

# **ACT-CO FESTIVAL**

## **WHAT IS FESTIVAL?**



The ACT-CO Festival is a celebration of community theatre across our region. Community theatres from Toronto, York, Durham, Peel, Halton, Dufferin, Simcoe and Muskoka are eligible to participate. The Festival is an opportunity for education and for publicity of community theatres.

The Festival is divided into three categories: comedies, dramas, and musicals. Each category has a single adjudicator who will see all of the productions in that category. The adjudicator is hired by ACT-CO. An adjudicator is an experienced theatre professional and teacher, who is knowledgeable regarding community theatre.

When you enter Festival, the adjudicator will come to your theatre for one of your scheduled performances, and provide an adjudication of that evening's performance. After the performance, if you choose, the adjudicator will give a 10-15 minute "public adjudication" to the audience, providing them with some insights about the play, your production, and the challenges and achievements of that evening's performance.

After the audience has left, the members of the group receive a more detailed "private adjudication." The private adjudication is 60-90 minutes long. The adjudicator and the members of the production will have a thorough dialogue about all of the areas of the production: the acting, the direction, the design, and the technical elements. The adjudicator will provide praise, constructive criticism, and useful techniques to help you with future productions. The members of the production can ask questions and engage the adjudicator's expertise.

At the end of the Festival, each adjudicator chooses nominees and recipients of awards, called "Theas", presented in categories recognizing a variety of artistic achievements, including Best Production. These awards are announced and presented at the annual ACT-CO Gala.

One of the three "Best Productions" is chosen by the adjudicators to represent ACT-CO at the Theatre Ontario Festival. This annual festival is an on-site festival, held in a different city each year, with every region's representative transporting their production to the festival for a scheduled performance night in May. The performance is adjudicated again, by a different adjudicator, as part of a five-day celebration of theatre across the province.