

# 2024 Thespy Event Guide



## THESPYS:

- Thespys is an educational program that offers students the opportunity (using the audition approach) to receive constructive feedback on prepared theatrical material and technical designs. The performance events include solo, duet, or group musical, monologue and duo/group acting. In addition, students may also enter design/technical Thespys which allow tech students the opportunity to show and be adjudicated on what they know and display the work they have done.

## Registration Information:

- **Registration Deadline:**  
December 6th, 2023 by 4:00 PM  
(Registration paperwork and payment.)
- **Video Submission Deadline:**  
January 12th, 2024 by 11:59 PM
- **Thespy Callbacks:**  
February 2th, 2024 (In person at ThesCon 2024)
- **Fee:**  
\$25 for solo & duet events, \$45 for all others (3-16 performers)
- **# of Entries Allowed:**  
Up to 6 Performance Thespys and Unlimited Technical Thespys
- **Participants:**  
Must be Thespians registered for the 2024 ThesCon

Your Thespy registration(s) must be received no later than the deadline, December 6th, 2023. Troupe directors must print their Thespy registration forms, secure the required signatures, and email the completed forms directly to [thespys@gathespians.org](mailto:thespys@gathespians.org).

*\*\* Actual signatures required – please no computer generated fonts. DocuSign is allowed as long as you can sign with your handwriting and insert \*\**

## **Payment**

Payments must be received by Georgia Thespians by the Super Deadline, December 6th, 2023, using one of the options below:

- **Snail-Mail**

Georgia Thespians  
2897 North Druid Hills Road  
Box 225  
Atlanta, GA 30329

*\* We recommend that you send your packets with tracking\**

- **Paypal**

Information will be provided during registration

**Contact email:** [thespys@gathespians.org](mailto:thespys@gathespians.org)

**Thespy Coordinators:** Carly Lovell, Craig Lovell, Cece Conrath

## **Thespy Categories**

The Thespy Awards recognizes the following official categories of theatrical ability:

### **PERFORMANCE THESPYS**

Acting (Solo, Duet, and Group)

Musical Theatre Performance (Solo, Duet, and Group)

Musical Theatre Dance (Solo, Duet, and Group)

### **TECHNICAL THESPYS**

Costume Construction

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Makeup Design

Scenic Design

Sound Design

Stage Management

Theatre Marketing

[Explore category-specific rules and rubrics here.](#)

Thespy Playwriting and Short Film ARE NOT a part of this event, as they have their OWN SEPARATE EVENTS. Please find the event link for Film Festival (Short Film)

<https://gathespians.org/thescon/film-festival/> and for Thespy Playwriting <https://gathespians.org/thescon/playwriting/> on the Gathespians.org website.

- For the 2024 ThesCon, the preliminaries will be submitted and adjudicated DIGITALLY and those Thespys earning an Overall Superior rating will be adjudicated for Showcase IN PERSON at Georgia ThesCon 2024.

- For Performance Thespys, each troupe will be allowed UP TO 6 ENTRIES (including 1 multi-troupe as part of the 6, if desired).
- For Technical Thespys, there will be UNLIMITED entries.
- ALL STUDENTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO REGISTER AND PARTICIPATE IN THESPYS.
- No refunds can be issued for any reason (this includes missed deadlines and incomplete entry forms or submissions).

## Overall Superior Rating

Thespians are adjudicated by a panel, each of whom scores the student on their work. The numeric value of the score translates to a series of ratings: Fair, Good, Excellent, and Superior. The average numeric score amongst all the judges must fall in the Superior range in order for the student to advance to the next round of adjudication. Earning a Superior rating from a single adjudicator does not guarantee advancement to the next round of adjudication.

Choose a Thespy category in which you'd like to participate—rehearse your performance or technical presentation with your teachers, friends, parents, or anyone who will listen to you! Preparation is key to refining your theatrical skills. In addition to the rules featured in this document, be sure to view the adjudication rubric and rules for your category so you know what the adjudicators are looking for. In GEORGIA- **WE REQUIRE ALL BLACK or DARK COLORED PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE.**

## Official Rules vs. Chapter Rules

While chapter or state/regional officials have the prerogative to amend the official rules, amendment(s) should be undertaken

only with careful consideration of the various outcomes that may result from such amendment(s). For example, in order for a performance entry to be performed in the final round of competition at ITF, its publisher must appear on the [approved publishers list](#). If a Thespian earns an overall Superior rating at a qualifying event with a performance piece that does not meet the international criteria, they may not choose an alternate performance piece and continue on to the final round of adjudication. In such a case, the student would be ineligible to present their Thespy performance in the final round of adjudication due to the chapter's variance from the official Thespy rules.

