

# 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:

Any [Plays](#) and [Musicals](#) found on these links will not require additional clearance for streaming.

These [Titles](#) are not available for streaming and cannot be used during your virtual festival.

If anyone is interested in using a Concord title that is not on the list above we've created this [Form](#) to streamline the process of requesting these rights. Please fill out the form and we will submit the request to the rightsholder for consideration, but there is always a chance these rights may not be available. We highly suggest choosing a backup title from the pre-approved links provided.

Beyond this, all of our guidelines for adjudicated festivals still apply. Fees will be required for any presentations over 20 minutes.

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: All titles approved for recording and uploading to our registration system. Events must be under 5 Mins.

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.emailreform.com/builder/form/oef95Mhc6v>

## **Dramatists Play Service**

IEs: All titles approved for recording and uploading to our registration system. Events must be under 5 Mins.

For ease and convenience of not using multi-platforms to present your streamed production, we recommend using ShowTix4U.com for both your streaming *and* your ticketing needs. However, please note that use of the ShowTix4U.com ticketing service is NOT required. Please visit [ShowTix4U.com](http://ShowTix4U.com) for full list of features and pricing.

The fees for the use of their products cover streaming access control, bandwidth, storage as well as Customer Service for your patrons on the day of the stream, and more.

In order for you to set up your Event on ShowTix4U.com, you will need both the SO# (Sales Order Number in full: e.g., SO\_00000#####) listed above and have already made payment in full to Dramatists Play Service, Inc. (DPS). Your SO# will not become active to create an Event unless payment has been received by DPS.

Payment is due upon receipt. Payment can be made using one of the following methods:

Credit card –

You can pay via credit card on our website. This link will take you straight to the payment page - [Pay Fees By Credit Card](#).

ACH –

Please email us at [payments@dramatist.com](mailto:payments@dramatist.com) to get the required information. Please put “ACH Payment”  
In subject line

Check -

If you are mailing us a payment by check, please do NOT send your payment with special instructions, such as "Return Service Requested", on the outside of envelope. Due to current rules and regulations, USPS will not forward these specially marked envelopes to our remote mailbox and will automatically return these mailings to the sender. Your Sales Order to create your Event will be on hold until payment is received, so this is not a preferred payment for Streaming Licenses.

## **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.**