



Comité international
des Jeux de la
Francophonie



SPECIFIC RULES OF THE THEATER COMPETITION

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This document aims to inform States, governments and authors about the specific rules of the Theater competition. For any other information concerning the competition as a whole, kindly refer to the Cultural Competitions General Rules.

The Theater discipline is officially part of the cultural competitions of the 10th Francophone Games.

« This document is a courtesy translation. In case of doubt, please refer to the original document written in French »

1. Rules of the competition

This competition will feature 16 selected collectives or troupes.

The group is made up of a maximum of 7 artists (including professional artists responsible for scenography, dramaturgy, technical aspects, music, video, sound design, lighting design, costumes, etc.):

- The collective or troupe has 15 to 30 minutes to present its performance;
- The performance features two to four actors directed by a stage director and may be accompanied by other professional artists responsible for scenography, dramaturgy, and technical aspects if needed...;
- The play is intended for a general audience;
- The proposed scenography must be easy to assemble and dismantle;
- Lighting design must be simple and effective;
- The use of dangerous objects (knives, other sharp objects, fire, etc.) as well as animals is strictly prohibited;
- The performance must be an original creation, specifically written and conceived for the Games. It may be an adaptation of a recent work performed by the collective within the 24 months preceding the Games;
- The performance must present a cohesive narrative with a clear storyline that evolves from a beginning, through a middle, to an end, even if composed of excerpts. It must not consist solely of the opening scenes of a play without a continuation;
- The performance must be based on an original collective writing, a short text, or an assembly of texts by Francophone authors or texts translated into French. This French text may incorporate other national languages of the country or government to which the competing troupe belongs. If a significant portion of the text is spoken in another language and is essential to understanding the play, a translation of those excerpts must be provided to the Jury members (translation to be included in the application file). 80% of the play must be in French;
- The choice of the text must reflect the story of the director or the collective who decided to present it (Why this text? Why now? Why bring, introduce, and defend this message at the Games?). It should reflect an intention, a desire, or an urgency, connected to the professional and personal journey of the artists and/or the socio-political and economic context in which they live. How does this voice and the artistic choices made to convey it resonate with their journey and/or today's world?
- A written authorization from the author or their legal representatives (such as SACD or other national copyright organizations) must be included in the application file;
- If the performance requires specific sets or scenic elements, they must not exceed a total weight of 300 kg, fit into a box no larger than 15 m³, and arrive at least 10 days before the Games. They will not be accepted if their setup or dismantling risks disrupting the normal course of the competition.

The artist application file composition:

The collective or troupe must attach the following documents to the artist's application file (see General Rules):

- The technical sheet of the play;
- A typed dossier (maximum 10 pages) explaining their choice and artistic approach.
- The dossier must include:

- The title of the play;
- A synopsis (maximum 150 words);
- An intent note (maximum 1000 words) explaining the desire, vision, and choice of text;
- Excerpts from the text;
- A brief presentation of the collective (maximum 300 words) (Is it a collective or a troupe? Do they usually work together?),
- References and/or images (photos, diagrams, drawings, the poster if available...) related to thematic or aesthetic research (accepted formats: PDF, DOC, DOCX. Maximum file size: 10 MB).

a. National Preselection (see General Rules)

Each State or Government participating in the competition must conduct a preselection for each event in which they are registered. This preselection must shortlist 3 competitors (or groups). For the time being, each State determines its own selection criteria.

However, to harmonize the preselection process, candidates may be asked to submit:

- The dossier of the last production directed by the stage director, including (a synopsis, an intent note) and visual elements (poster, production photos, references, etc.) (10 MB maximum);
- A multimedia video file (5 minutes max) showcasing an excerpt from the last production performed. The video must capture the essence of the play. It should highlight the director's intent, the actors' performances, and the artistic direction. (40 MB maximum).

b. International Preselection (see General Rules)

A panel of experts will select one candidate per State and Government. If a harmonized preselection process is implemented, experts will rely on the submitted candidate dossiers for evaluation. Candidates will be chosen based on their artistic journey and professional background, the importance given to the Francophone world in their work (working language, impact and visibility within the Francophone space, adherence to Francophone values) and the desire to be open to others and work at the international level.

