

## 2024 – 2025 MTA SECONDARY INDIVIDUAL EVENTS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

This document provides a general overview of relevant information for this year’s Secondary Individual Events festival. For complete rules and answers to specific questions, refer to the Secondary Individual Events Operations Manual in the current MTA Handbook.

CATEGORY	PERFORMERS PER ENTRY	DESCRIPTION	TIME LIMIT	OTHER INFORMATION
Acting 9/10 Acting 11 Acting 12	1	One performer presents two contrasting monologues from published plays or musicals and portrays only one character in each selection.	3:00 (three minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This category is divided into 9/10 (for students in 9th and 10th grade), 11 (for students in 11th grade), and 12 (for students in 12th grade).</li> <li>The performer may use one chair.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “Hello, my name is Thomas Campbell. I’m from school 9876, and I will be performing <i>A Midsummer Night’s Dream</i> by William Shakespeare and <i>Rabbit Hole</i> by David Lindsay-Abaire.”</li> </ul>
Acting Duet	2	Two performers deliver a non-musical selection from a published play or musical in which each performer portrays one character.	5:00 (five minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The performers may use two chairs.</li> <li>Each performer should be actively involved in the scene.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “We are Alliana Cortez and Jace Millan from school 6127. We will be performing <i>The Nerd</i> by Larry Shue.”</li> </ul>
Acting Group	3 - 10	A group of performers deliver a non-musical selection from a published play or musical.	5:00 (five minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The performers may use one chair per member of the group.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “We are Jesse Terry, William, Norman, and Jackie Brown from school 7793, and we will be performing <i>Betrayal</i> by Harold Pinter.”</li> </ul>
Musical 9/10 Musical 11 Musical 12	1	One performer portrays one character and presents a single selection from a published musical.	5:00 (five minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This category is divided into 9/10 (for students in 9th and 10th grade), 11 (for students in 11th grade), and 12 (for students in 12th grade).</li> <li>The performer may use one chair.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “I am Sonia Peters from school 2314, and I will be performing ‘Maybe’ from <i>Annie</i> by Thomas Meehan, Charles Strouse, and Martin Charnin.”</li> </ul>
Musical Duet	2	Two performers deliver a single selection from a published musical in which each performer portrays one character.	5:00 (five minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each performer should be actively involved in the scene.</li> <li>The performers may use two chairs.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “We are Jeffery Little and Lynne Jiminez from school 9083. We will be performing “First Date / Last Night” from <i>Dogfight</i> by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul.”</li> </ul>
Musical Group	3 - 10	A group of performers delivers a single selection from a published musical.	5:00 (five minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The performers may use one chair per member of the group.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “Nelson, Miller, Anderson, Olson, Garcia, Martinez, Baker, Smith, and Judd. School 4926. ‘The Speed Test’ from <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i> by Dick Scanlan, Jeneane Tesori, and Richard Henry Morris.”</li> </ul>
Original Scene	2 - 5	A student writer and a group of performers develop and deliver an original selection.	5:00 (five minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The writer may choose to be a performer in the selection and must be involved in the development of the scene.</li> <li>The group may use one chair per member of the group.</li> <li>Scenes should be as evenly balanced among performers as possible and may be serious or comedic or contain elements of both serious drama and comedy.</li> <li>The performance must begin with a slate that is <b>not</b> included in the time limit; the writer should identify themselves during the slate.</li> <li><b>Slate example:</b> “We are Adrian Galvan, Darcy Chapman, Zephaniah Marillo, and Rebecca Gough. School 7204. This is, ‘I Was Broken Once’ by Adrian Galvan.”</li> </ul>
Main Design Categories	1	Individual entrants present a real or theoretical costume, publicity, or scenic design.	Virtual Submission → Brief Interview (final)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virtual preliminary round; preliminary round folder submission due by December 1, 2024.</li> <li>The design entered should be wholly the creative work of the entrant.</li> <li>Entrants may not submit work from productions entered in any MTA festival in the current or prior year.</li> </ul>
ODEO (Open Division for Evaluation Only)	1	Individuals present a project in any area of theatrical design and/or technology that is not included in the Main Design Categories to receive evaluative feedback and an overall rating. (No ranked winners.)	Virtual Submission → Brief Interview (final)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Virtual preliminary round; preliminary round folder submission due by December 1, 2024.</li> <li>The design entered should be wholly the creative work of the entrant. Students who have collaborated on a process may enter their work and should specify the particulars of their contribution in their interview process.</li> <li>Entrants may submit work from any realized or theoretical theatrical production. This includes productions entered in MTA festivals during the current or prior year AND work on unpublished material developed for legitimate theatrical purposes.</li> <li>Teachers will be asked to identify whether the entrant’s submission falls under a design category or an execution category and will offer a designation of the student’s presentation, e.g. “sound design” or “stage management.”</li> </ul>

## ENTRIES

- Each school may register up to ten (10) entries in each main performance and design category; each school may register up to five (5) entries in pilot events.
- All entries must be registered in full by the November 1 registration deadline; changes to performers and selections (but no additions) may be accepted until November 15.
- Submission information for preliminary rounds will be communicated to teachers as soon as possible.
- Students may participate in up to five (5) individual events.
- A student may not enter the same individual event twice in the same festival year.

## EVENT REQUIREMENTS

- All events will have a virtual preliminary round.
- Finalists in performance events will compete in-person at the MTA state festival in January; all performance events will have a live final round.
- Finalists in main design categories and ODEO will participate in interviews with respondents at the MTA state festival in January.
- All performance events must be memorized.
- Duet and group selections should be balanced among the performers.
- Performers must slate before beginning their performance and should end each performance event by saying “thank you.” **Students are encouraged to repeat their slate following the “thank you.”** Neither slate nor “thank you” count towards the performance time.

## MATERIAL SELECTION

- Material for all events except Original Scene and ODEO must be drawn from **published plays and musicals**.
  - Works from other literary forms (such as poetry, fiction, stand up / sketch comedy, song lyrics) are prohibited.
  - Original works are prohibited in all events except Original Scene and ODEO.
  - Musical category selections must be drawn from published musicals; popular music is prohibited unless it is within the score of a published musical.
  - Entrants will be asked to identify the licensing company that holds the rights to the play or musical from which they draw their selection.
- **Performers should demonstrate evidence of understanding in regards to the selection’s context and intent.**

## LANGUAGE & CONTENT

- Directors and students should use discretion in regards to language and content.
- **Selections should be appropriate to the performers and should provide interest, intelligibility, and literary value.**

## MUSICAL EVENTS

- Performers must use pre-recorded, non-vocal musical accompaniment.
- Live accompaniment is prohibited.
- For in-person (final) rounds, all accompaniment must be downloaded to the entrant’s device; performers should not attempt to stream accompaniment from an internet source (such as YouTube).
- See “Equipment” under General Information in the Secondary Individual Events Operation Manual for full guidelines.

## ATTIRE

- Costumes and theatrical makeup are prohibited.
- Participants are encouraged to dress as they would for a theatrical audition or interview.
- All-black apparel is welcome but not required.

## 2024-2025 TIMELINE

- **November 1:** Registration deadline for schools participating in Secondary Individual Events
- **November 1 - November 15:** Virtual preliminary rounds submission window for all performance events
- **November 1 - December 1:** Virtual preliminary rounds submission window for design events
- **December 15:** Virtual preliminary round judging complete
- **December 20:** Performance events finalists announced on or before this date
- **January 18:** In-person final rounds of performance events; presentation and evaluation of main design categories and ODEO
- **January 19:** MTA Awards Ceremony
- **Following MTA:** Teachers receive respondent feedback for all entries