

National Children's Drama Festival – 2024

Limited/Open

Introduction and Objective

National Children's Drama Festival is among the several cultural events launched by the Department of Cultural Affairs for the better sustenance and promotion of culture in the country. It is envisaged that this will help identify contemporary trends of the local art of drama and to direct the parties concerned to intervene in this field.

There are general objectives and conditions with regard to these events and this document introduces special objectives and conditions with regard to each and every event. The Department possesses the authority to make any amendments to this constitution.

Events are held with following general objectives in view.

- a) Provide an impetus to promote the art of drama, one of the live components in our culture.
- b) To encourage and accolade all parties concerned in the art of drama by appreciating the drama of high caliber in front of drama lovers.
- c) Nurture the local art of drama through above procedure.
- d) Get the contribution of the newcomers to the field of drama and theatre and provide a stage for them to widen their experiences.
- e) Promote a drama culture that could affect positively to the social and spiritual life.

General Conditions

1. Competitors should agree to accept the special as well as the general conditions.
2. Applications are called through paper notices and mass media. Only the Sri Lankan citizens could apply for the drama events.
3. Dramas that represented the Second Round and the Final Round of the State Children's Drama Festivals held in previous years, cannot be presented to this competition.
4. Prizes, awards and certificates are presented only to the dramas which are formally evaluated under the competition from the First to the Final Round.
5. If it is decided by the State Advisory Council of Drama and the Department of Cultural Affairs to offer any award in addition to the prizes, awards and certificates prescribed in pre notices or not to offer any award on account of nonconformity with the standards, violation of rules, the Department possesses the authority to act on accordingly.
6. True and correct information should be furnished in filling of applications. If the information given is proved to be false and incorrect, the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Advisory Council of Drama shall have the authority to remove from the competition or to cancel the presentation of prizes, awards and certificates.
7. The duly filled application attached to this pamphlet issued by the State Drama Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, together with requisite documents in terms of the following schedule and a duly prepared 03 copies of the

script (If the script is not self-composed, the script should be accompanied by the original script in English on which the drama is based and 03 copies in Sinhala) should be sent or handed over to the Secretary, State Advisory Council of Drama, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla. Relevant information and the application could be obtained from the State Drama Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs or from the Cultural Officers of the District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats throughout the island, or from the Facebook “Department of Cultural Affairs” or via www.culturaldept.gov.lk

- 7.1 Scripts should be submitted on A4 single side papers, clearly computer printed or type written. Hand written scripts should be legible. The State Advisory Council of Drama and the Department of Cultural Affairs possess the full authority to reject any illegible script and illegible applications without considering its content.
- 7.2 All the applications should accompany 03 copies of the script.
- 7.3 The summary of the drama and the information on introducing the characters should be presented clearly.
- 7.4 The scripts once submitted for the competition will not be returned.
8. National Children’s Drama Festival 2024- (Limited/Open) should be written on the top left hand corner of the enclosing envelope. The following all relevant documents should be sent with the application. Incomplete or illegible applications will be rejected.
 - 8.1 Copy of letter of delegation of authority to the Director for the production of the relevant script, if the writer / translator/the person who adapted the drama is not the producer or the director of the drama.
 - 8.2 List of names of all artistes in the drama, their addresses, and signatures.
9. Once the Department received the duly filled application and the relevant documents, the applicant will be informed of the registration number under which the application has been registered. This number should be used by the applicant in every correspondence conducted with the Department.
10. Applications and other documents will be inspected and suitable scripts will be selected in the First Round.
11. Selected scripts of dramas are staged in the district in which the producer or the director of the drama applied for, in the Second Round. The directors, whose dramas are recommended for the Final Round in terms of the quality, will be informed by the Department of Cultural Affairs.
12. The Final Round will be held at an appropriate theatre hall nominated by the Department of Cultural Affairs.
13. Preliminary hall facilities and light facility will be provided for the Final Round by the Department of Cultural Affairs. But special lighting and audio visual effects will not be provided.
14. All the evaluations from the inspection of scripts to the Final Round will be done by a veteran Panel of Judges who are professionals in the art of drama and appointed by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Advisory Council of Drama. In case where this Panel of Judges is not accepted by the Director of any drama, such directors could remove their drama from the festival by informing in writing before staging the drama. The decision of the Panel of Judges would be the final.

