

# AACT 2025 Design Competition ON-SITE DISPLAY ENTRIES

## Scenic, Lighting, Properties Costume, Special Design

Welcome to the AACT 2025 Design Competition! We appreciate your interest and encourage you to submit your design for consideration in the Scenic, Lighting, Properties, Costume, and Special Design categories. Following, you will find important information about submitting your designs:

### General Requirements

- **An Entry Form** must be submitted online for each design entry by May 19, 2025. The entry form is available at [aact.org/design25](http://aact.org/design25)
- The first entry fee is waived with AACT Registration
- Additional entry Fee: \$25.00

### Qualifications:

- Each entry must be a design created for an AACT member theatre production or be a design created by an AACT individual member for use by a community theatre. Productions must **have been staged between July 1, 2023 and June 1, 2025.**
- Each entry must represent a single design aspect of a single production.
- The Special Design category is for special technical projects which may include, but is not limited to: puppets, masks, special F/X, rain, blood, projections, etc.

### Display Specifics:

- ☐ Each entrant must elect one of the following display options and will be required to list selection on the entry form: 1) a tabletop display that must occupy an area measuring 36 inches x 30 inches or 2) a freestanding floor display that must occupy a footprint of 40 inches x 40 inches. AACT will provide access to AC power when requested.
- ☐ Display fixtures, audio/visual display equipment, risers, clothes racks, and mannequins or dress forms, are the responsibility of the entrant.
- ☐ Every Display must include a written **Design Statement** in which the designer states the objective and challenges of the design. The entrant must also share their concept, thought, and rationale for the design. The Design Statement must be no longer than 500 words.
- ☐ Every Display must include **photos and/or videos** of the design as it was originally presented. When possible, photos and videos must show the entirety of the world of the play. For example: a costumed actor on a set rather than an actor in the dressing room; a set under stage light with actors, not only under a work light. However close-up photos showing detail are encouraged. Note: audio or video playback may NOT interfere with another display; headphones for the playback device are required.

### Display Set Up:

- ☐ All displays need to be set up on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, Noon – 5 PM.
- ☐ Entrants or representatives must provide any tools or materials needed to complete their set up.
- ☐ Entrants must remove any materials not needed for their displays by the end of the set-up period. Shipping boxes and packing materials may be stored beneath draped tables or at other specified areas.

**Display Strike:**

- ☐ All displays must remain in place until the official end of the Design Competition.
- ☐ All displays must be struck and removed on Saturday, June 28, 2025, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM.

**Presentation:** Entries will be displayed at the **Des Moines Marriott Downtown** 700 Grand Avenue. June 25 - 28, 2025, in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Criteria for Adjudication**

- ☐ How did choices of color, line, texture, composition, and motion reflect the objectives and solutions chosen? Were these design elements presented as a unified whole?
- ☐ Did the design support the world of the play in a fashion integrated with the other elements?
- ☐ What were the challenges faced? How successful and appropriate were the solutions chosen?
- ☐ Does the design show a command of the tools and crafts of the artist and have a high degree of finish?
- ☐ What is the overall impact of the Display?
- ☐ Did the Design Statement clearly reference the overall design concept: how it was developed, and how it supported the production.

**Adjudication Notes**

- ☐ The adjudicators will have sole responsibility for the interpretation of these criteria and their execution.
- ☐ Every entrant will receive an email with written feedback from the adjudicators on their design and display.
- ☐ The decisions of the adjudicators will be final.
- ☐ There will be a talk-back session with the design adjudicators during the week of AACTFest 2025. The adjudicators will discuss 2 – 3 designs and displays from each design category during the talk-back.

**Awards**

Awards will be given at the discretion of the adjudicators, based on the Criteria for Adjudication as stated above. Awards will be presented to the combined pool of On-Site and Virtual entries.

- ☐ A \$300 Outstanding Overall Design Award will be presented.
- ☐ \$100 Individual category Design Winners may be presented at the discretion of the adjudicators.
- ☐ Certificates will be presented to the winners. Honorable Mention certificates will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicators. Awards will be announced at the AACTFest 2025 festival awards program.

For further information contact the AACT office: 817-732-3177, [info@aact.org](mailto:info@aact.org)