



2021

Festival

Registration

Packet

February 5-7, 2021

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About the Festival

The Lenaea High School Theatre Festival is an annual three-day educational event at which West Coast high school students come together to perform theatrical pieces, receive evaluation and feedback from theatre professionals, and attend workshops on theatre topics.

The Lenaea Festival has existed since 1956. Inspired by the Lenaea Festivals of Ancient Greece, this festival was originally established by Sacramento State College (now CSU Sacramento) to support and encourage theatre arts programs at the high school level. The Lenaea Festival incorporated as its own nonprofit entity in 2012, and is now held at the Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College.

Traditionally, students from participating schools may submit performance pieces in four categories: One-act plays, monologues, two-person “duo” scenes, and musical theatre solos. Students may also submit set designs, costume designs, and student-written original scripts.

Student performances in each of these categories are followed by a session of feedback from a team of theatre professionals who serve as respondents. Performances in the monologue, duo scene, and musical theatre solo categories are also “workshopped,” allowing the students to implement suggestions from the respondents and explore the results of trying different choices. This interactive “workshopping” feature is an indispensable highlight of this festival, setting it uniquely apart from other theatre festivals.

For 2021: Because the current coronavirus pandemic precautions make a traditional in-person festival impossible, our 2021 festival will be held “virtually” to protect the health and safety of our participants, staff, and volunteers. We have made some adjustments to address the challenges that this new format creates and to ensure all categories are equitably available to participants. As a result, we will not host a Duo Scenes category, and the One-Act Play category will be for exhibition only.

The festival also offers lab-style workshops on theatre topics presented by theatre professionals of varying backgrounds including professional working actors, producers, and directors; college and university professors; and local actors, directors, producers, and technicians. Recent workshop topics have included:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Directing | Stage Combat |
| Playwriting | Theatrical Make-Up |
| Acting Technique | Lighting |
| Shakespeare | Improvisation |
| Audition Technique | The Business of Show Business |
| Scenic Design | Vocal Technique |

In 2020, the three-day Lenaea Festival served 1514 students from 70 high schools, with approximately 413 additional students and community attendees. The festival featured 522 student performances of monologues, duo scenes, one-act plays, and musical solos, plus 27 workshops presented by theatre professionals.

For further information about the Lenaea Festival and its history, please visit lenaea.org.

Festival Registration

Process

Festival registration is started by submitting a **General Registration Form**. This signifies your school's intention to participate and allows us to tentatively schedule you in your preferred categories:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| One-Act Plays (exhibition only for 2021) | Musical Theatre Solos |
| Original One-Act Scripts | Set Design |
| Monologues | Costume Design |
| Duo Scenes (n/a for 2021) | |

Scheduling is done on a first-come, first-served basis corresponding to the date registration forms are received. Please submit your General Registration form and availability as early as possible. In the event of a scheduling conflict, we will use the date of form receipt as the deciding factor.

All registration forms must be submitted online.

Please visit lenaea.org/festival/registration to begin the registration process.

If you have questions or need support, please e-mail info@lenaea.org.

Deadlines

| Item(s) | Due no later than |
|--|-------------------|
| General Registration Form | November 15, 2020 |
| Final Forms (category-specific registration forms) | December 15, 2020 |
| Monologue and Musical Theatre Solo | January 15, 2021 |
| Set Design and Costume Design submissions | January 15, 2021 |
| Original One-Act Script submissions | January 15, 2021 |
| One-Act Play performances | January 22, 2021 |

A note about submissions: Given the virtual festival format, all submissions will be prepared and submitted prior to festival weekend. For the Monologue, Musical Theatre Solo, and One-Act Play categories, submissions will be pre-recorded. For Design submissions, materials should be organized and presented in a way conducive to online viewing. For Original One-Act Script submissions, a digital file (PDF preferred) should be submitted. Details on how to transmit your submissions will be sent separately.

Registration Fees

All registration fees are waived for 2021.

Required Registration Forms by Category

In addition to the **General Registration Form**, the following forms are due by the Final Forms deadline for each category in which a school intends to participate.

For 2021: Please note that we have expanded the maximum number of participant entries in most categories for the 2021 virtual festival.

One-Act Plays (exhibition only for 2021) (one entry per school)

- One-Act Play Registration Form

Original Script (up to two entries per school)

- Original Script Registration Form

Monologues (up to eight entries per school)

- Monologue Registration Form

Duo Scenes (n/a for 2021)

Musical Theatre Solos (up to six entries per school)

- Musical Theatre Registration Form

Set Design (up to three entries per school)

- Set Design Registration Form

Costume Design (up to three entries per school)

- Costume Design Registration Form

Liability Release Forms

Not required for the 2021 virtual festival.