2. The running of the competition

Cultural competition and final selection:

- The competition is open to the public, who is invited not to leave during the performances;
- The order of performances for the different collectives may be determined based on their technical requirements, from the simplest to the most complex;
- The competition lasts five days, including rehearsal sessions;
- A pre-selection of up to five collectives will be made. These collectives will present their work again on the final day of the competition, when the results will be announced, and the medals awarded;
- The competition will run as follow:
 - Each collective presents its work on stage (15 to 30 minutes)
 - Scene change/lighting adjustments/preparation of the next collective (30 minutes)
 - During this time, Jury members discuss their initial impressions (15 minutes).
 - After all performances, the Jury selects five finalist collectives

- The five finalist collectives perform their work again
- The Jury has about fifteen minutes to deliberate and select the three winning collectives.

3. Organization

The CNJF organizes and ensures the operational execution of the competition, including providing venues and necessary staff, managing communication and schedule compliance, and facilitating coordination between organizers, participants and the Jury. A dedicated representative for the Theater competition will be available throughout the event to respond to any questions or requests.

A Technical Manual for the Theater competition will be published 2 months before the Games by the Competition Manager (see General Rules).

The competition is under the technical responsibility of a President of the Jury, appointed by the International Committee of the Francophone Games (CIJF) in consultation with the French Language in the Diversity of Cultures Department (DLC) of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

4. Artists' obligations

- Artists are asked to be aware of the Rules in force and to comply with them from the moment of submitting their application.
- They shall ensure that, in all circumstances, they behave courteously and respectfully towards themselves and others.
- All selected artists commit to being present from the beginning to the end of the Theater competition. Participants may leave the host country after the final, without any obligation to stay until the end of the Games. Participants who choose to stay will participate in the parade at the closing ceremony.
- Artists must comply with the schedule provided to them; they must strictly adhere to the time allocated for their performance.
- In addition to their time on stage, artists must be available for any activities related to the Games (participation in meetings, workshops, interviews, etc.).

5. Material and technical conditions

A detailed specifications document outlining the technical requirements for the Theatre competition is provided to the host country, which must comply with it to ensure the best possible conditions for the competitors.

Artists will have previously sent their simplified technical sheet to the CNJF and must accept, as far as possible, any requested adjustments/modifications, provided that these do not affect the artistic quality of their performance.

The competing collective or troupe must send the following to the CNJF 6 months before the Games:

- A detailed technical sheet. If the performance requires special effects, these will only be feasible with the approval of the CNJF technical director.
- A high-quality image for the catalog (poster of the performance, stage photographs, or any other image that provides insight into the world of the play).

6. Obligations, criteria and evaluation grid of the international Jury

The Jury must read, understand, and comply with the rules. They must evaluate the artists based on the provided evaluation criteria.

The proposed theatrical form should speak for itself. However, if the Jury finds it necessary for their assessment and appreciation, they will have 15 minutes to engage in a discussion with the artists in between scene changes.

The international Jury commits to being present throughout the entire competition. Jury members must be familiar with and enforce both the general rules of the competition and the specific rules of their discipline.

The Jury will draft a detailed report on the deliberation process and the final ranking. During the final, the Jury will have 15 minutes to deliberate before announcing the results.

The Theatre competition of the Francophone Games reflects the diversity of Francophone cultures and the dynamism of young Francophone artists. The Jury will be particularly attentive to artists who convey sensitivity, joy, and open-mindedness while demonstrating originality.

Below is the evaluation grid:

EVALUATION GRID

DISCIPLINE: THEATRE

NAME OF THE ARTIST/GROUPE

.....

STATE OR GOVERNMENT

CRITERIA	VERY SUCCESSFUL (20/25 pts)	SUCCESSFUL (15/20 pts)	MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL (10/15 pts)	NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL (0-10 pts)
The production of a well-developed short performance and the alignment between the written dossier and the presented performance				
The staging, artistic direction, and dramatic interpretation (presence quality and actors' performance)	0	0	0	0

CRITERIA	VERY SUCCESSFUL (20/25 pts)	SUCCESSFUL (15/20 pts)	MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL (10/15 pts)	NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL (0-10 pts)
The quality of the chosen text (themes, originality, strength, accessibility, contemporaneity, universality, language...)	0	0	0	0
The overall rhythm (duration, transitions, use of silence...)	0	0	0	0
The scenography (sets and stage elements, costumes, props, presence of music, dance, video...) and the lighting, simple and effective in serving the text				
TOTAL	0	0	0	0
Total of points: 0/100				

7. Workshops - Entertainment

The CNJF can take advantage of the arrival of artists from all over the world to organize meetings, workshops... for the public in Yerevan and/or within cultural institutions present in Yerevan.

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