

Magicians' Alliance of Eastern States Rules of Competition

This version, compiled from older printed versions and incorporating more recent changes, was adopted by the Executive Committee, March 2009

Competition Sessions:

Competitions are held in two sessions: Close-up and Stage. A contestant may enter only one act in each, but may enter both. In either Close-up or Stage competition, the contestant is limited to 8 minutes of performance without penalty. MAES reserves the right to limit the number of contestants in either session. Stage and Close-Up Contests will be limited to the first ten (10) entry forms, for each contest, received by the Contest Chair.

The contestant is given a maximum of 3 minutes for set-up and preparation after the prior act completes and has cleared the performance area. Acts not prepared to start on time will be eliminated from competition and will not be permitted to perform. Acts will be in order determined at the discretion of the Contest Chair and must report to the Contest Chair at least thirty minutes before the start of the competition.

Categories of Competitors:

There are two types of contestants: Junior and Adult. Junior contestants are those who have not reached their eighteenth birthday by the day of the competition. Adult contestants are those who have reached their eighteenth birthday on or before the day of competition. In case of an act containing multiple performers, the oldest person who, in the opinion of the judges is clearly not an assistant, will be used for determining Junior or Adult status.

Awards:

Awards can be presented in Close-up, Stage, and Originality. Competition awards are given to the act as named on the competition entry form, not each performer in the act.

The single Originality award can be presented to any contestant in Close-up or Stage competition.

There are two awards in Close-up competition: one for the best Adult act and the "Larry West Memorial Award" for the best Junior act.

There are six awards in Stage competition. The "Best Junior Stage Magician" award is for the best Junior act. The "Clint Reidel Best Act of the Competition" award is for the best Adult act and is mandatory. Either of the above two Stage awards can be awarded in addition to a Category award. An act, Junior or Adult, can win any one or more of the four category awards: General Magic, Mentalism, Manipulation, and "Earl Canapp Comedy Award". An act will be placed in one or more categories at the discretion of the judges.

The three chief judges will confer to judge any potential contestants for the "Magicians' Alliance of the Eastern States Award of Excellence". This award is independent of any other award and may be presented to any act in any competition. The Award of Excellence can be given to an exceptionally good competition act most representing the performance qualities, with the strongest emphasis given to showmanship, desired by the Alliance.

Each act performing in competition will receive a certificate of participation. Each act can obtain their scores and judges' comments after the awards ceremony from the Contest Chair.

Winners of the of the Junior Close-Up and Junior Stage Competitions will receive a prize package donated by dealers displaying at the convention.

Beginning at the 2009 Convention the judges will choose one act from either the close-up or stage competitions to be booked to perform at the following years convention. This winner act chosen will receive a free convention registration and free room at the next convention, plus a \$200.00 performance fee.

Competition Registration:

Any act in competition must have at least one (1) person in the act who is a member of the MAES and registered for the convention.

Paid acts and performers at the convention are not eligible to compete.

Each act must complete an entry for each competition, a separate form must be submitted for each competition (stage or close-up).

If the act is also to be considered for the Originality award, the Originality form must also be completed.

All acts must be registered no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of the convention. Forms may be submitted by mail or e-mail to the contest chair.

Points:

All awards except Originality are based on points given by the judges. The Originality judges use an independent judgmental system formed within the judging panel.

Judges will award an act up to ten points in each of four criteria: Originality, Selection of Program, Presentation and Showmanship, and Technique. This permits an act to earn up to forty points total. If an act goes over the time limit, there will be a loss of 5 points for up to the first 30 seconds over the time limit. If the act goes over the time limit by more than thirty seconds, the act will be interrupted and asked to terminate.

The act with the highest score for an award will receive the award, if merited by the judges. In case of a tie, the judges must decide on a winner and must use the Presentation and Showmanship category as the primary factor in breaking the tie.

Judges:

There are three judges on each panel of judges. There are three panels of judges: Close-up, Stage, and Originality. The identities of the judges are to be known only to judges, the appointing officials, and the Contest Chair.

The President of MAES will select the Chief Judge for Originality who will, in turn, appoint two additional judges. These judges must attend both Close-up and Stage competitions to select an act Originality award, if any act is suitable.

The Secretary of MAES will select the Chief Judges for Close-up and Stage. These Chief Judges will each select two additional judges to serve on their

respective panel. With the exception of the Chief Judges, these judges need attend only the competition they are to judge. Chief Judges must attend all competitions to determine the winning act, if any for the "Magicians' Alliance of the Eastern States Award of Excellence".

All judges, Close-up, Stage, and Originality, will be briefed together one hour before the start of the first contest, stage or close-up, of the day or receive a briefing package that they must review prior to the beginning of competition. Judges shall retire immediately after their competition to deliberate and determine the competition results. Chief Judges must submit their results and all forms and notes in an orderly fashion to the Contest Chair at least an hour before the awards banquet or show. Results are not to be announced until the formal presentation at the banquet or show.

The decisions of the judges are final.

Judges are requested to provide notes to the acts on the score sheets with the understanding that these sheets may be returned to the contestants.

The Contest Chair will appoint a timekeeper to note any overtimes and report these to the Chief Judge for that competition. The timekeeper will attempt to signal the act thirty seconds prior to the time limit, at the time limit, and will signal for the act to stop if it runs more than thirty seconds over time.

Fire and Pyrotechnic Policy:

Open flame of any type are prohibited.(Example Torhces). All exploding devices are prohibited. Sparks and Sparkles are prohibited.

Candles, matches, small amounts of flash paper (4" X 4") and flash string (max 18") are allowed, subject to the approval of the venue where the competition is conducted.

Failure to adhere to this rules will result in disqualification.