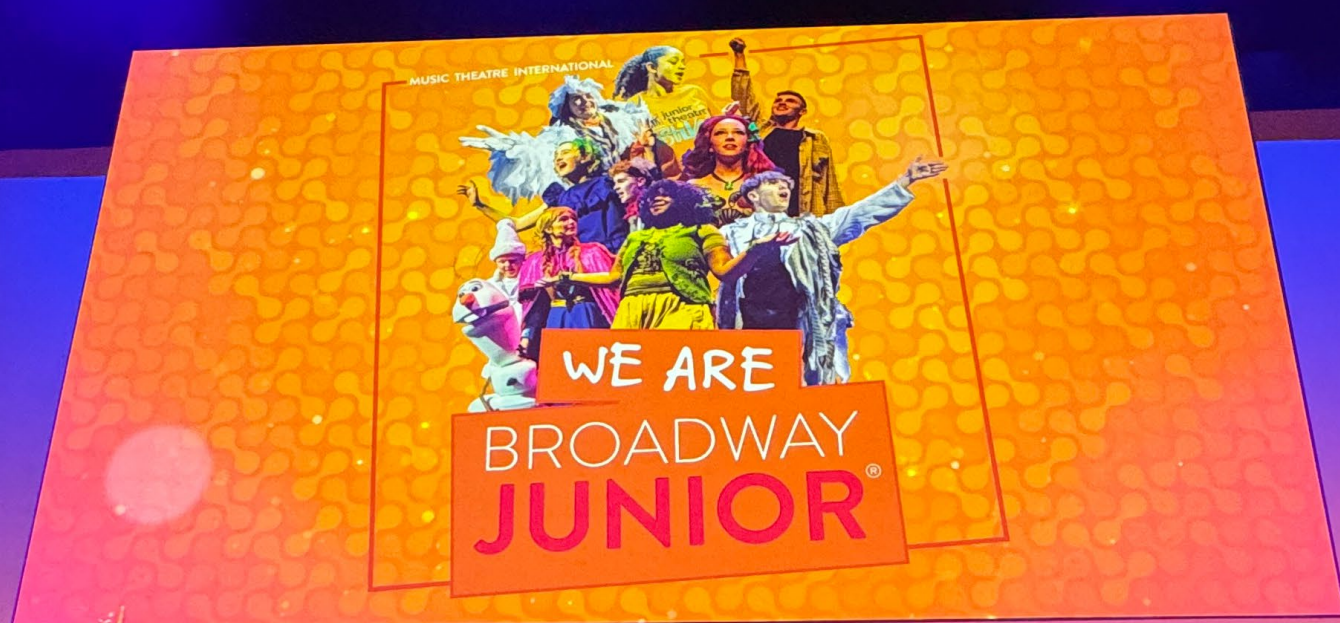




24 & 25 MAY
2025
THE ICC
BIRMINGHAM

INFORMATION
PACK

MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL



WELCOME TO JTF 2025!

On behalf of everyone at Music Theatre International and the wider JTF team, we're thrilled that you'll be joining us at the 2025 Junior Theatre Festival in Birmingham. We can't wait to see your jazz hands and spirit fingers in May!

We're expecting another record-breaking JTF Europe, with over 2500 people scheduled to take part across the Bank Holiday weekend.

No matter which day you're joining us, we know that you'll have the most incredible time. The programme of events remains the same across each day, so everyone shares in the same experiences of performances, workshops, awards, Q&As and much, much more.

Bringing a group to the Festival is no small achievement, and we know just

how much time and effort goes in to providing these opportunities for your students. That's why we've tried to collate as much information in this pack as possible. Please do share this document with your chaperones and anyone else who might be helping you in the planning of the big day.

As always, I'm here to assist if you have any questions. Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to making the world a better place, one musical at a time with you at the 2025 Junior Theatre Festival Europe.

So help me Sondheim!

Ryan Macaulay
JTF Europe Producer
jtf@mtishows.co.uk | 020 7927 7314

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

7:45	REGISTRATION OPENS
8:15	REGISTRATION CLOSES
8:30	Festival Kick-Off
9:15	Adjudications Start
10:55	BREAK
11:20	Adjudications Continue
13:00	LUNCH (On your own)
14:30	New Works Showcase
15:15	Workshops
17:30	BREAK
18:00	Awards Ceremony
19:00	END

Individual group schedules with confirmed timings will be circulated in mid/late April





WHAT TO DO NEXT

1. Read everything in this brochure

This information pack will give you all the information you need to prepare for the 2025 Junior Theatre Festival.

