



SPRING 2025

VAYA INTERNATIONAL SPEECH ARTS & DRAMA FESTIVAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

The Festival is under the working management of the VAYA Youth Arts Society. Any questions not dealt with in these rules will be referred to the management whose decisions on such matters will be final and binding. The Objectives of the Festival will be the basis for these decisions.

- ALL sessions will take place online. In lieu of a live performance opportunity, written adjudications will be more detailed than would be possible within the time constraints of an in-person festival.
- Performance videos will be posted on our website (vayafestivals.ca).
- Due to processing time and budget constraints, certificates and adjudication reports will be sent by email only.
- We know that the playing field is not as level with this format. The quality of video recordings will vary. Our adjudicators know to take this into consideration.
- It may take up to three weeks to receive your adjudications and notices of awards depending on the volume of entries received.

ABOUT CATEGORIES & PARTICIPANTS:

- Competitive categories are open to amateurs only, meaning those whose principal income is not derived from acting. This does not apply to students who teach for the purpose of applying the money to further their education. Professional actors are welcome to enter the festival for an adjudication only.
- Rules specific to certain categories are stated in their sections of the syllabus.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** March 15, 2025. Late registrations will be subject to a \$10.00 late fee.
- **VIDEO SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** April 25, 2025.
- **TARGET DATE FOR RETURNING ADJUDICATIONS:** May 16, 2025.
- **TARGET DATE FOR ANNOUNCING AWARDS:** May 23, 2025.

TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2024 ONLINE VAYA SPEECH ARTS + DRAMA FESTIVAL:

- On the [Syllabus and Registration](#) webpage, look through the syllabus for category options, and then register. If you are unsure which selections you will be performing, type 'TBA' where prompted and email us the details as soon as you know them.

VIDEO SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Film a video of your performance(s) – one video file for each selection.
- Make sure you announce your name and title of selection(s) at the beginning of your video. Try to make sure your hands, face, feet, and props are visible. We understand that not everyone has the space to make this possible.
- Upload your recording to your own YouTube channel as an UNLISTED video – so anyone with the link can view it. **Sorry, we cannot accept Google Drive or Dropbox links.** Send a link to your performance to gm@vayafestivals.ca by the deadline date. **IMPORTANT: We require PDF copies of all works being performed.** Proof of purchase is not necessary.

ABOUT ENTRIES:

- Festival entries must be received on or before March 15, 2024. Late entries are subject to a \$10.00 late fee.
- Participants who register in categories with an incorrect choice of repertoire will be reassigned to the appropriate category.
- Participants may not perform the same repertoire in following years.
- Participants may not perform the same repertoire in more than one category in the festival except for original prose or poetry. These may be entered in the Speech and Drama (for performance critique) as well as Creative Writing categories (for literary critique). A separate entry fee is required for each category.
- The festival will consider creating additional categories not listed in the syllabus. Requests must be made before March 15, 2024.
- No festival entry fees will be refunded after March 15, 2025.
- The festival reserves the right to refuse any entry without assigning a reason for so doing.

ABOUT MARKS, AWARDS & CERTIFICATES:

- Our marking system has been revised:
- Platinum standard (95%+) signifies excellence in most facets of performance.
- Gold standard (90 - 94%) signifies an exceedingly high standard of performance.
- Silver standard (85-89%) signifies a high standard of performance.
- Bronze standard (84%-) signifies a performance with latitude for improvement.
- Certificates and adjudication reports will be sent via email. We are no longer able to send these through regular mail due to postage costs and processing times.
- To be eligible for any cash award, a participant must have received a mark of at least 90%. To be eligible for cash award of more than \$100.00, a participant must have entered at least two categories and have received a mark of at least 90% in both categories. Final decisions regarding awards rest with the adjudicators.
- The awards program is ongoing. Check our website (www.vayafestivals.ca) for updates.
- If a category or division is under-subscribed, the festival reserves the right to re-allocate award funds to another category or division.

LIABILITY WAIVER:

By registering in in the VAYA Speech Arts and Drama Festival, participants agree:

- to release any responsibility of the Festival Society's Directors and Staff and Volunteers from any claims, demands, damages, actions, or causes of action arising out of or in consequence of any loss, illness, injury, or damage incurred while participating.
- to allow the Society to post their video links on the vayafestivals.ca website.