One-Act Participation Cost from \$100 to \$150?

- In the last several years, ACT has started getting its own One-Act Stage Manager and has raised the maximum number of judges back up from min of 3 to a max of 5. Each person that is used costs approximately \$1,000 (hotel room for 3 nights, honorarium, travel expenses, etc.) and these expenses have to be supported in some way.

7. STUDIO THEATRE FEE INCREASE: Are you in favor of increasing the Studio Theatre Participation Cost from \$75 to \$125?

- In the last several years, ACT has started getting its own Studio Stage Manager and has raised the maximum number of judges back up from to 4 (potentially 5 this year if the proposal above is approved). Each person that is used costs approximately \$1,000 (hotel room for 3 nights, honorarium, travel expenses, etc.) and these expenses have to be supported in some way.

8. STAGE MANAGEMENT: Do you approve for Stage Management Category to include both Realized and Theoretical Productions?