



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APPLICATION FOR THE FESTIVAL

1. What are the application procedures?
2. Can special schools apply for the Festival?
3. Can a school join with another school to present one play in the Festival?
4. Can a school apply more than one language group?
5. Why is there a maximum quota for participating teams?

SCHOOL DRAMA TRAINING COURSE

6. What is the course mainly about?

CASH GRANT

7. How much is the cash grant from the Education Bureau for this school year?
8. When will the grant be released?
9. How will the grant be released?
10. What kind of expenditure items could be included?
11. Do schools need to submit all the subsidy expenses records?
12. Do schools need to return the remaining grant?

EXTERNAL TUTOR

13. What is an external drama tutor?
14. What is the standard fee for employing an external drama tutor?

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PHASE

I. The School Performance

15. What is the performance duration for each play?
16. Can schools use existing scripts for their school plays?
17. Where should the performance be arranged?
18. What if the school hall or activity room is unavailable for the performance?
19. What if we cannot arrange for an audience during the performance?

II. The Adjudication

20. Will adjudicators arrive at the performance venue earlier?
21. What should we prepare for the adjudicators' visit?
22. Do we need to take video records of the performance of our school?
23. How will schools receive the comments from adjudicators?
24. What is the difference between the verbal and written comments?
25. When will schools receive the written comments from adjudicators?
26. How long will the post-performance talk take?
27. When will the post-performance talk be arranged?
28. Who should attend the post-performance talk?

III. The Awards

29. Adjudication Criteria
30. How can schools know the results of awards?
31. What types of prize (certificate/trophy) will be given to different awards?
32. Who is eligible for the award?
33. How shall schools get the prize(s)?
34. Will the prize(s) be mailed to schools?

IV. Others

35. Are there any scripts or video recordings of the public performances from previous years for schools' reference?

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE PHASE

36. How many teams will enter the Public Performance Phase?
37. Will there be any complimentary tickets for schools?
38. Can the audiences take photos or videos at the public performance venue?
39. Will the video of the public performances be shared with the public?

OUTSTANDING STUDENT DRAMA TRAINING COURSE

40. What is the course mainly about?
41. Who is eligible for the course?
42. Do students need to pay for the course?
43. How long does the course take?
44. Will certificates be issued after finishing the course?

APPLICATION FOR THE FESTIVAL

1. What are the application procedures?

Normally, the application starts in the beginning of each academic year. The circular memorandum to invite entries to the Hong Kong School Drama Festival can be downloaded from the Education Bureau website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/dramafestival>).

Schools interested in joining the Festival are required to complete and return the application form by post to the following address on or before the submission deadline:

Room 819, 8/F, Youth Square, 238 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong.
Hong Kong Art School

Late applications will not be accepted (postmark date taken as the date of receipt). Please ensure sufficient postage to avoid unsuccessful delivery. Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances.

2. Can special schools apply for the Festival?

Any day secondary or primary school can apply for the Festival. Special schools are also welcome for application.

3. Can a school join with another school to present one play in the Festival?

Two or more schools may jointly present a play. In such case, the schools will be regarded as one unit for awards and cash grant.

4. Can a school apply for more than one language group?

Each school may apply for more than one language group.

A maximum of 555 drama teams can participate in the Festival 2023/24. If the number of school applicants is below 555, each school will have at least one entry in English Group, Cantonese Group or Putonghua Group in the first round of allocation, according to the priority stated by the school. The remaining quota will be allocated to schools applying for more than one group by a computerized open ballot in the second and third round of allocation.

If the total number of enrolling drama teams exceeds the pre-set quota, a computerised open ballot will be arranged. Each of the 555 participating schools will only participate in one language group.

The ballot (if necessary) will be held at the venue arranged by Hong Kong Art School. Representatives of school applicants are welcome to attend the session to witness the process. Detailed arrangements will be announced on this website (<https://www.hksdf-hkas.com/>).

5. Why is there a maximum quota for participating teams?

With the sponsorship of the Leisure & Cultural Services Department, the public performances will be staged at Town Halls and Civic Centers. Owing to the availability of the public venues, only a maximum of 42 teams can present their works during the Public Performance Phase. Therefore, all participating teams are allocated into a maximum of 42 groups for the School Performance Phase.