General Festival Guidelines

Program Eligibility

The Lenaea High School Theatre Festival serves West Coast high school theatre arts programs. For this purpose, “high school” means “a public or private school that can confer a high school diploma to its graduating students.” Students enrolled in grades nine, ten, eleven, or twelve of a participating high school may participate in the festival. Students in lower grade levels are not eligible. Middle schools and junior high schools are not eligible.

Performance Rights

Schools are responsible for obtaining performance rights for every piece they bring to the festival for which rights are required. Schools may be asked to provide proof that they have obtained the required rights.

As a festival we are required, and want, to do our part to protect the creative intellectual property of the artists who have worked hard to get their material published. Although we are an educational festival, there are no automatic or blanket exemptions or exceptions if performance rights are required for pieces performed at the festival. Requirements may differ for each piece you perform. We encourage you to inquire early with any organization that may control the rights to your chosen work to confirm the requirements that apply to you. It is critical that we all do our part in honoring the rights of the artists whose work we perform.

For 2021: We are currently researching whether any different licensing requirements might apply to a virtual festival, and we will publish that information as soon as it is available.

Sensitive Subject Matter / Explicit Language

The Lenaea High School Theatre Festival welcomes all students who desire to perform theatrical pieces and receive feedback within a safe and educational environment. While the festival does not wish to function as a censoring agency for its participants, please keep in mind while selecting performance pieces that the festival is open to the public.

Sensitive subject matter and explicit language must be disclosed on all registration forms in order to ensure proper notice is given to audience members.

Sensitive subject matter can include anything that deals with or relates to federally protected classifications (race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, citizenship, familial status, disability, veteran status) and/or violence including but not limited to sexual assault, hate crimes, and domestic violence.

If any performance piece contains sensitive subject matter, stage business, or explicit language,

- Check YES on registration forms when prompted to disclose whether sensitive subject matter and/or explicit language is contained in your festival entries. We will notify audiences accordingly.
- If a digital program for your One-Act Play is provided by your school, include a disclaimer clearly on the cover page.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping the Lenaea Festival a safe, welcoming, and educational environment for all participants and audience members.

Control and Handling of Prop Weapons

Not applicable for the 2021 virtual festival.

Time Limits

All performance categories have time limits. Exceeding these limits will automatically trigger a penalty. Please review the category-specific time limits and penalties to ensure your selected pieces do not run overtime.

Evaluation Criteria

Lenaea celebrates excellence in the theatre arts, and provides educational feedback to students by evaluating their skills relevant to each performance and presentation category.

Respondents utilize a category-specific rubric and a standardized point scale to score each participant's mastery of the different elements of their performances and presentations. At the end of the festival, the tabulated scores are used to confer awards to students.

Respondents look for successful execution of various elements that are tailored to each competition category. Generally, respondents' evaluation is centered on the following concepts:

- **Understanding:** How well does the student understand the piece or project that they have selected? For performances, does the student know the relationships of the character(s) to the world and their environment? For design presentations, has appropriate research been completed to fully conceptualize the presentation and has the script been properly analyzed?
- **Technical Execution:** Is the student utilizing proper technique to perform or display their piece, whether it be singing technique, spoken technique, or visual art technique to effectively communicate design choices?
- **Pacing, Rhythm & Breathing:** Is the student making appropriate choices in the pacing, phrasing, and tempo of the piece performed? Are they utilizing proper breath support to do so?
- **Effective Choices:** Is the student utilizing adequate and appropriate physical movement in the delivery of their piece? For design presentations, are students making appropriate choices to support the thematic content of the piece, and are they attentive to design principals?
- **Overall Success:** Has the student made a personal investment in their performance, including an impactful emotional response? Have they brought their personal perspective to the reality of their character? For design presentations, is there a relationship between all of the elements including inspiration, research, and technical execution? Are performances and presentations polished, leaving a strong impression?

To review the category-specific rubrics used for scoring, please visit www.lenaea.org/scoring.

For 2021: We are currently reevaluating all of our rubrics to ensure that the scoring criteria are uniformly applicable to all performances and do not create any potential for discrimination or inequity due to technological resources or any other factors. We will post the rubrics on our website as soon as our review is complete.