15. If a drama is not staged on a specific date at a specific location as agreed upon earlier, without any unavoidable circumstances, the said drama is deemed to have been removed from the contest by the relevant producer / director at his/her own will. If the drama could not be staged as agreed upon, fresh date should be obtained from the Director of Cultural Affairs by informing such inability, at least 07 days prior to the due date. However, the Department will not hold responsibility for any difficulties encounter in giving fresh dates, hindering the time schedule of the competition.
16. The Department of Cultural Affairs is not bound to make any payment to any dramatist who is participating in the competition. However, the Department will take steps to make financial grants for the dramas selected for the Final Round.
17. As the Awards Ceremony will be a state function with media coverage, all the relevant parties including the competitors are kindly requested to participate in the festival dressed in appropriate clothes.
18. In the event of any expression of right or objection with regard to any drama selected for the competition, during any time of the drama festival, such right or objection should be submitted by an affidavit to the Department of Cultural Affairs. With due consideration to the said right or to the objection, the State Advisory Council of Drama of the Department of Cultural Affairs possesses the authority to make the final decision whether to stage or not to stage the said drama in the festival or to present or not to present awards even if it is recommended for awards.

National Children's Drama Festival – 2024

Limited Category

- The dramas presented by government or nongovernmental schools and performed by the children will fall under this category.
- The drama may be an original/ a translation/ an adaptation or any other genre or format. It cannot be extracts from prescribed texts or prescribed dramas of the school curriculum.
- Only live music is considered in the evaluations.
- Script writer, director, actors, actresses and other artistes including music, make-up, costume designers, stage decorators must be the children or the teachers of the said school.
- In case of dramas produced only for a specific age group, it should be indicated in the application.
- The time duration of the drama should be between 20-30 minutes. The maximum time duration should not be exceeded.
- The maximum number of total participant artistes in the drama including the participants of the consequential events should be 35.
- Scripts forwarded in previous occasions will not be reconsidered.
- The script should be based on an incident, story or hypothetical plot suitable and appropriate solely for children and their activities reflecting their real life. Childhood is generally considered to be the age from 06 to 14. But children in the ages of 15 - 18 are allowed to participate in dramas. It is expected to use the relevant characteristics and the actions of each age group.

- It is not a barrier to present a drama which has been presented previously to a drama contest, conducted by the Ministry of Education or in any other contest. However this matter should be indicated in your application.
- There is no limit in the number of drama scripts an individual can present but for each script, a separate application should be sent and should submit with a covering letter through the principal.
- Dramas presented by the children between the ages 15-18 should reflect the characteristic activities and experiences of the relevant age group.
- Attention should be drawn especially to the language used and whether it is used in such a way that is suitable to the general children's audience.

Open Category

- Arts Schools, children and youth clubs, associations, children's drama groups and individuals can participate under this category.
- Time duration of the drama should be between 20-30 minutes. The maximum time duration should not be exceeded.
- Even though there is no restriction for the maximum age of the actors/actresses, it is expected to give priority to young and child actors/actresses. The maximum number of total participant artistes in the drama including the participants of the consequential events should be 35.
- The script should be based on an incident, story or hypothetical plot suitable and appropriate solely for children and their activities reflecting their real life. It cannot be extracts from prescribed texts or prescribed dramas of the school curriculum.

General Conditions for the National Children's Drama Festival

- Duly filled applications issued by the State Drama Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, together with 03 copies of the script and a summary of the drama directed by you, with a certification by the principal and the producer to the effect that the information furnished in the application is true, should be sent or handed over to the Secretary, State Advisory Council of Drama, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla before **30th April 2024**. (No fee is charged in this regard). "National Children's Drama Festival- 2024- (Limited/Open)" should be written on the top left hand corner of the enclosing envelope. Scripts suitable for production in the First Round will be evaluated by an independent panel and the relevant producers/schools/institutes will be informed.
- Closing Date of Applications is 30.04.2024.

NB. Closing Date of applications will not be changed for any reason.

- Dramas selected to be staged in the Second Round will be sorted out at district/provincial level and the relevant applicants will be informed to stage their dramas on a date and a venue, closest possible to them. As the dramas are staged at day time, lighting facility will not be provided. Therefore, the Panel of Judges will not consider make-up, costumes or lighting. But to encourage the drama troupe and for training purposes, costumes, stage instruments and decorations, make-up could be used with the consent of the director of the drama.
- Scripts once presented will not be returned.
- The name of the script writer or any note to disclose his/her identity should not be mentioned in the script but in the application.

- As per the decision of the Panel of Judges, the dramas that are most suitable to be staged at the Final Round will be selected.
- Artistes who have displayed outstanding performances at the Second Round will be issued a Merit Certificate at the occasion of the Awards Presentation Ceremony.
- In case where there are more number of quality dramas, the Panel of Judges will decide to have a **second preliminary round**.
- Dramas selected for the Final Round will be staged in Colombo. Each and every dramas selected for the Final Round will be presented with a plaque at the Awards Presentation Ceremony.
- The dramas of the Final Round will be evaluated by a proficient Panel of Judges. The following awards, cash prizes and certificates will be awarded for Limited and Open categories.