Forward it to any colleagues who are helping to facilitate this trip and use it as a guide for parent meetings so that everyone is on the same page.

2. Complete the Filming & Photography Agreement

You must complete the Filming & Photography Agreement **as soon as possible**.

www.mtishows.co.uk/jtf-filming

3. Complete the Group Information Form

You must confirm your full group information by **Friday 14th February 2025**.

www.mtishows.co.uk/jtf-groupinfo

This form asks you everything we need to know in advance of the Festival. You'll confirm your group numbers, the show you'll perform for adjudication and place an order for your Festival T-Shirts.

Chaperones

We recommend a ratio of 1 chaperone per every 10 students. Group leaders/teachers should not act as chaperones. Please be advised that you'll need to supply a chaperone for your AllStars rehearsal.

4. Pay your Individual Fees

All individual fees must be paid by **Friday 7th March 2025**. Please remember that ALL members of your group, including parents/chaperones/friends, must pay the £60 individual fee.

5. Submit your Adjudication Cast List

You should email a copy of your adjudication cast list to jtf@mtishows.co.uk no later than Friday 2nd May 2025. The adjudication cast list should feature every student performing in the adjudication alongside the character(s) they'll be playing.

6. Start to use Social Media

Share your rehearsals and preparations for the Festival so that we can share on our social media accounts. Tag @mtieurope and use #JTF25

7. Receive your T-Shirts and Group Schedules

These will be distributed at some point in late April. Remember that your students must wear their t-shirts throughout the entire day. We would love to see your group leaders/chaperones/parents also wearing their t-shirts!

8. Attend the Festival

See you on Saturday 24th May or Sunday 25th May 2025 at The ICC!





REGISTRATION

You must register your group between 7:45 and 8:15 on Festival day. You will be informed prior to the event which 'pod' you have been assigned to (this is the colour of your adjudication room). **T-shirts** for all group members will be posted to your group in April.

In the week before the Festival you will be supplied with an 'entry pass' which will grant your group leader access to the registration area.

The registration process is online and accessible via scanning a QR code, available from an MTI staff member at registration. Please bring an appropriate phone/device to registration.

Once registered, you will be provided with wristbands and day brochures for the whole group as well as other information needed for the day.

Important: Wristbands must be distributed to your group and worn at all times immediately after registration. Access to the venue will not be permitted without a wristband.

KICK OFF

Once registered, groups should head to **Hall 1** where the Kick-Off Event will take place. Seating will be assigned in advance and a seating plan provided to you at registration. Please ensure you sit in your **assigned seats**.

ADJUDICATION

You will perform **15-minutes** of a Broadway Junior musical for adjudication by leading theatre professionals. The adjudicators offer constructive criticism to each group to encourage further learning in key areas. Please bring your performance music on a device that can be connected to a sound system via **3.5mm jack**

Prior to adjudication, groups will be given 20 minutes to **warm up**. The warm up will take place in a separate room. Following adjudication, groups will attend a **discussion session**, to evaluate the adjudication.

When not performing, warming up or in a discussion session, groups will watch performances by other groups and their adjudications.

The adjudicators will be looking to select TWO **Allstars** (see next page) as well as winners for the following awards:

- Achievement in Dance
- Achievement in Music
- Achievement in Acting
- Achievement in Ensemble Work
- Outstanding Individual Performance
- Outstanding Adjudication

The winners of the **Outstanding Adjudication Award** will be announced during the New Works Showcase. Winners of this Award are invited to perform on the main stage during the Awards Ceremony. All other Awards are presented at the Awards Ceremony.

Further information regarding adjudication can be found on pages 10 - 14 of this pack.





LUNCH

Lunch is not provided. Whilst there are a variety of eateries in and around the venue (including Starbucks and Subway in the venue) **we recommend bringing your own packed lunch** as there may not be time to leave the venue, order, eat and return. Hall 3 will be made available to groups to sit and eat lunch.