Category-Specific Guidelines

One-Act Plays (exhibition only for 2021)

For 2021: When evaluating what events could be successfully executed in a virtual format, we realized that One-Act Plays could not be scored uniformly due to potential differences in schools' access to facilities, technical resources, and technology. However, since One-Act Plays are one of the highlights of Lenaea, we wanted to continue the tradition by making the category an exhibition of submitted works for all to see. One-Act Plays will be exhibited on our website for festival participants throughout the festival weekend.

General

- One play is allowed per school.
- For 2021, respondents will score One-Act performances for purposes of feedback but not for awards, and will provide verbal feedback to the schools following each performance. These One-Act respondent sessions are not open to the public. Only the program director, students of the cast and crew, and school-approved invitees are admitted.
- Students in the cast of a One-Act play may also perform in the Monologue and Musical Theatre Solo categories. However, students may not use material from the One-Act Play in their Monologue or Musical Theatre Solo performances.
- Time Limit: **45 minutes** followed by a five-minute grace period. The time limit begins immediately when the house lights go out. Exceeding the time limit plus the grace period will result in a deduction of 10 points from the overall score.

Technical

Not applicable for the 2021 virtual festival.

Original One-Act Scripts

The Original One-Act Script (“Original Script”) category offers young writers the opportunity to hone their skills and receive feedback from professional playwrights. Below are the criteria for eligibility as well as tools to support a successful submission.

General

- Maximum of two entries per school for 2021, one script per student.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The script must be entirely student-written.
- The script should be no more than 35 pages in length.
- The script must include a character list with a short description of each.
- The script must be original, not an edited version of any previous work. Adaptations of works by others are not eligible unless the adaptation is a substantial reimagining of an original story with predominantly new dialogue.
- The script must be typed and submitted by the due date.

- If there is a dispute on eligibility, the final decision will be made collaboratively by the respondents and the Board of Directors.

Tips for a Successful Original Script

The elements below are important to ensure the success of an original script. Please consider the following:

- **Story:** Your script should have a clear beginning, middle, and end, with a clearly defined objective for your characters. Each scene should move the story forward, creating a strong story arc that entices the audience or reader.
- **Character:** Your characters should be well defined and fully developed, with clear relationships to each other.
- **Dialogue:** Ensure your dialogue “shows” rather than “tells”. Strong dialogue is realistic, conversational, clever, and concise, establishing relationships and moving the story forward.
- **Emotion:** Your script should entice the audience or reader to become emotionally invested, creating an emotional build and resolution.
- **Overall Success:** Other factors that normally contribute to an overall successful script are ensuring that a clear established theme is maintained throughout the piece; establishing conflicts that are resolved by the play’s end; and ensuring the audience or reader is captivated until the end.

Monologues

General

- Maximum of eight entries per school for 2021, one monologue per student.
- Monologues may not be from the One-Act Play that the school has entered for the same year’s festival.
- Only monologues from published, scripted plays or student-written original monologues are eligible. Pieces from film or television scripts are not eligible.
- We encourage students to keep the staging simple, limiting furniture to only one table or chair.
- Small hand props are permitted if necessary for the piece. Props resembling weapons are not allowed in Monologue performances.
- Costumes and stage makeup are not permitted. This should be treated as an audition and comfortable, professional attire should be considered.
- Students should slate with their Name, School, Title of Play, Author of Play, Character Name, and (if applicable) disclosure of sensitive subject matter/explicit language. Do not explain the scene or play.
- Time Limit: **3 minutes per entry** followed by a one-minute grace period. The time limit begins immediately after the student finishes slating. Exceeding the time limit plus the grace period will result in a deduction of 10 points from the overall score.

Order of Events

At the start of each session, the respondents will introduce themselves and remind all attendees of guidelines applicable to the session. Participants and respondents will view the pre-recorded submissions, one after another, with a brief pause between performances. Following the final performance, the remaining time will be divided between the participants in the workshopping session. Respondents will give feedback to the students and workshop their pieces. This portion of the session is not mandatory for all students, but is recommended. Often, the Respondents' Choice awards are based on what happens during these workshopping periods.

Musical Theatre Solos

General

- Maximum of six entries per school for 2021, one student per performance and one performance per student.
- Only solo performances may be entered. Duets, trios, etc. are not allowed.
- Only songs from published musicals are eligible. Pieces from film or television are not eligible.
- A cappella (unaccompanied) performances are not permitted. For 2021, arranging an accompanist is the responsibility of the school.
- There should be no major dialogue prior to or following the song.
- Furniture should be limited to a single chair.
- Small hand props are permitted but not recommended. Props resembling weapons are not allowed in Musical Theatre Solo performances.
- Costumes and stage makeup are not permitted. This should be treated as an audition and comfortable, professional attire should be considered.
- Students should slate with their Name, School, Title of Musical & Song, Author of Musical, Character Name, and (if applicable) disclosure of sensitive subject matter/explicit language. Do not explain the song or musical.
- Time Limit: **3 minutes per entry** followed by a one-minute grace period. The time limit begins immediately after the student finishes slating. Exceeding the time limit plus the grace period will result in a deduction of 10 points from the overall score.