SCHOOL DRAMA TRAINING COURSE

6. What is the course mainly about?

The course is about basic concepts and principles of drama including introducing skills of scriptwriting, directing, acting, stagecraft, and stage management.

CASH GRANT

7. How much is the cash grant from the Education Bureau for this school year?

To facilitate schools' production of plays in the School Performance Phase, primary and secondary schools will receive a cash grant of \$3,500 and \$3,850 respectively for each approved team. Each drama team invited to perform in the Public Performance Phase will be eligible for an additional cash grant of \$4,500.

8. When will the grant be released?

The cash grant for the School Performance Phase and the Public Performance Phase will be released in December and April respectively by the Education Bureau.

9. How will the grant be released?

The cash grant will be released directly from the Education Bureau by the following means:

School Type	Means of Transfer
Government School Aided School Direct Subsidy Scheme School	Education Bureau Internal Mechanism
Private School	Education Bureau Internal Mechanism / By Cheque

10. What kind of expenditure items could be included?

All expenses related to the drama production for the Festival could be included, for instance, set, cosmetics, props, costumes, and equipment.

The schools may also consider spending the cash grant on hiring external tutor(s) (please see Question 13 for description). In such cases, however, schools are reminded that adequate resources should still be allocated to production items mentioned above.

11. Do schools need to submit all the subsidy expenses records?

Schools do not have to submit their subsidy expenses records to the organiser in general. However, schools are advised to keep proper financial records related to the Festival for internal archiving and auditing purpose.

Under special circumstances, such as in the event that the epidemic makes it necessary for the organiser to cancel the School Performance Phase and/or Public Performance Phase, schools need to return the unused portion of the cash grant and submit receipts for used subsidy.

12. Do schools need to return the remaining grant?

Aided schools, direct subsidy scheme schools and private schools do not have to return the remaining amount of the cash grant. Schools are suggested to allocate remaining amounts for their production in the next year, or other drama activities in school.

For government schools, please use the grant for the School Performance Phase 2023/24 within the 2023/24 financial year and that of the Public Performance Phase 2023/24 (held in May annually) within the 2024/25 financial year. Please monitor the spending position and compliance with all government and bureau guidelines and regulations in respect of procurement and accounting records.

If a participating school withdraws from the Festival, the cash grant must be returned in full.

Under special circumstances, such as in the event that the epidemic makes it necessary for the organiser to cancel the School Performance Phase and/or Public Performance Phase, schools need to return the unused portion of the cash grant and submit receipts for used subsidy.

EXTERNAL TUTOR

13. What is an external drama tutor?

External tutors are professionals in drama who can offer training, advice, or assistance to teachers and students taking part in the Festival.

Please note that the participating schools should contact tutors at their own discretion. The organiser is NOT responsible for any transaction or dispute between the schools and tutors.

14. What is the standard fee for employing an external drama tutor?

Schools which employ external tutor(s) are fully responsible for liaising, hiring and negotiating fees with individual tutors. No standard rate will be recommended and payment should be made directly to the tutor by the schools. The organiser is NOT responsible for any transaction between the schools and tutors.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PHASE

I. The School Performance

15. What is the performance duration for each play?

The performance duration is as specified:

Primary Schools	15-20 minutes
Secondary Schools	20-30 minutes

(Performances exceeding the specified performance duration may not be nominated to enter the Public Performance Phase.)

16. Can schools use existing scripts for their school plays?

Yes. Schools can write their own scripts, use existing scripts or make use of scripts in adapted form (Please also see Question 35). For the latter two cases, schools should clear the copyright of the scripts before they stage the play.

17. Where the performance should be arranged?

Performances will normally be staged at school halls or activity rooms. However, schools may also consider using other venues taking into account venue availability or the style of your play (e.g. an open-air performance space, classrooms, other schools' halls, community halls, town halls or civic centres.)

18. What if the school hall or activity hall is unavailable for the performance?

Schools may consider the suggestions as stated in [question 17](#). Adjudication will be based on the appropriate use of performance space and it is not a must for a play to be staged at the school hall.

19. What if we cannot arrange for an audience during the performance?

It is highly recommended that schools arrange an audience (students/parents) for the performance for two reasons:

1. It recognises students' achievements by sharing their work with other members of the school; and
2. Drama is a live art form that the presence of the audience greatly enhances the atmosphere and thus the performance of the acting team.