NEW WORKS SHOWCASE

Everyone gathers in **Hall 1** to watch performances of two new Broadway Junior shows that we will be releasing in the months after the Festival. A West End performer will be on hand to answer all your students' questions before treating us to an exclusive JTF New Works Showcase performance.

WORKSHOPS

West End professionals and master teachers from across the globe offer **interactive workshops** in all aspects of musical theatre performance. Groups will rotate around **THREE** separate workshops, each focusing on a specific skill. Skilled musical theatre specialists will lead **teacher workshops** in the afternoon for group leaders and teachers. As part of this workshop, group leaders will learn a short number to perform on the stage as part of the Awards Ceremony. The kids absolutely love this part of the ceremony and it's just a little bit of fun. We hope you'll join in (no previous dance experience necessary!).

If you are a winner of an Outstanding Production Award then you will be asked to attend a **technical rehearsal** on the main stage during the afternoon. Please be aware that this will mean your group will attend **TWO** workshops (rather than the usual three).

ALLSTARS

Two Allstars from each group will be selected during adjudication. They will rehearse a **group number** for performance on the main stage during the Awards Ceremony. In light of this your Allstars will not take part in the afternoon workshops. Please ensure that you have a chaperone available to escort your Allstars. You will receive a text message over lunch confirming who your selected AllStars are.

You must supply your adjudication cast list no later than Friday 2nd May 2025. The adjudicators use your cast list to help them identify who your AllStars will be.

If your group is selected as an Outstanding Adjudication winner then your Allstars will need to leave the Allstars rehearsal at the relevant time to attend the technical rehearsal in Hall 1.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The evening's Awards Ceremony is designed as a way of **celebrating the achievements of the day**. Performances by special guests run alongside the Allstars, Teacher/Group Leader and Outstanding Production performances. Awards from the adjudications are given out.

If your group has won an award please designate TWO students who will collect the award on the stage on your behalf. We would ask that the Outstanding Individual Performance recipients collect their own awards.

Please encourage your students to **relax, have fun and enjoy** the entertainment. It's absolutely fine to sing along and cheer the performances on stage!





ADJUDICATION INFO

Each group presents up to 15 minutes of a Broadway Junior or KIDS show for a panel of professional theatre artists (aka adjudicators) and other Festival attendees.

WARM UP

Before your adjudication you will be given approximately 20 minutes to warm up in a separate room equipped with music playback facilities. You can use this time however you choose; you could use it purely for warm up, you could run your adjudication piece or you could use it to calm your performers. The smooth running of the Festival relies on efficient time-keeping.

DURING ADJUDICATION

Each adjudication room has a moderator who will help the flow of groups in and out of the room. They will make an announcement to introduce your group before the adjudication begins.

Following the presentation, adjudicators talk directly to the student performers, highlighting specific impressive areas of the presentation and also offering constructive feedback to encourage further growth. The adjudicators will get up and work with your students on a particular segment of the presentation.

RULES & GUIDELINES

- Your adjudication should be **no longer than 15 minutes**. Plan a 14-minute presentation to ensure you don't go over the time limit. Remember, you are performing live. There will be laughter, and you will want to hold for applause.
- The only set pieces allowed are **four (4) chairs**. For safety, no one is allowed to stand on these chairs.
- **No costumes, make-up, set pieces or props are allowed.** The only exception is small hand props that are ESSENTIAL to the choreography. For example, mugs for the tavern dance in Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR. are acceptable. A mask for the Beast or books for Belle are not.
- All areas of the performance space will be visible – there will be no 'off stage' area and no back cross-over space. Please do design your presentation with this in mind.
- Groups should wear their **Junior Theatre Festival t-shirts** for the presentation which will be delivered to the group before the event.
- **Performers must wear shoes** at all times.
- Groups must provide their own accompaniment on iPhone/iPad/MP3 device and operator. Connection to the PA system is via **3.5mm mini jack**.
- Microphones are not available so train your students to project and balance your backing tracks accordingly.
- Everyone in the Adjudication Room must be registered for the festival with a group. Parents and/or guests of performers will not be admitted to any performance if they are not registered with a group.
- Please be aware that most adjudication rooms are carpeted.