Order of Events

At the start of each session, the respondents will introduce themselves and remind all attendees of guidelines applicable to the session. Participants and respondents will view the pre-recorded submissions, one after another, with brief pauses between performances. Following the final performance, the remaining time will be divided between the participants in the workshopping session. Respondents will give feedback to the students and workshop their pieces. This portion of the session is not mandatory for all students, but is recommended. Often, the Respondents' Choice awards are based on what happens during these workshopping periods.

Set Design and Costume Design

General

- Maximum of three Set Design and three Costume Design entries per school for 2021.
- Set Designs and Costume Designs designed collaboratively by more than one student are eligible.
- A successful Set Design display might contain some of the following: a collection of research images, scale ground plan or other drafting, scale model or renderings (handmade or computer generated), photos of the final product (if from a realized production).
- A successful Costume Design display might contain some of the following: a collection of research images, color costume renderings with fabric swatches, photos of the final product (if from a realized production), a sample of the finished product such as a mask or an example of a costume displayed on a dress form (if from a realized production). Be advised that dress forms are not provided by Lenaea.
- Student designs may be from unrealized paper projects, from realized productions performed at the school, or from one-act plays performed at Lenaea. Student designs need not be from a show that has been previously performed. However, if the design is from a new or obscure show, the school is encouraged to send a script ahead of time to Lenaea for respondents to review.
- Presentations should be designed to fit on a display area of 3' x 4'.

Design Viewings and Presentations

We will publish the schedule of viewings for the 2021 virtual festival as soon as it is available.

Command Performances

For 2021: We are currently evaluating the feasibility of hosting command performances in the virtual festival environment, and will provide this information as soon as it is available.

Scoring and Awards

Continuing our festival traditions, the 2021 virtual Lenaea High School Theatre Festival celebrates students' artistic achievements in various categories.

2021 Competitive Categories:

- Monologues
- Musical Theatre Solos
- Original One-Act Scripts
- Costume Design
- Set Design

2021 Non-Competitive Exhibition Category:

- One-Act Plays

Experimental Scoring Process for 2021

We are undertaking an alternate scoring process for the 2021 festival, as we acknowledge that the traditional scoring process cannot be used uniformly in a virtual environment. This change is designed to ensure:

- Awards are equally accessible for all students
- Awards are unaffected by differing levels of access to technology

Consistent with past practice, respondents use a performance-based assessment rubric to score competitive categories.

- Performances and presentations are scored using a category-specific rubric and a standardized point scale of 1 to 10 for each of the elements defined on the rubric.
- If the time limit is exceeded, a penalty is deducted from the total score.
- Scores for each element are added together and any penalty deduction is subtracted to determine a total score.
- Respondents' scores are averaged to arrive at a final score.

For 2021, the final score is used to award recognition according to the following criteria:

| | Gold Level | Silver Level | Bronze Level |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Final Score Required | 45 - 50 | 41 - 44 | 37 - 40 |

This process is currently slated to be used for 2021 only. After the 2021 festival, we will evaluate its effectiveness and gather feedback on whether to consider it for future festivals.

In addition to the awards described above, we will give the following traditional recognitions:

- **Bob Smart Spirit of Lenaea Award:** To a student nominated by the school's program director for demonstrating over-and-above commitment and leadership in enabling the school to participate in the festival.
- **Respondents' Choice Award:** To participants selected by the respondent teams in the Monologue and Musical Theatre Solo categories.

Awards are announced at the Closing Ceremony on Sunday evening.

Final Checklist

Be sure to review the list below to ensure you have a smooth check-in process and festival weekend!

- ✓ General registration form complete
- ✓ Individual category registration forms complete
- ✓ Performances, designs, and original scripts submitted
- ✓ Nominations submitted for the Bob Smart Spirit of Lenaea Award
- ✓ Performance rights obtained for all performance pieces that require them
- ✓ *For 2021:* Login Database provided to enable participant access to the festival

Questions?

For questions relating to the contents of this Registration Packet or anything else pertaining to the festival, please email info@lenaea.org.