



THE ALL-IRELAND ONE-ACT DRAMA FINALS: PROTOCOL 2026

GENERAL

- Each year a host festival/group is chosen to run the All-Ireland One-Act Finals on behalf of the Joint Committee of the ADCI/DLI (hereafter Joint Committee), based on their application/expression of interest which should be submitted up to two years in advance.
- The host festival is selected at the AGM of the Joint Committee which is usually held in February each year.
- The festival must adhere to all the rules pertaining to the One-Act Drama Festival Circuit and will take place on the weekend commencing the first Friday in December each year unless otherwise directed by the Joint Committee.
- The festival hosts are responsible for all aspects of the finals; however, any issue which arises not covered by the rules must be discussed with the Joint Committee, through the national secretary.

FORMAT OF THE FESTIVAL WEEKEND

- The presentation of the plays over the festival weekend must follow the format and running order detailed below:
 - 3 plays presented on Friday night: one confined; one open; one confined
 - 3 plays presented on Saturday night: one open; one confined; one open
 - 3 plays presented on Sunday afternoon: one confined; one open; one confined
 - 2 plays presented on Sunday night: two open
- The above format is the format approved by the Joint Committee. Any proposed alterations to this format by the host festival must be communicated to the Joint Committee for consideration.

REPORTING

- The host festival will be invited to attend the August meeting of the Joint Committee (generally held on the last Sunday in August) where they will present a report on the planning of the festival to the committee. The main areas to address in this report are Finance and Sponsorship, Accommodation, Publicity (including website, poster, broadcast and print media etc.), Transport (if this is an issue), Ticket pricing (including Season tickets), Entertainment etc.
- The hosts may be invited to attend the Joint Committee meeting in October (generally the 3rd Sunday) to give an update on progress and discuss any issues for resolution.
- Following the finals, the host festival must submit a detailed report on all aspects of the Finals, (including a financial report) to the Joint Committee for discussion at the AGM usually held on the 2nd Sunday in February. They will also be invited to attend this meeting to discuss their experience.
- At the February meeting (post All Ireland), when presenting the final report, a donation of €600 must be given to the Joint Committee to assist them in their operational costs.

Expressing an interest to host the All-Ireland Finals is seen as agreement to the above donation.

- The current host is encouraged to liaise with the host of the previous year's festival for guidance/assistance from the hosting festival's point of view.

PUBLICITY

- The host festival is responsible for ensuring the finals are properly publicised and to this end must at a minimum provide the following:
 - A4 Colour advertisements and articles for publication on Ezine and all social media platforms.
 - A5 Landscape/Portrait advertisements submitted to all qualifying festivals for inclusion in their programme.
 - Posters to all qualifying festivals for display during the festival.
 - Website detailing all information regarding the festival.
 - A high-quality programme.
 - The programme cover must include the following sentence "Under the Auspices of the Joint Committee of the Amateur Drama Council of Ireland/Drama League of Ireland".
 - All Posters, website, letters and all publicity material should carry the Joint Committee logo. The programme must carry the Joint Committee logo on the front cover, and two pages should be reserved for ADCI and DLI advertisements.

THE DRAW

- The last qualifying festival must finish two weeks before the All-Ireland, leaving one weekend between the finish of the festivals and the All-Ireland.
- The draw must take place on this weekend (either Saturday or Sunday), this will allow time for groups to be notified of their qualification in advance of the draw and will give the organising festival a week to finalise programme details.
- The draw should take place in the venue for the finals or if this is not possible in a hotel close by with a tour of the theatre facilities arranged for immediately before or after the draw.
- The draw should be carried out by two Joint Committee members; one DLI representative and one ADCI representative, preferably the Joint Committee Chairperson and Joint Committee Secretary or another member nominated by the Joint Committee
- Once the draw is made, groups have a maximum of an hour to negotiate changes. After the hour or when it is confirmed by all groups that no changes have been negotiated, the draw can officially be made public. **THOSE ATTENDING SHOULD BE INFORMED NOT TO CIRCULATE DETAILS ON SOCIAL MEDIA OR OTHERWISE UNTIL PERMISSION IS GIVEN.**
- The following should be invited to attend the Draw:
 - Representatives of qualifying groups.
 - The twelve members of the Joint Committee (names will be supplied by Secretary).
 - The adjudicator.
 - Local dignitaries and any other people the organising committee deem appropriate.
 - Members of Press, TV and Radio.
 - Representatives of major sponsors.

