

A PRODUCTION'S JOURNEY TO FESTIVAL

A production's journey begins when members of a theatre company plan their annual season. Often they will decide to include an evening of one-act plays so they will be in the short production category (60 minutes or less) and eligible to represent New York State on the regional level. (The TANYYS Festival includes both long and short productions.)

Many TANYYS member companies have their entire season adjudicated so they will indicate on their adjudication request forms which productions are to be considered for Festival recommendations.

The assigned TANYYS Roving Adjudicator views the production at the home site location, gives the oral adjudication, and completes the Production Evaluation and Narrative report for the Adjudication Coordinator. If it is a "For Festival Adjudication," the adjudicator will make a recommendation based on established criteria. This process is followed, statewide, for every production that is to be considered for Festival.

At the Annual Festival Selection Meeting (the Sunday following the last Saturday in October), all TANYYS Adjudicators who have viewed productions for Festival Consideration meet, read the narrative reports and discuss, in detail, each production. As the meeting progresses, a final list of productions to be invited to Festival is agreed upon by the Adjudicators. The Vice President for Adjudication Services and the Festival Chair work out the logistic of scheduling productions into the available performance time in the four Festival Performance Sessions. Once the schedule is finalized, designated contact people for each production are called and their participation in Festival is confirmed.

At the TANYYS Festival, the Festival Adjudicator gives a ten-minute oral adjudication of each production. At the end of the Festival, the Adjudicator selects a best long production and two best short productions, as well as performance and other awards. In the year when the American Association of Community Theatre's National Festival (AACTFest) is held, the ESTA Festival winner is our Regional Representative on the national level. Often productions appearing at AACTFest receive an international Festival invitation.

So, the journey that began when a season was planned may be long but it is an exciting and rewarding experience for everyone involved.