SELECTING YOUR 15 MINUTES

1. Choose Your Musical.

Any Broadway Junior or KIDS show licensed to your group after 1st January 2023 is eligible for adjudication.

2. Narrow Down the Scenes and Songs.

You do not have to select one sequential 15-minutes of your show, but make sure you select material that your students feel confident performing.

3. Make Sure You're Telling A Story Within Each Scene and Song.

It's impossible to tell the whole musical's story in 15-minutes. Your selected scenes and songs do not need to tell one overarching story, but like good musical theatre, each scene and song should tell a complete story with a beginning, middle and end.

4. Honour the Author's Intent.

You must not make cuts to the music or change the order of songs. Songs are already adapted and reduced in length for Broadway Junior. You must not change the order of lines, rewrite lines or add new lines.

5. Ask The Following Questions...

When you think you have a good 15-minute selection, read it aloud and ask yourself: Is there a good balance between solos and group numbers, scenes and dialogue? Does your selection allow the students to shine and feel confident?

WHAT ARE THE ADJUDICATORS LOOKING FOR?

Our adjudicators believe that engaging **storytelling is the key to a good performance**. Standout student performers are connected to the words, know why their characters are singing or dancing, and are appropriately expressive in their presentation. These attributes are as important as technical proficiency. Focus on your actors. Without costumes or scenery, your students' bodies, faces, and voices become even more essential to the clarity of the storytelling. For more detailed information, check out the **JTF Adjudication Rubric** on the next page. This rubric will be completed by each adjudicator, and these forms will be emailed to the director as quickly as possible after the Festival.

AFTER ADJUDICATION

After your adjudication has taken place you will head to a separate room where a discussion leader will lead a 10-20minute discussion with your students.

The purpose of the discussion is to **celebrate** what your students just did during adjudication and to give them a chance to **reflect** on everything they have learned and accomplished. The discussion leaders are not there to judge or to give more feedback, they are simply there to facilitate a period of evaluation and sharing.



ADJUDICATION RUBRIC

Group Name:

Show Title:

Adjudicator:

Start Time:

End Time:

1. General (25%)

Storytelling	Clear storytelling throughout the whole piece	5	4	3	2	1
Focus	Performer give and take focus through listening and response	5	4	3	2	1
Commitment	Committed in all aspects	5	4	3	2	1
Ensemble	Performers work together as a team	5	4	3	2	1
Unity	Music, dance and acting work together as a cohesive unit	5	4	3	2	1

Sub Total:

2. Music (25%)

Storytelling	Story and emotion conveyed through singing	5	4	3	2	1
Precision	Intonation (pitch), diction, rhythms, and cut-offs are accurate	5	4	3	2	1
Expression	Vocal variety and dynamics used throughout	5	4	3	2	1
Ensemble	Blending of voices and navigation of vocal volume	5	4	3	2	1
Motivation	Vocal delivery clearly supports character's motivation	5	4	3	2	1

Sub Total:

3. Dance (25%)

Storytelling	Story and emotion conveyed through movement and choreography	5	4	3	2	1
Style	Appropriate to the setting and themes	5	4	3	2	1
Execution	Performed cleanly and precisely	5	4	3	2	1
Ensemble	Performers work together forming clear stage compositions	5	4	3	2	1
Motivation	Choreography clearly supports character's motivation	5	4	3	2	1

Sub Total:

4. Acting (25%)

Storytelling	Story and emotion conveyed through dialogue and actions	5	4	3	2	1
Characterisation	Characters developed are appropriate to the story	5	4	3	2	1
Physicality	Actor's face and body are connected	5	4	3	2	1
Ensemble	Awareness and Willingness to demonstrate character relationships	5	4	3	2	1
Motivation	Action and dialogue clearly supports character's motivation	5	4	3	2	1

Sub Total:

Bonus

'Wow Factor'	Performance transcends and inspires (up to 3pts)
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Penalties:

Over time	Minus 1 pt. for every 15 seconds over allotted 15 minutes
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TOTAL POINTS:

5 = Perfect throughout the entire performance, no errors
 4 = Excellent through most of the performance, with a few minor defects
 3 = Good performance, but lacked consistency throughout
 2 = Fair performance, with basic weaknesses clearly identifiable
 1 = Needs improvement