- As well as the above, the host committee must ensure the following personnel are in attendance:
 - Theatre/Stage manager
 - Lighting/Sound Manager
 - Festival Representatives - It is at this stage that groups should be introduced to their minders and contact details exchanged.
- The draw requires the following elements:
 - A display facility, (board or power-point) with days and times i.e., 1st session, 2nd session, and so on.
 - A colour to identify each section (recently it has been customary to use Red for Open and Blue for Confined)
 - Scrutineer – usually a 6&6 member(s).
 - Hospitality – Wine, Tea, Coffee and Finger Food etc.
 - Information – There should be information available on accommodation and local attractions; also, technical packs for all participating groups.

AWARDS

There are seven perpetual trophies as follows:

1. Open Winner
 2. Confined Winner
 3. Best Male Performance Open
 4. Best Female Performance Open
 5. Best Male Performance Confined
 6. Best Female Performance Confined
 7. Adjudicators Award for Best Innovation and Creativity
- It is required that the host festival appoints a committee member to ensure that the trophies are signed for and their containers are given to each of the winners post the festival photos in order to protect each of these valuable trophies on an ongoing basis.
 - The winners should ensure their perpetual trophy is properly engraved and that all trophies are cleaned and/or polished before being returned to the following year's host festival.
 - Winning groups must bear the cost of any work or repair to trophies if they choose to hold them for the year.
-
- **OTHER AWARDS**
 - Adjudicator's special awards – sponsored by the host festival. The host festival should offer one or a maximum of two such awards, entirely at their own discretion.
 - The adjudicator must ensure clarity as to the reason/category of the adjudicator's awards.
 - The Summer School Bursary, sponsored by the ADCI and DLI, is valued at €500. The host festival should check with the Joint Committee (Chair or Secretary) regarding the conditions for this award.
 - It should be indicated in the festival programme that the Joint Committee are the sponsors of the bursary.
 - Memento – It is customary to present a 'piece' to each participating group, usually to the director.
 - Mementos should be presented to the winning groups and individuals who receive the perpetual awards; these may be scrolls/mementos/replicas, entirely at the host festival discretion.

TICKETS

- Season tickets must be made available for sale.
- A number of complimentary season tickets must be provided/offered as follows:

- 1 x Season Ticket for each member Joint Committee (Total 12)
- 1 x Season Ticket for DLI Office
- 1 x Season Ticket for ADCI PRO
- All of the above should have the option to purchase an extra ticket.
- These tickets should be non-transferrable.
- Major Sponsors/ Local Dignitaries/ Media Partners etc. may also be offered Tickets/Season Tickets at the discretion of the Host Festival.

PRIORITY BOOKING

- Members of the Board of the Drama League of Ireland and the National Executive Committee of the Amateur Drama Council of Ireland not directly involved with the Joint Committee should be offered the option of purchasing tickets prior to their general public release.

PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

- A maximum of three complementary tickets should be made available to the playwriting competition award winners for the closing session on final night.
- The playwriting award ceremony should take place immediately after the final adjudication of the Sunday evening session, and the host festival should liaise in advance with the playwriting coordinator regarding the stage requirements etc.
- The following should be invited on stage-
 - Chairperson of the judging panel.
 - A representative of the playwriting competition sponsors.

OPENING/CLOSING CEREMONIES

- The chairperson of DLI and the ADCI should both be given an opportunity to speak at either the opening or closing ceremony. To be decided between respective chairpersons.
- It is customary for the following to be invited on the platform for the above ceremonies:
 - Chairperson DLI
 - Chairperson ADCI
 - Chairperson of the Joint Committee if different from above
 - Secretary Joint Committee (Closing)
 - Adjudicator
 - Host committee representatives
 - Major sponsor
- Where at all possible representatives of each competing group, in particular the directors, should be accommodated in the auditorium for the awards ceremony.
- Broadcasting/livestreaming of performances or nightly public adjudications is not permitted; however the final results may be broadcast.
- Where the host festival proposes to use additional space to cater for extra capacity away from the main theatre, the host festival must ensure that all appropriate licences and authorisations from both groups and authors are in place.

The above is the minimum that is expected of a host festival. Changes to the format of the Finals as outlined above can only be made with the approval of the Joint Committee.