Thespians who earn an overall Superior rating in an approved Thespy category at a qualifying event are invited to the final round of the Thespy Awards, held during the International Thespian Festival (ITF) each year in June. Details to come if you qualify.

## **Filming Guidelines**

While the rules and guidelines for digital submissions are largely the same as in-person adjudication for each category, Thespians are encouraged to recognize and prepare for the inherent differences in presenting their categories digitally. Thespians should optimize their submissions for the online format to receive the best feedback and scores. (See best practices for filming video submissions [HERE](#).)

## **Live Callbacks at ThesCon**

Thespy earning an Overall Superior Ranking in either tech or performance categories will be invited to callbacks during the 2024 Georgia Thespian Conference in February. After callbacks have been conducted, a selection of acts from a variety of

categories will be featured during the Closing Ceremonies/Thespy Showcase at the end of ThesCon.

## **Important Information You Need to Know**

The following rules are overarching and apply to all Thespy categories. You will find additional category-specific rules on each category's [Rules & Rubrics page](#). It is imperative that participants read and understand all rules in order to be successfully adjudicated at a Thespy Awards event. Failure to follow any of the guidelines in this document may result in a disqualification.

## **Slating**

For all categories except Playwriting and Short Film, Thespians must begin their presentation with an introduction known as a slate. The slate must include only the following information:

- The Thespian's name (or names, for group categories)
- Troupe number
- Title of selection being performed or work being showcased (e.g., "Don't Rain on My Parade" from Funny Girl for a Solo Musical Theatre Performance entry or Belle's ball gown from Beauty and the Beast for a Costume Construction entry)
- Name of the playwright(s) and/or composer(s)

A slate might sound like this: "Hello. My name is John Smith from Troupe 561, and I'll be performing 'Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" from Oklahoma! by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II." Or this: "Hi. My name is Jennifer Johnson representing Troupe 1101, and I'm going to share my lighting design for A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare."

## Time Limits

After the slate, time begins with the first word, musical note, or acting beat (if it precedes the first word or note) of the presentation. If a Thespian exceeds the time limits below, the adjudicator will note the time and a final eligibility ruling will be determined. Exceeding the time limit may result in a disqualification.

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Time Limit</u></b>
Solo Acting	3 Minutes
Duet Group Acting	5 Minutes
Musical Theatre	5 Minutes
Performance and dance (solo, duet, and group)	5 Minutes
All Tech categories	5-8 Minutes

*\*For all tech categories, please be prepared for a Q&A with adjudicators if selected for the live event only\**

## Approved Material & Performance Rights

Thespians must choose a piece of work that meets the acceptable material criteria. Unacceptable selections noted below will be disqualified. [View the list of approved publishers here.](#)

### **Category Acting Categories (non-musical)**

**Acceptable:** Selections and materials must meet the following criteria:

- Selections must be from full-length, one-act plays, or musicals written for the theatre (not for film or television)
- Selections must be published by an approved publisher

**Unacceptable:** The following types of selections and materials are not allowed in Thespy adjudication:

- Direct permission from the author only.
- Any play (or monologue from a musical) not published by one of the approved publishers.
- Any work featured on a “red light” list from an approved publisher. Works available through self-publishing platforms.
- Monologues published independently that are not from a theatrical script (e.g., a monologue book/website).

**Category: Musical Theatre Performance Categories**

**Acceptable:**

- Songs must be from a stage musical or have been used in a stage musical (regardless of previous publication as a classical or popular song (e.g., “Mamma Mia,” “Lady Marmalade,” etc.).
- Sheet music must be publicly available for sale in a vocal selections book or musical score.
- There must be a copyright mark on the sheet music or on the published score (i.e., bootleg PDFs of scores are not acceptable)
- Selections must be published by an approved publisher.

**Unacceptable:**

- A cappella songs unless originally written to be performed a cappella in the musical.
- Songs from musical films or television musicals that have not appeared in a stage musical.
- Classical or popular songs not used in a published work for the theatre.
- Tracks with any pre-recorded vocals, including background vocals.



- Any selection from a musical not published by one of the approved publishers.
- Any work featured on a “red light” list from an approved publisher.

### **Musical Theatre Dance Categories**

#### **Acceptable:**

- Songs must be from a stage musical or have been used in a stage musical (regardless of previous publication as a classical or popular song (e.g., “Mamma Mia,” “Lady Marmalade,” etc.)).
- Selections must be published by an approved publisher.
- Recordings with vocals are acceptable in the Musical Theatre Dance Category.

#### **Unacceptable:**

- Any selection from a musical not published by one of the approved publishers.
- Any work featured on a “red light” list from an approved publisher.

### **Technical Categories**

#### **Acceptable:**

- Any published work written for the theatre (musical or non-musical).
- The work need not appear on the approved publishers list.

