

NCTC Play Festival Adjudication Rubric



	Superior	Excellent	Good	Fair
Projection and Articulation	All actors demonstrate masterful vocal control, clarity, and projection throughout the performance.	Most actors maintain strong vocal choices and clear projection across the performance.	Vocal clarity is inconsistent; lack of vocal control or projection occasionally detracts.	Limited vocal choices and projection; severely compromises story clarity.
Physicality	Full physical control; character-driven movements, facial expressions, and gestures masterfully enhance the story.	Most actors employ intentional physical choices that effectively support their characterization.	Physical choices are inconsistent; actors occasionally drop physical engagement.	Very limited physical control, expression, or purposeful movement, detracting from the production.
Characterization	Full ensemble commitment; clear, specific artistic choices establish complex, believable characters.	Most actors show strong commitment and appropriate choices to develop clear characters.	Some actors show basic character development; choices lack depth or consistency.	Limited character commitment or development across the cast.
Purpose and Objective	All actors deliberately pursue character objectives, driving the dramatic structure and conflict.	Most actors successfully identify and pursue character objectives to support the plot.	Objectives are clear in some scenes but lack unified momentum across the cast.	Few actors pursue clear objectives; central conflicts are undefined.
Pacing & Energy	Artistic timing and energy are precisely executed, optimizing the rhythmic flow and keeping the build of the piece fully engaging.	Pacing and energy are well-sustained, effectively supporting the play's progression and narrative continuity throughout most scenes.	Energy or timing is uneven, occasionally stalling the momentum or disrupting the cohesive flow of the piece.	Pacing or energy is extremely sluggish or erratic, breaking the play's performance continuity and detracting from the entire production.
Textual Interpretation & Theme	Cast conveys a profound comprehension of the text, artfully revealing central themes so the audience fully connects with and understands the underlying meaning.	Most of the cast accurately interprets the text, successfully communicating core story elements and themes clearly to the audience.	Surface-level interpretation; some structural elements or themes are missed, occasionally clouding the audience's understanding of the story.	Few display an understanding of the text, leaving the play's core themes uncommunicated and confusing to the audience.
Ensemble Responsiveness	Exceptional concentration; actors seamlessly listen, respond, and remain deeply in the moment.	Strong focus across the ensemble; actors consistently listen and respond to one another.	Focus fluctuates; ensemble listening and responsiveness are inconsistent.	Frequent drops in concentration; actors fail to listen or respond to peers.
Staging Conventions & Composition	The performance displays highly engaging, purposeful blocking and stage pictures that compellingly tell the story.	Most scenes adhere to effective staging conventions and utilize deliberate composition to support the action.	The performance sometimes uses intentional movement or stage pictures, but spatial choices can lack consistency.	Blocking or stage configurations are muddy, ineffective, or fail to communicate the story clearly.
Production Design	Technical elements (sets, lights, sound, costumes) seamlessly enhance the aesthetic and action.	Technical design effectively supports the setting, style, and functional needs of the play.	Technical elements are present but basic; occasionally lacks cohesion with the action.	Technical design is non-functional or actively detracts from the performance.

Overall Rating: The rating awarded most often determines the overall production rating. If there is a tie between two ratings, the overall rating will be the higher of the two. In the event in a tie between three categories, the middle rating will be the overall rating.

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School:

Play:

Adjudicator:

Projection and Articulation	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Physicality	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Characterization	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Purpose and Objective	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Pacing & Energy	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Textual Interpretation & Theme	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Ensemble Responsiveness	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Staging Conventions & Composition	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Production Design	RATING (Superior/Excellent/Good/Fair):	
	Notes:	
Overall Rating (<i>office use only</i>):		