

MACT*Fest 2025 Supplemental Information

Who is sponsoring MACT*Fest 2025?

MACT*Fest 2025 is presented by the Minnesota Association of Community Theatres (MACT). The Depot Theatre, site of the festival, is located at 506 West Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55802. The festival will be hosted by County Seat Theater Company of Cloquet. The Festival Committee is led by Joel Soukkala, Carol Pint and Larry Pint and includes members of the MACT Board and other volunteers.

The festival will operate on the basis of the rules in the 2025 AACTFest Handbook published by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT). The major rules are listed below. Decisions regarding festival rules must meet the general test of allowing for an "even playing field" and will be made by the Festival Committee and, at the festival, by the AACT assigned Festival Commissioner. All participating companies should download and review the full AACTFest Handbook, which is available at www.mact.net.

Major rules Summary:

Performing company restrictions:

- 1) Any non-professional theatre company is eligible if:
 - a) It has been organized with its principal venue in Minnesota for at least one year
 - b) has produced at least two shows prior to the state festival.
 - c) It is a 2024 & 2025 member of MACT.
 - d) It is a 2025 member of AACT (or pays a \$100 AACT entry fee)

- 2) As we have done in the past, MACT Fest 2025 will limit the number of entering companies to 12.
 - a) Should more than 12 companies apply by the entry deadline (December 16, 2024), there will be a random drawing to select the 12 participating companies and their performance order – filling the last performance slot first and working backwards from there - and to establish a waiting list for the remaining companies.
 - b) If less than 12 companies apply by the deadline, a random drawing will be held to select the performance order – filling the last performance slot first and working backwards from there. Additional entries will be accepted at the higher registration fee and on a first-come-first-served basis until January 15, 2025 or until all 12 performance slots are filled.

- 3) Actors may NOT perform at any level of AACTFest if:
 - a) S/he is an active member of Actors Equity or SAG-AFTRA or;
 - b) S/he does not complete and sign the Affidavit of AACTFest Actor Eligibility.
 - c) Once a play is in rehearsal for the state festival, actors and technicians may not be paid, directly or indirectly, to rehearse or perform in that production. Members of the "production staff," such as directors, designers, costumers, technical directors, etc. may receive normal remuneration so long as no additional or bonus dollars are paid specifically for "hands on" production efforts. Musicians who provide accompaniment for a production and do not perform as actors, directly or indirectly, may be paid.

- 4) A participating company may enter only one production in only one State. A company may not enter a production that it had entered in the immediately prior festival cycle. The entered production must be originally mounted by the presenting organization.
- 5) What may be presented:
 - a) Productions entered in a festival may be a cutting of a full-length play or musical, a one-act play, or any other performance of a theatrical nature including children's theatre productions.
 - b) The total length of each production, including introductions, scene changes and curtain calls, may not exceed 60 minutes.
 - i) Anything which brings the audience into the world of the play (music, sound, movement, lights, etc.) will begin the 60-minute performance time.
 - ii) The complete cessation of such will complete the timing period.
 - c) In addition, each production is allowed a maximum of 10 minutes set-up time and 10 minutes strike time.
 - i) If a set-up or strike is intended to set mood, establish character, or entertain the audience in any way, it will be considered part of the 60-minute performance period.
 - ii) Caution: It is risky to enter material that may require more than 55 minutes; remember audience response.
- 6) Festival adjudication criteria:
 - a) Is the acting believable and technically skillful with effective timing?
 - b) Are the characters well interpreted?
 - c) Does the company display ensemble work?
 - d) Is the material appropriate for the company?
 - e) Is the concept appropriate for the material and realized by the company?
 - f) Has the structure of the production been controlled?
 - g) Are the movements and stage pictures effective?
 - h) Is the production well-paced?
 - i) Do the technical elements support the overall production?
 - j) How was the total impact?
- 7) Requirements to participate:
 - a) Each participating theatre must submit the following documents and fees to:

MACT*Fest 2025
c/o Larry Pint
704 Main St W
New Prague, MN 56071-2340
 - b) Theatre companies may also enter online at www.MACT.net.)
 - c) These documents and fees must be **received** by December 16, 2024. (Or by January 15, 2025 at a higher registration fee.)
 - i) Please send to the address above with a check/money order (no cash please) or pay on-line using our ticketing service: https://buy.ticketstothecity.com/venue.php?org_id=422.
 - (1) A completed and signed MACT*Fest 2025 Entry Form.
 - (2) State entry fee of \$250 - or \$150 for first time MACT*Fest participating theatres – or \$350 for a late registration. (Includes one complementary full festival package). **This fee is only**

refundable if the submitting theatre is not accepted into the festival or the festival is cancelled.