#### **Unacceptable:**

- Works written for film or television.
- Unpublished theatrical works.

## **Performance Rights**

For performance categories, it is the troupe director's responsibility to ensure that permission is obtained for the use of copyrighted material where required. In certain cases, permission is not required. Be sure to follow these guidelines:

**Musical Theatre Performance Categories:** The performance of a song from a published musical score with copyright notices printed upon the sheet music or in the back of the published score is considered fair use in Thespy adjudication so long as the licensing company who holds the performance rights to the musical is listed on the approved publishers list and the work itself does not appear on a red-light list from the licensing company (which would be noted on the approved publishers list).

**Acting Categories:** The performance of a monologue or scene from a non-musical play are subject to an agreement negotiated between EdTA and several major theatrical publishers. Thespy participants must use a monologue or scene from a publisher who appears on the approved publishers list.

Exceptions noted in the approved publishers list (e.g. the works of Neil Simon, August Wilson, etc.) require that Thespians must secure permission from the publishers/authors (and likely pay a fee) in order to perform such works in Thespy adjudication. Proof of performance rights must be provided in your paperwork on the December 6, 2023 Deadline.

## **Approved Publishers**

It is very important that Thespians and troupe directors correctly identify the publisher of any material used in a Thespy entry to ensure they have permission to perform it. Securing permission from the approved publisher for a school production does not grant permission for a Thespians to use it for a Thespy entry. Refer to the approved list of publishers for detailed information about acquiring rights for Thespy performances; not all material from every publisher is approved for Thespy use. Publishers interested in becoming an approved publisher can submit an Application.

## **Dress Code**

For all categories (performance and technical), Thespians will present themselves at adjudication or in their submission video as a blank slate, refraining from wearing clothing and/or accessories that distract from the performance or presentation. The goal is to level the playing field and allow the focus to remain on the work, not the aesthetics of the presenting Thespians.

Thespians should follow these guidelines:

- Dress neatly in simple, modest attire suitable for a professional interview and ALL black clothing.
- Acceptable footwear is neutral and may include character shoes, dance shoes (if appropriate for the category), dress shoes (such as Oxfords), or sneakers in ALL BLACK, free of logos OR covered logos.
- Theatrical makeup, costumes, and props are not permitted.
- Clothing should be appropriate for the situation. For performance categories, consider black apparel that might be worn in a professional audition and that allows easy movement for the actors to accommodate the action of the performance. For technical categories, choose apparel

suitable for a professional interview or the black clothing traditionally worn by technicians.

- Avoid wearing distracting items such as large, dangling jewelry, light-up footwear, or fashionably distressed clothing.

Note: If selected for the Thespy Award Showcase, Thespians **MUST** wear all black or dark colored professional attire.

## **Props & Set Pieces in Performance**

The use of set pieces, props (including stationary and handheld), or other personal items is not permitted in Thespy adjudication and will result in Disqualification.

### **Exceptions:**

- Solo Acting, Musical Theatre Performance, and Musical Theatre

Dance: One (1) chair may be safely used.

- Duet Acting, Musical Theatre Performance, and Musical Theater

Dance: Two (2) chairs may be safely used.

- Group Acting, Group Musical Theatre Performance, and Group Musical Theatre Dance: One (1) table and up to six (6) chairs may be safely used.

“Safely” means that items may be used in a safe manner but should not be used as props (e.g., pushed over, lifted, etc.). Sitting on, laying across, and/or standing upon a chair(s) is usually acceptable so long as safety is the priority (i.e., if a chair or table has wheels, it would not be considered safe to stand upon).

**EXCEPTION- IF YOU MAKE THE CLOSING SHOWCASE YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND IN CHAIRS AT THE BILL HEARD THEATER.**

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility**

Race, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, body type, and/or disability should not influence an adjudicator's evaluation of a Thespian. Thespians are encouraged to choose material that speaks to them as long as all copyright rules are followed. For example, a Thespian may play a role of any gender, regardless of the gender with which the student identifies. However, it is important to note that all copyright rules are to be enforced. The Thespian cannot change pronouns without the express written consent from the publisher.

Deaf and hard of hearing Thespians may use a conductor (adult or student) in Musical Theatre Performance and Dance categories to guide tempo.

## **Disqualification**

The International Thespian Excellence Awards program is meant to challenge, inspire, and educate Thespians. As noted throughout this document, there are very clear rules to ensure equity among all participants. Violations of these rules can lead to disqualification at any level of adjudication. Disqualifications in the final round of adjudication will be ruled on by the Thespy Coordinators and the Chapter Director.

**For answers to any questions regarding the International Thespian Excellence Awards, email [thespys@gathespians.org](mailto:thespys@gathespians.org)**