The adjudication decision will not be affected by the presence/absence of the audience, but will be based on the overall performance of the team which may be affected by the presence of the audience as stated in (2) above.

II. The Adjudication

20. Will adjudicators arrive at the performance venue earlier?

Adjudicators usually arrive at the performance venue 10 minutes earlier than the stipulated performance time.

It is advised that schools should contact one of the adjudicators to confirm details about the performance time, venue and other related arrangements one week prior to the performance date.

21. What should schools prepare for adjudicators' visits?

Schools must submit the following documents for the adjudicators' reference to the organiser on the day of performance:

1. The script
2. The latest cast list & production team list
3. Relevant documentation, e.g. house programme (if any)

22. Do schools need to take video records of the performance and the post-performance talk of our school?

It is recommended that the schools should video record their school performance and post-performance talk for the following purposes:

1. For the schools' archive;
2. For sharing with other students (e.g. Campus TV);
3. For possible future use of the Festival, as an exemplar or demonstration of good work; and
4. For facilitation of technical support by the Festival Stage Manager if the school takes part in the Public Performance Phase.

23. How will the schools receive the comments from adjudicators?

Schools will receive both verbal and written comments from adjudicators. Verbal comments on the production will be shared with the participants during the post-performance talk. The written comment sheet will be issued along with the school awards at a later stage.

24. What is the difference between the verbal and written comments?

Verbal comments are the immediate feedback from adjudicators, which will be shared interactively with the performing teams in order to guide teachers and students to reflect on their own work and the process of making the production.

The comment sheet can be regarded as a more detailed feedback to the schools, and is more elaborative than verbal comments, after adjudicators further consolidate their views and examined the scripts more closely.

25. When will schools receive the written comments from adjudicators?

The comment sheet will be issued along with the school awards.

26. How long will the post-performance talk take?

The post-performance sharing will normally last for about 30 minutes. The schools should make sure that sufficient time is allowed for this valuable sharing right after the performance.

27. When will the post-performance talk be arranged?

The post-performance talk will be arranged right after the school performance.

28. Who should attend the post-performance talk?

All participants, including performers, directors, designers and the backstage crew, should join the post-performance talk.

II. The Awards

29. Adjudication Criteria

Award for Outstanding Script	Award for Outstanding Stage Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original/adaptations/naturalistic/stylized works are acceptable; can be written by teachers, students in the schools or collaboratively by members of the team. • Scripts written by commissioned tutors to the schools are not considered for awards nomination. • Originality of the script (apply to original script) • Good consideration of the characteristics of drama on adapting script (apply to adaptations script) • The theme/topics are understandable by the acting team. • Complete structure and coherent style of the script. • Logic and coherence development of the script. • Proper roles description, tension and attraction. • Terse lines of plays and match up with the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality of overall idea of stage design. • Flexibly and creatively use of existing resources. • Aesthetic stage design in different aspects. • Stage setting/properties/productions fulfilled the needs of the works. • Styling/costumes/production fulfilled the needs of the roles. • Lighting and sound effect fulfilled the needs of the works. • The different aspects stage effect work as a coherent.
Award for Outstanding Director	Award for Outstanding Cooperation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directing works by teachers and students in the schools are eligible for awards nomination. • Tutors outside the schools are not considered for awards nomination. • Unique, creative and adequate interpretation of the script/theme. • Aesthetic blocking and clear focus. • Coherent, appropriate and unique style of the work. • Smooth and good control on rhythm of the work. • Appropriate use of stage effect, good control of the atmosphere and good casting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good team spirit. • Good communication among the whole team. • Various departments understand the purpose and needs of the work (e.g. as seen in the after-show discussions) • Good stage management (e.g. as seen in fluency of scene changes) • Good support from the school (e.g. as seen in arrangement of audience)
Award for Outstanding Performer	Award for Commendable Overall Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only individual actors/actresses are considered for awards nomination. • The actor/actress shown their understanding of the script/theme • The actor/actress shown their trust in the role and have a coherent acting. • Clear pronunciation and appropriate use of voice. • Use of body language and adequately control the rhythm. • Adequate emotion expression. • Good communication with other actors/actresses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creativity in the work. • The theme/message is well displayed. • The acting team forms a good ensemble and achieves considerable skills level. • The different aspects in the production achieve considerable standard. • The different aspects work as a coherent and organic whole. • Works with highest grading not necessary nominated to adjudicators' award.
	Adjudicators' Award
	<p>The nominee of the "Adjudicators' Award" may have remarkable or unique achievement in one or more than one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic level • Creativity • Theme(s) / message sharing • Effort of the team • Ensemble work among teammates • Others