- (3) Appropriate membership fee if not a 2024 & 2025 member of MACT (dues amount per year: \$50 (budget under \$25,000), \$60 (budget \$25-50,000) or \$70 (budget over \$50,000).
- (4) An AACT entry fee of \$100 if the theatre is not a 2025 AACT member.
- (5) Each participating theatre must submit the following items by Saturday, February 1, 2025, to the address above.

(or bring to the Technical Meeting on January 11, 2025.)

- (a) Seven (7) copies of the script as it is to be performed (for 3 adjudicators, 2 American Sign Language interpreters, 1 Audio Describer and 1 AACT Festival Commissioner);
 - (i) photocopies are unacceptable unless it is an original script and/or not available in any other form; scripts will be returned at the end of the festival.
- (b) AACTFest Warranty of Company Compliance (AACT Form T2). This is the form for the Theatre to attest that it has proof of permission from leasing agent and/or author to perform the play as it will be performed (i.e., as cut, if relevant) and that it has permission to use any other copyrighted material.
- (c) Affidavits of Actor Eligibility (AACT Form T3) signed by each actor.
- (d) A completed Technical Information Form is due by February 1, 2025. Mail to the address above.

8) Technical meeting:

- a) Each participating Festival theatre must send a technical representative to a Technical Meeting at The Depot Theatre on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from noon to 2:00 pm (alternative date, TBA). This meeting will last about 2 hours.

9) Facility:

- a) We are not very familiar with this facility. Therefore, special lighting and special effects ("specials") beyond the basic lighting plot provided by the facility, which includes six areas with separately dimmable warm and cool lighting in each area, are discouraged, and the entrant must be prepared to provide lighting instruments or other tech equipment they may be using. More information will be available at the tech meeting.
- b) Lighting specials may NOT exceed six instruments in total, whether furnished by the entrant and/or the facility. These specials may be set up during the company's scheduled rehearsal period with instrument placement coordinated by the technical director.
- c) Each participating theatre must furnish any sets, props, or furniture needed for its production.
- d) The festival committee will furnish each registering theatre with a Technical Packet. Each entrant will be allotted offstage storage for your set of 10' x 10'. All details will be discussed at the Theatre Technical Meeting in Duluth, January 11, 2025 (in case of a weather or other emergency, an alternate date will be announced), starting at noon.

10) Rehearsal/performance:

- a) Performance and rehearsal times will be scheduled by the Festival Committee after the entry deadline. They may be exchanged between companies for a limited time with approval of the Festival and Technical Chairs.
- b) Each group will be assigned an 80-minute rehearsal/technical time in the theatre. Rehearsals will be "closed" except for the entrant and festival production staff (including American Sign Language

Interpreters and Audio Describer). The Festival and Technical Chairs may allow alternate rehearsal times.

11) Censorship:

- a) MACT supports a policy permitting the widest possible range of dramatic material to be performed in a festival of American Community Theatres. Performing companies are expected to exercise taste, good judgment, and respect for the values of the facility. MACT or the facility may notify patrons in advance if they have reason to believe a festival performance may be locally unacceptable, or publish a disclaimer, but in no case may they refuse to allow the company to perform.

12) Festival Goals:

- a) To provide learning experiences in artistic, technical, and management areas through performances, adjudication, workshops, and festival participation; thereby affirming, supporting, and nurturing community theatre companies.
- b) To stimulate and inspire community theatre companies to strive toward excellence in theatrical production and to recognize them for their achievement through an appropriate adjudication process.
- c) To develop enlightened and discerning audiences for community theatre.

13) Adjudicators:

- a) Adjudicators are selected by the MACT*Fest 2025 Committee and approved by AACT.