Awards, Cash Prizes and Certificates for limited and open categories

❖ Best drama production of the year		
	First Place	– Rs.50, 000.00
	Second Place	– Rs.30, 000.00
	Third Place	– Rs.25, 000.00
❖ Best drama script of the year		
	First place	–Rs.25, 000.00
	Second Place	– Rs.15, 000.00
	Third Place	– Rs.10, 000.00
❖ Best Child Actor of the year (Limited Category)		
	First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
	Second Place	_ Rs. 15,000.00
	Third Place	_ Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best Child Actress of the year (Limited Category)		
	First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
	Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
	Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best Actor of the year (Open Category)		
	First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
	Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
	Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best Actress of the year (Open Category)		
	First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
	Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
	Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best music of the year		– Rs.15,000.00
❖ Best make-up of the year		– Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best costume design of the year		– Rs. 15,000.00

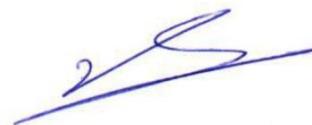
❖ Best stage background/Stage Set up of the year	– Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best stage management of the year	- Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best stage lighting of the year	– Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best choreography of the year	- Rs. 15,000.00

In addition, according to the decision of the Panel of Judges merit certificates and cash prizes will be awarded for special skills in the limited and open categories.

Special Remarks

- The details of the contributors of the drama (signatures of all the contributors for the drama should be included here), presented at the meeting of the producers, held prior to the Final Round should be considered as the final.
- Any changes in the contributors before the Final Round could be done by handing over a letter mentioning on such changes, to the State Drama Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs with the signature of the relevant contributor. The responsibility of such changes lies upon the director of the drama.
- The State Advisory Council of Drama of the Department of Cultural Affairs possesses the authority to remove any dramas or cancel awards in case of furnishing false information or violation of rules and regulations of the competition.
- The State Advisory Council of Drama will draw its attention to print any scripts that shows outstanding qualities.
- Action will be taken to stage the dramas of outstanding qualities at provincial level. The two dramas that have placed first in the Final Round, under the open and the limited categories, will be staged at the Drama Festival of the ensuing year.
- Steps will be taken to get the participation of the writers and producers who have presented dramas for the Limited Category, at preliminary workshops.
- Steps will be taken to get the participation of the writers and producers who have presented dramas for the Open Category, at regional level workshops.
- The decision of the Panel of Judges would be the final.

The above document is the preliminary statute for the National Children's Drama Festival and its effective date is 20th March 2024. This is also the only decisive document of this Drama Festival. The scheduled application is also a part of this document. Any clarification on the festival will be made in future by the State Advisory Council of Drama of the Department of Cultural Affairs in writing or through telephone. The Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Advisory Council of Drama shall responsible for defining, revising, rescinding this document or compiling a new statute.



Yasintha Gunawardena
Director
Department of Cultural Affairs.

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 Director
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla.

Inquiries – State Drama Promotion Division 011-2872385/0113167540

National Children’s Drama Festival- Limited/Open – 2024

Application

(03 copies of the script and the summary should be presented)

1. I. Name of the school by which the drama is presented: (for Limited category)

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II. Name of the association/institution/person by whom the drama is presented (for Open Category)

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III. Postal Address:

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IV. Telephone No: MobileFixed.....

WhatsApp :-.....

Email :-.....

V. District:

VI. Province:

(Please note that the address for all correspondence will be considered as 01. (III) above)

2. i. Name of the drama:

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ii. Director of the drama:

.....

iii. Address:

.....

iv. Telephone No: WhatsApp:.....

v. Writer’s name:

.....

An Original/ a Translation/ an Adaptation/ Other (Delete the words inapplicable)

vi. Number of Actresses:

vii. Number of Actors:

viii. Number of Supporting crew:

ix. Total number of the crew:

x. Duration of drama:

3. Has this drama produced and staged before? (Yes/No).....
 If so, the date and the venues
 i.....
 ii.....
 iii.....
4. i. Convenient District to stage the drama in the First Round.....
 ii. Distance from Colombo to that place.....

We hereby certify that the above particulars submitted by us are true and accurate, and we have read and understood the rules and regulations prescribed by the Department of Cultural Affairs, pursuant to this Drama Festival and also we agree to adhere to such rules and regulations and to accept the decision of the Department of Cultural Affairs as the final decision by placing our signature below.

Signature:
 Name:.....
 Principal/ Secretary of the Drama Association
 Date:

Signature:
 Name:.....
 Writer of the Drama/ Producer
 Date:

Office use only

Province	District	City
Suitable Regional Center		No