

Programme and Poster Competition rules 2025–2028



NODA's annual Programme and Poster Competition is a very popular competition for groups and highlights the promotion of amateur theatre in the UK. Its purpose is to encourage high standards in programme and poster design.

Each Region holds their own competition, using the criteria set out below, with the winning entries then put forward to the national competition. Trophies for the winners and runners up of the national competition are currently then awarded at the NODA Annual General Meeting.

Criteria for judging 2025 – 2028 programme and poster competition entries

Please note that these criteria apply to entries for shows between 1st January and 31st December (1st July to 30th June in Scotland) in each of these years and come into effect 1st January 2025 (1st July 2024 for Scotland).

It is important to note that it is a condition of entry for all programmes and posters that:

- the new official NODA logo with the strapline 'For every stage' is included in programmes and on posters. Use of the old logo and the strapline 'Be inspired by amateur theatre' will result in disqualification.
- 'An introduction to NODA' is also to be included in programmes. Use of any other version of 'An introduction to NODA' will result in disqualification.

The name of the various classes of programme and posters are taken from the trophies which are awarded to that particular class of entry.

NODA has made available various colours of the logo to suit individual programme and poster designs. If a non-NODA colour is used, this will result in disqualification.

The 'Introduction to NODA' is supplied in various sizes and formats to suit different programme designs. If you decide to use just the NODA supplied text, this text must not be altered and any changes will result in disqualification.

The current versions of the logo and the 'Introduction to NODA' (to fit all styles of media) can be found as downloads on the Programme and Poster Competition page on the website.

NOTE: the following exemptions will apply during the first year of the new criteria to allow for the transition to the new NODA branding given the lead time for programme & poster production.

Scotland – for shows up to 31 March 2025 entries will still be valid even if they use the old NODA branding.

England, Wales & Ireland – for shows up to 30 June 2025 entries will still be valid even if they use the old NODA branding.

To take part in the competition, 5 copies of your entry must be sent to your Regional Councillor, either direct or via your Regional Representative, to be received no later than 14th January following the end of the competition year.

Contact details can be found on the NODA website: www.noda.org.uk or by contacting NODA headquarters by email: info@noda.org.uk or tel: 01733 374 790.

Peacock Class programmes – 24 sides or over including cover	
Cover design Cover design and layout including quality of original artwork or innovative use of official artwork	10
Show information Synopsis, scenes, musical numbers, director's notes	15
Cast information Cast list and photograph, principal biographies and photographs, rehearsal photographs	15
Production information Production team details, production credits (stage management, scenery and props, wardrobe and make-up, sound and lighting etc.), acknowledgements	15
Official credits Contractual details including "by arrangement with".	5
Show background information History of the show, background on composer/lyricist	10
Group contact details Official welcome, Email, website and social media	5
Group information History, committee details, honorary/life members, previous productions, group news	10
Additional NODA information Long service awards, Regional conference attendance, Regional awards	5
Overall quality and ease of reading Overall layout, photograph quality, font size and colours	10
The above content is neither mandatory or exhaustive	100

Perkins Class programmes – 16-20 sides including cover	
Cover design Cover design and layout including quality of original artwork or innovative use of official artwork	10
Show information Synopsis, scenes, musical numbers, director's notes	15
Cast information Cast list and photograph, principal biographies and photographs, rehearsal photographs	15
Production information Production team details, production credits (stage management, scenery and props, wardrobe and make-up, sound and lighting etc.), acknowledgements	15
Official credits Contractual details including "by arrangement with".	5
Show background information History of the show, background on composer/lyricist	10
Group contact details Official welcome, Email, website and social media	5
Group information History, committee details, honorary/life members, previous productions, group news	10
Additional NODA information Long service awards, Regional conference attendance, Regional awards	5
Overall quality and ease of reading Overall layout, photograph quality, font size and colours	10
The above content is neither mandatory or exhaustive	100

Barnes Class programmes – upto 12 sides including cover	
Cover design Cover design and layout including quality of original artwork or innovative use of official artwork	10
Show information Synopsis, scenes, musical numbers, director's notes	15
Cast information Cast list and photograph, principal biographies and photographs, rehearsal photographs	15
Production information Production team details, production credits (stage management, scenery and props, wardrobe and make-up, sound and lighting etc.), acknowledgements	15
Official credits Contractual details including "by arrangement with".	5
Group contact details Official welcome, Email, website and social media	5
Overall quality and ease of reading Overall layout, photograph quality, font size and colours	10
The above content is neither mandatory or exhaustive	75

Thomson-Leng class for Posters A5 to A3 – electronic or physical format	
Overall impact Does the poster instantly catch the viewers attention	15
Design Quality of original artwork or innovative use of official artwork	10
Legibility Layout and main information easily read from a distance	10
Style Design reflects the content & setting of the show	10
Credits Contractual details including "by arrangement with" etc.	5
Total	50