

# VIRTUAL FESTIVALs LICENSING FAQ

In an effort to present virtual festivals this year and facilitate the viewing of student work for assessment, we have created this sheet of frequently asked questions to help our attendees navigate this new and exciting time!

## **Why is this year different?**

This year we are holding the festivals online. Events must be uploaded to our secure registration system for adjudication and viewing by our registered attendees. Events will be recorded; which changes the nature of the usual rights we use in presenting theatre.

## **What is the difference between “Grand Dramatic Rights” and “Mechanical Rights” ( these rights)?**

The licensing companies you know act as agents who manage the properties of the playwrights who create the work and/or their estates. They grant permissions for the the “Grand Dramatic Rights’ or the rights for presenting the play on a stage (and the distribution of play scripts for that purpose). These rights include everything written on the page that is meant to be reproduced during a “live dramatic performance”. These rights do not extend to any “mechanical reproduction” of a play script. The licensing companies must negotiate with every rights holder (playwrights and/or their estates) to be extended these mechanical rights for live-streaming, recording and streaming, or “zoom” performances. If there is already an existing property that has been made using the mechanical rights (a movie, or TV show) it becomes very difficult, if not impossible to get permissions to allow others to create a “mechanical reproduction” of the play.

The licensing companies have been tirelessly working to secure rights for plays to be presented in a digital format. Please understand: it is not their decision if a play can be recorded/streamed, but the rights holders. Please be patient and extend every grace to the representatives as they work through your requests. They’re trying to serve TWO clients you and the rights holders.

We have been engaged in conversations with most of the houses to develop our guidelines and help them service you for our festival.

## **Do I need to secure rights for my IEs?**

Mostly NO. In some cases, YES. Some titles and authors have explicitly said they do not want their material recorded at all. Please consult the list we have compiled for guidance. Please consult the license company’s website.

### **How are One Acts different?**

Since our festival will be on a secure, password protected site, you MUST be sure you have the rights to record and stream your play/musical. Another added consideration if you are using “zoom” or another web conferencing software, is that some plays and musicals do not have a license for that kind of performance. Please consult the list we have compiled for guidance. Please consult the license company’s website.

### **How are Mainstages different?**

Schools wishing to be screened for the State festival go through the same process that they would go through if they were presenting the play for their school community. You will send ticket vouchers/tickets to the Mainstage coordinator for your Mainstage judges to use to view your work. The Mainstage Coordinator will send a list of the selected plays to the license holders to help you negotiate your license for the state festival.

### **What kind of shots, cameras, and edits can we do for IEs?**

Please see the guidelines and rules listed on the Florida Thespian Website. All other rules apply.

<https://floridathespians.com/virtual-festival-rule-modifications/>

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## List of companies and their approvals for Florida Virtual Regional and State Festivals:

When requesting a license for a Florida Thespian Festival, please explain an IE is under five (5) minutes and for the Florida Thespian Festival. All content will only be available for viewing during the festival it is being adjudicated.

### **Musical Theatre International**

IEs: All titles approved for recording and uploading to our registration system.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

<https://www.mtishows.com/streaming>

### **Theatrical Rights Worldwide**

IEs: All titles approved for recording and uploading to our registration system.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

### **Concord Theatrical**

IEs: Permission Varies see below:

- Monologues and brief excerpts of less than 20 minutes for adjudicated school theatrical festivals do not require a license or other permission. If the piece is under 20 minutes, there is **NO** need to request or pay for a license.
- The exceptions to this are works of **Neil Simon** and the musical **Grease**
  - Neil Simon, the rights need to be secured, in advance, EVERY time it is presented, including Thespy adjudication(the minimum rate is \$125).
- Grease is not available to be used for adjudicated festivals.
- A license must be obtained for any performance of a copyrighted work, including cuttings and excerpts **over 20 minutes**. A brief summary of proposed cuts or scenes must be included in the appropriate section of your license request.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

### **Titles available:**

<https://www.concordtheatricals.com/perform/catalog?catalogId=2704>

<https://www.concordtheatricals.com/perform/catalog?catalogId=2705>

**Titles not available:**

<https://help.concordtheatricals.com/knowledgebase/are-virtual-performances-and-or-digital-rights-available-for-all-titles/>

**Playscripts and Broadway Licensing**

IEs: All titles approved for recording and uploading to our registration system.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

**Theatrefolk**

IEs: All titles approved for recording and uploading to our registration system.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

**Dramatic Publishing**

<https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/livestreamFAQs>

IEs: Apply for permission for use in virtual festival through their site. Some authors have NOT given permission.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/oef95Mhc6v>

**Dramatists Play Service**

IEs: Apply for permission for use in virtual festival through their site. Some authors have NOT given permission.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

<https://www.dramatists.com/text/competitions.asp>

**Youthplays**

IEs: Apply for permission for use in virtual festival through their site. Some authors have NOT given permission. As long as script copies have been purchased by participants.

One acts: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

Mainstages: Check website for titles approved for streaming vs zoom performances.

<https://www.youthplays.com/pg/live-streaming-guide>

**Any other companies check with their websites to determine their restrictions.**