

Due to safety and economic concerns, several state and regional organizations have cancelled events that typically feed into the State-Regional-National progression of festivals. AACT remains firmly committed to presenting AACTFest 2021 next June in Louisville, Kentucky. To open participation to the twelve regions, the AACT Board of Directors voted to hold a one-time invitational festival.

A theatre begins this process with the submission of an application which will be reviewed by a committee. From those applications, approximately fifty theatres will be chosen to be further interviewed, again by committee. From that field of fifty, twenty-five will be chosen by the interviewers to perform for traveling adjudicators. Five sets of two adjudicators each will travel to those theatres between December 15, 2020 and March 31, 2021. From that field of twenty-five performances, twelve will be chosen by the adjudicators to perform at AACTFest 2021.

Can any theatre apply to be considered for an invitation to AACTFest 2021?

- Any AACT member theatre may apply.

If my theatre is the only AACTFest 2021 applicant from the region, does it automatically qualify?

- Whereas there is focus on providing national representation by including as many regions as possible, the main goal is to select excellent productions.
- Adjudicators will only be instructed to choose the top twelve fully realized productions.

If my state or region has not cancelled its festival this cycle and my theatre enters a show in that festival, is the theatre disqualified from applying to be adjudicated for the invitational?

- No.

If my state or region has a festival this cycle and my theatre's show wins its performance competition, is it automatically qualified to be adjudicated for the invitational?

- No. The invitational festival has a separate application and adjudication process not linked in any way to the state or regional festivals. Any AACT member theatre may enter regardless of their participation in current state or regional festivals.

If two or more theatres applying for adjudication are performing the same show, will any be eliminated?

- When applications are reviewed, committee members will be instructed to choose which theatres will be selected to be interviewed. It is not necessary on the application or during the interview to identify which play will be performed.

If my theatre is selected for an interview, who should represent the theatre?

- Typically, the executive director or board president represents the theatre.

If my theatre is selected for an interview, what will help the preparation?

- Review the application information and have the document for reference.
- Know the theatre's history and be prepared to discuss artistic growth in the organization.
- Have questions ready that you would like to ask of AACT.

If my theatre is selected for adjudication will the traveling adjudicators expect to see the 60-minute cutting of the play?

- The first option is to present the full-length performance and provide the adjudicators with the cutting of the play you intend to use at AACTFest 2021. NOTE: Prior to the adjudicators' site visit, the theatre also needs to obtain the rights to perform the cutting.
- The second option is to present the 60-minute cutting of the performance.

What if the full-length show my theatre has decided to enter is scheduled to perform before December 15, 2020? Since the traveling adjudicators assigned by AACT will only travel out between December 15, 2020 and March 31, 2021, what are the options?

- The first option is to completely remount the play.
- The second option is to perform the 60-minute cutting of the full-length play with props, costumes, lighting, and other production elements you would bring with you to Louisville.
- The third option is to perform the full-length version of the play with reduced production value. For example, you may choose to do costuming, but work with recorded music and/or a modified set. If you do a performance with modified production values, you may provide the adjudicators with the opportunity to also see archival photographs of the full production.

What happens if my theatre is selected for adjudication and a second wave of COVID-19 causes a delayed performance?

- If your theatre is selected for adjudication, the performance must occur between December 15, 2020 and March 31, 2021. If the performance date is moved within that window, AACT will be flexible as well.
- If your theatre is selected but cannot perform within that window, an alternate theatre will be invited to participate.

If my theatre is selected for adjudication and it is also entered to perform at a state or regional festival, can the adjudicators come to the festival to evaluate the performance?

- No.

Can performances be adjudicated without an audience present?

- Yes.

Why can't the adjudicators just watch an archival recording of the performance?

- The decision to only see live performances is to keep the process as equitable as possible.

Will AACT rules apply at AACTFest 2021?

- Yes. For a full explanation of the rules, please refer to the AACT Festival Handbook.

How will the traveling adjudicators select the twelve shows that will be invited to perform at AACTFest 2021?

- There are five sets of two adjudicators. Each set will see five shows. They are instructed to look for fully realized productions: direction, acting and production elements all working in harmony to illuminate a common concept and clearly underscore themes within the play.
- Each set of adjudicators may nominate two plays from the five they have viewed. If a duo has not seen two fully realized shows, they may choose to give their vote(s) to the rest of the adjudication team.
- The eleventh production will come from Region 10 which will have a separate set of adjudicators.
- The twelfth production will be nominated from the group of invitational adjudicators.
- The final roster of shows will be selected by the traveling adjudicators with oversight by Vice President for Festivals.

Will the adjudicators address the cast and crew following the performance?

- Yes, but the discussion is not limited by a time factor since there are no following performances.
- There will also be time for the adjudicators to meet with the director to discuss specifics.

How are the adjudicators chosen, and what is being done to ensure there will be no favoritism?

- The adjudicators are chosen by committee with an eye on providing experience, diversity and representation from across the country.
- Adjudicators will not work within their own state. The Vice President of Festivals has final approval of all AACTFest adjudicators.

What is my theatre's financial responsibility for hosting the traveling adjudicators?

- AACT will provide for travel, housing and meals for adjudicators. Your theatre may be consulted as to the best choice for a hotel.
- Theatres should provide transportation to and from airports if adjudicators are not traveling in by car.

If my theatre is chosen to perform at AACTFest 2021, what kind of support can be expected?

- AACT will provide each company with a Technical Liaison to walk them through remounting the show in Louisville, Kentucky.
- AACT will provide \$3200 to each company to cover some of the cost of attending.