



Alternate:

Dennis Yslas (Fort Worth, TX) A proud member of American Association of Community Theatre, Dennis has adjudicated for AACT at the State and Regional levels. His first AACT experience was in 1993 when he stage managed an award-winning production of *Six Women with Brain Death*, produced by Theatre Arlington [TX]. He has judged high school speech

tournaments at the state and national levels, and is an active judge for Dallas Summer Musicals High School Music Theatre Awards. Dennis is the Chair of the North Texas Actors' Equity Association Liaison Committee (having been a member of the union for over 10 years), and is on the Board of Governors for Texas Nonprofit Theatres where he serves as the Vice-President of Planning. An award-winning director in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, he also serves as Administrator for AACT-member theatre MainStage, Irving-Las Colinas. Dennis has been an actor for 40 years, having started his career on the *Bozo the Clown* TV show. ♦

Summary of Changes to AACTFest 17 Handbook

The Handbook for the 2017 AACTFest cycle was approved by the AACT Executive Committee at its November 2015 meeting, and has now been published. With input from festival chairs and Commissioners, several changes have been made from the 2015 version. Here is a summary of the changes.

The Basics

1. Goals have been consolidated into three, rather than four, elements, for the sake of clarity.
2. Language regarding facility type/limitations clarifies the need for a waiver from the Vice President for Festivals.
3. The requirement for 80-minute rehearsals is emphasized.
4. The means of selecting a production for the regional festival in states with no state festival is clarified, with specific guidelines now in place.

Technical Specifications

No changes.

Adjudication Guide

1. The means of ranking productions at the national festival has been changed, so that there will no longer be first, second, and third place winners. The *AACTFest 2017 Handbook* calls for submission by the adjudicators of nominations for the "Outstanding

Production" of the Festival, with one of those nominees named winner. (This is similar to how the other awards are done at the national festival.)

2. Use of panel adjudication at the national festival is no longer prohibited.

Festival Chair Guide

1. The Festival Commissioner is specified as the document and script collection agent at each level of the festival process.
2. Specific timing of the production meeting and technical rehearsals are noted and clarified.
3. The importance of careful adjudicator selection is emphasized.

Several minor wording changes have also been made for clarification purposes, but do not affect the rules. A PDF version of the *AACTFest 2017 Handbook* can be accessed online at aact.org/handbook. ♦

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