

IE2 LETTER 2026-27



Youth Individual Events Welcome Letter

My name is David Kelly and I am your current Chair of Secondary Individual Events for the Mississippi Theatre Association. I am also a high school theatre teacher at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Phil Milner is joining the IE Team as well. He is currently teaching Middle and High School Theatre in Tupelo. We are both excited to support anyone producing secondary theatre across the state - especially new teachers please reach out for any questions you might have.

FIRST: If you plan on entering Individual Events: [Please fill out this quick form.](#)

SECOND: Save and use this email: individualevents@mississippitheatre.org

THIRD: About this year's festival cycle: It's all on Award Force
mississippitheatreassociation.awardsplatform.com/

NEW ENTRY SYSTEM: Award Force

- Everything you need for entries should be found on our new entries platform, Award Force.
- For performance entries - you will need to submit a video (in an external link, e.g. Youtube or Vimeo).
- For tech entries - you will need to submit a single PDF document for the preliminary round
- Aside from the small updates below [THIS GUIDE](#) will help you understand all of the events.

UPDATES:

1. We are splitting the ODEO (Open Division for Evaluation Only) into performance and design categories. This is in response to the emerging representation in film, choreography, and more performative events that fit into the ODEO category. These ODEO categories will not have an in person interview for finalists.
2. We are splitting categories for solo events into grade level groups (no longer combining 9 and 10). So that for solo acting and musical theatre events there are now four categories by grade (9, 10, 11, and 12).

ALWAYS: Your input matters a great deal! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the way our festival is run, let us know!

DATES and QUICK INFO:

Before September 15 - [fill out this form to signify your interest](#). (Same form as above)

Before October 1 - Enter at least the participant's name into Award Force for the event(s) that you intend to enter. This program will save your information so that you can come back to it later.

Before October 30 - Finalize all event information.

November 1 - Technical IEs are due. They must be complete by this day.

November 15 - Performance IEs are due - they must be complete by this day.

On or before December 15 - Finalist Results are announced.

NOTE: Finalists must register for and attend the festival in January to compete in the finals.

ALSO: Non-finalists can register for the ever popular SPLASH scenes or tech relay. These events occur at the festival on the same day and time as the finals.

A school / organization may have ten (10) entries in each event. A student may enter up to five (5) events. On-site pilot events do not count toward this 5-entry limit.

- Solo event registration is \$10 per entry.
- Duet event registration is \$20 per entry.
- Group event registration is \$30 per entry (regardless of the number of students in the group).
- Pilot event registration will be \$5 per entry.

A full listing of events is available on the new AwardForce Platform.

Feel free to forward this information to any other secondary theatre teachers who you feel might not receive MTA emails. Reach out if you have any questions about Individual Events this year!

Sincerely,
David Kelly and Phil Milner
individualevents@mississippitheatre.org

EVENTS LIST 2026-27

IE EVENTS:

- Monologue (x4) grades 9, 10, 11, 12
- Duo Scene
- Group Scene
- Solo Musical Theatre (x4) grades 9, 10, 11, 12
- Duo Musical Theatre
- Group Musical Theatre
- Costume Design
- Publicity Design
- Scenic Design
- Open Division for Evaluation Only (ODEO): Performance: puppetry, dance, choreo, film, and other
- Open Division for Evaluation Only (ODEO): Technical: lighting design, sound design, stage management, directing, and other
 - (NOTE for ODEO: This is a “solo event” with one student being the entrant. Multiple students might be involved in the performance - the solo student should be the principal creator of the content).

LIVE Festival IE Events:

Tech Relay

- Schools may submit ten (10) entries and can designate a number of entries without naming participating students until after finals in other events are announced.
- Students will participate in teams of three (3) to five (5) in four (4) to six (6) relay-style competitions.
- A comprehensive handbook will follow that explains the full guidelines for this event.

Splash Scenes

- Schools may submit ten (10) entries and can designate a number of entries without naming participating students until after finals in other events are announced.
- Teachers will receive this year’s splash scene in November.
 - Names and identifying information about characters will be removed.
 - Characters will be designated “A” and “B.”
- Students will work with the other splash scene participants in their school to learn and prepare the scene.