30. How can schools know the results of awards?

All results of awards will be announced on this website (<https://www.hksdf-hkas.com>) after the School Performance Phase. Schools will be notified of their own results by email.

31. What types of prizes (certificates/trophies) will be given to different awards?

Award	Prize
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Award for Outstanding Script■ Award for Outstanding Director■ Award for Outstanding Actor■ Award for Outstanding Stage Effects■ Award for Outstanding Cooperation	Certificates of Merit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Award for Commendable Overall Performance■ Adjudicators' Award	Trophies and Certificates of Merit

32. Who is eligible for awards?

Only students and teachers from participating schools (excluding external tutors and alumni) are eligible for the "Award for Outstanding Script" and "Award for Outstanding Director". Other awards are only for participating schools and/or their students.

33. How shall schools get the certificates and/or trophies?

The organiser will notify the participating schools of the results and details of award collection by post in April. The Adjudicators' Award will be presented at the Prize Presentation Ceremony. Other awards (including certificates and trophies) will be collected by the participating schools.

To collect the certificates and/or trophies, the school's representative(s) should bring along the letter of results and collect them at the Hong Kong Art School Main Campus at a specified period. Please note that, if a school has joined more than one language category, separate letters should be presented for collection.

34. Will the prize(s) be mailed to schools?

To avoid unsuccessful delivery, all certificates and/or trophies have to be collected at Hong Kong Art School Main Campus. Prize(s) will not be sent to schools by post. The school's representative is also required to sign an acknowledgement of receipt for collection.

IV. Others

35. Are there any scripts or video recordings of the public performances from previous years for schools' reference?

The scripts / script excerpts of public performances from the Festival 2015/16 onwards have been uploaded to the Education Bureau website (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/dramafestival>). These scripts are only for reference purpose. Rights for performance or adaptation are protected by copyright and their permission must be sought from the author.

Video recordings of public performances from the Festival 2017/18 onwards are also available for participating schools' reference. Schools that would like to borrow the video recording should fill in the form available in the Download section of the Festival's website and fax it back to 2865-0371. Confirmation will be sent via email.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE PHASE

36. How many teams will enter the Public Performance Phase?

42 teams (max.) will be selected by the panel of adjudicators and enter the Public Performance Phase to perform at the venues sponsored by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department.

37. Will there be any complimentary tickets for schools?

Complimentary tickets for public performances will be available for participating schools. All participating schools in the Festival are eligible to request tickets. Details will be announced at this website (<https://www.hksdf-hkas.com>).

38. Can audiences take photos or videos at the public performance venue?

Photography, audio or video recording by audiences are prohibited at the public performance venues. Video will be taken by the organiser and a record will be given to the respective schools.

39. Will the video of the public performances be shared with the public?

All participating schools of the Festival can borrow video recordings of the public performances for reference. For details, please refer to Question 35.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT DRAMA TRAINING COURSE

40. What is the course mainly about?

The course is mainly about basic drama knowledge and skills, with a focus on acting skills. Students will work with the tutors to create a piece of drama work to be presented at the end of the training course.

41. Who is eligible for the course?

Primary students nominated with "Award for Outstanding Performer" and Secondary students nominated with "Award for Outstanding Script", "Award for Outstanding Director" or "Award for Outstanding Performer" are eligible. All applicants will be invited to attend an audition if the number of applicants exceeds the places available.

42. Do students need to pay for the course?

The Education Bureau will fully subsidise the course so participants do not have to pay the course fee.

43. How long does the course take?

This is a 50-hour training course. It will be held during mid-July to August.

44. Will certificates be issued after finishing the course?

Statement of Attendance will be issued upon 85% attendance of the course and the recommendation of the drama tutor.

[The End]