14) Other:

- a) MACT*Fest 2025 is intended to be accessible to the entire public.
 - i) Productions may be interpreted by an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, if requested in advance. If so, a space will be provided for the interpreters. Participating companies will be informed of these arrangements, and may request alternative placement to fit their production from the Festival and Technical Chairs.
 - ii) The productions may also be Audio Described for persons who are blind or visually impaired. These and other accommodations can be made upon request.
 - iii) **All accessibility requests need to be made by February 1, 2025.**
- b) Requests for waivers of rules must be in writing to the Festival Chair. (Complete Festival rules are in the AACTFest 2025 Handbook available on the AACT or MACT websites.)

To enter your theatre's production in the MACT Festival, return the Entry Form with your payment to 'MACT' to:

MACT*Fest 2025

c/o Larry Pint
704 Main St W
New Prague, MN 56071-2340

MACT*Fest 2025 INFORMATION

Festival Co-Chairs:

Joel Soukkala, 218-451-0715 3035 Hwy 33 S, Cloquet, MN 55720 (CountySeatGM@aol.com)
Larry Pint, 612-598-4782 704 Main St W, New Prague, MN 56071-2340 (WebmasterMACT@gmail.com)
Carol Pint, 952-212-2141 704 Main St W, New Prague, MN 56071-2340 (LPint@bevcomm.net)

Recent Festival History--Minnesota's region includes Iowa, the Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri. Minnesota theatres have done very well in recent region and national festivals:

2023 – “Tracks” by County Seat Theater Company of Cloquet and “The End of the Beginning” by FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato were selected as “Best of Festival”.

2021 – “The 3 Way” by Mindless Mirth Productions of St Paul and “After the Flags and Bands” by Calumet Players of Pipestone were selected as “Best of Festival”.

2019 — “Foxfire” by FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato and “Sweet” by County Seat Theater Company of Cloquet were selected as “Best of Festival”.

2017 — “On the Road to Verona” by MN Skyvault Theatre Company of Rochester and “The Voice of the Prairie” by FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato were selected “Best of Festival”. Both shows represented Region V at AACTFest 2017.

2015 — “Old Jake’s Skirts” by County Seat Theater of Cloquet and “The Romancers” by FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato were selected as “Best of Festival”. “The Romancers” represented Region V at AACTFest 2015.

2013 — “The Diviners” by FungusAmongus Players of Dassel-Cokato and “Leading Ladies” by Dakota Fine Arts Consortium of Burnsville were selected as “Best of Festival”. “Leading Ladies” was chosen to represent Region V at AACTFest 2013 in Carmel, Indiana.

2011 — “Wiley and the Hairy Man” by County Seat Theater of Cloquet and “Glengarry Glen Ross” by Sweet Charities Theatre Company of Minneapolis were selected as “Best of Festival”. “Glengarry Glen Ross” was unable to make the trip to the Region V festival, so “Wiley and the Hairy Man” was joined in Salina, Kansas by “Toys for Men” by FungusAmongus Community Theatre of Dassel-Cokato. “Wiley and the Hairy Man” was chosen to represent Region V at AACTFest 2011 in Rochester, New York. While “Wiley and the Hairy Man” was not selected as one of the “Best of Festival” at AACTFest, they did win awards and from there went on to the World Festival of Children’s Performing Arts in Toyama, Japan.

2009 — The Merlin Players of Faribault was co-Best of Show with “Eleemosynary,” and Dakota Fine Arts Consortium with “Wanda’s Visit.” They represented MACT at the Region V AACTFEST in Minden, Nebraska.

2007 — Chameleon Theatre Circle represented the state with “A Gaggle of Saints” and Sweet Charities Theatre Company with “The Real Inspector Hound.”

2005 — Chameleon again represented the state with “The Snowflake Story” and Dakota Fine Arts Fine Arts Consortium was third in the region with “The Andersonville Trial”.

MACT is working hard to keep the cost of the festival affordable by applying for funding, holding pre-festival fundraising events, selling advertising, looking for sponsors, etc. You can help support the festival by advertising in the festival program, donating to the Silent Auction, volunteering, contributing to MACT, inviting your friends to attend the festival, and becoming a MACT member today.

Be a Sponsor
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