

## Basic Competition Information

The Roosevelt Wright, Jr. Black Church Drama Festival is a showcase for new dramatic talent in your area. Talent scouts are always looking for new talent, so they browse web sites, attend festivals and interview prospectives to learn about the best and the brightest.

A limited number of paid registrants will be able to demonstrate their talents in several competition categories: Plays, Oral Interpretation, and Liturgical Dance. Winners will receive trophies, and a photographic listing on our national website for their achievement for a year. Not all participants will be able to perform. They are selected on a first come, first serve basis.

You or your group can enter the competition with a paid registration. To enter, please complete the "Competition Information" section of your registration form.

To enter the competition, a \$25 non-refundable fee must be paid. If you or your group desires to participate in more than one competition each entry will cost \$25 each.

Each church/organization may enter once in each category. The number of entries is limited because of time constraints, so register early to be sure you're included in the competition. Remember, entries are taken on a first come/first served basis.

## Purposes of Competition

Participants in the Competition are reminded that the overall purpose of performing is to minister and to share their ministry with others.

- Teams benefit from receiving written feedback from qualified judges.
- Competition allows ministry teams to share material they have been working on.
- Observers can gain many new ideas from watching others perform.
- The challenge of competition encourages participants to work hard and do their best.

## Drama Competition

The drama competition will feature scenes or cuttings from plays by Roosevelt Wright, Jr. Demonstrations will give others ideas about staging the plays.

- Entries in this category must be one excerpt of five minutes or less. Each team is given one minute to introduce the scene it will perform. A total of six minutes is allowed for the team. *Drama competition is held on the first night only.*
  - Costumes, make up and limited props and music are encouraged but not required.
  - Each presentation will be judged by the ministry team with written notes and suggestions.

## Liturgical Dance Competition

The liturgical dance competition will feature liturgical dance routines that demonstrate use of the dance in church ministry. Presentations are designed to give other ideas as they develop liturgical dance routines.

- Entries in the liturgical dance ministry competition must be no longer than four minutes long. A limited number of slow and high energy fast routines will be selected for the competitions.
  - Costumes, make up and limited props and music are encouraged but not required.
  - Each presentation will be judged by the ministry team with written notes and suggestions
  - *Liturgical Dance will be held on the second day of the festival.*

## Spoken Word

The Oral interpretation competition will feature oral interpretations that demonstrate Oratorical skills, Spoken Word, and Gospel Rap.

- Entries in the Oral Interpretation competition must be no longer than three minutes long.
  - Rap and Spoken Word presentations can include music.
  - Each presentation will be judged by the ministry team with written notes and suggestions
  - *Oral Interpretation competitions will be held on the second day of the festival*

## Playwriting

The playwriting competition will provide an opportunity for participants to submit plays they have written for judging by the staff of the Roosevelt Wright, Jr. Drama Festival.

There is no limit to the number of plays that can be entered in this competition.

Entries in the playwriting competition must be original works suited for performance in Black churches. The plays must have a positive moral message or theme.

- Each participant in this category should submit a printed copy and a digital copy on a compact disk.
  - Each presentation will be judged by the ministry team with written notes and suggestions
  - Outstanding playwrights may be offered a marketing opportunity for their entries through the Blackchurchplays.com national network.

*Playwriting competitions will be received on the first day of the festival and results will be announced during the awards period of the second day.*

## Entry Limitations

Each church/organization can enter a MAXIMUM of three entries; one in each division.

## Time Limits

Each entry is encouraged to observe the time limitations. One point will be deducted from each judge's score sheet for each 30 seconds overtime. Any entry going more than two minutes overtime will be disqualified. Your routine can be shorter than the time allowed, but your team will be penalized if it exceeds the time allowed.

## Set-Up Time

Plan to be ready to perform within three minutes after you enter the stage. One point will be deducted from each judge's score sheet for each minute of delay beyond the three minute allotment for setup. All props, scenery, or other equipment should be quickly put in place and removed immediately after the performance.

## Competition Evaluation

Entries in the competitions will each receive Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards based on the judges' evaluations of each performing group. The judges may present additional awards for outstanding technique. In addition to the judges' awards, each group attending the festival will vote for one group in each division to receive the "People's Choice" award. People's Choice Award winners will also be listed on our national website.

## **Judging Criteria**

The groups who perform in the competition will receive a written critique and a score based on the following criteria:

- Dramas: Blocking, costumes, characterization, props, appeal
  - Dance: Choreography, costumes, facial expression, appeal
  - Interpretations: Projection, eye contact, technique, appeal

## **Stage Set-Up**

A bare stage will be set up. Body microphones and equipment to play Compact discs will be provided.