

PARTICIPANT Rules and General Procedures – LITF 2026

The Liverpool International Theatre Festival will be held **October 14-18, 2026**, in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada, with performances primarily at the Astor Theatre.

CHAPTER I – Purpose

To present - through performances, critical discussion and feedback, sharing and workshops - an experience of world theatre.

To promote education and cultural understanding through theatre.

To bring about creative meetings of theatre artists.

In line with the ideals of AITA/IATA, performances will present a diversity of cultures, forms and dramatic expression. To earn an invitation to LITF, a production must be considered to be of high artistic quality.

To promote education, culture and artistic development, through workshops led by recognized international theatre artists.

To reward significant achievements in the following categories:

- Outstanding Production
- Outstanding Director
- Outstanding Visual Presentation
- Outstanding Actor - Male
- Outstanding Actor - Female
- Outstanding Supporting Actor – Male
- Outstanding Supporting Actor - Female
- Outstanding Original Script
- The People's Choice Award

To recognize participation in the festival, each company will be presented with the LITF Jester Fish Award onstage following their performance.

CHAPTER II - Conditions of Participation

Each company will present a complete theatrical performance, an original or established work, experimental or traditional, classic or modern, not longer than 50 minutes and not less than 30 minutes duration.

Groups will be selected, partly, on how well their play is likely to be enjoyed by an international audience who may not speak the language in which it is performed.

Each invited company must complete a formal agreement which will be sent out to successful companies when the schedule is announced in October 2025.

They must then, within the deadline, send the information and documents requested (Travel, Hosting, Registration, Technical, Promotion). Failure to do so could result in the company losing its right to take part in the Festival.

No company member is allowed to be paid for attending the festival, or for performing, or for completing technical work for the production.

Companies will bring with them any specialized sets, furniture and properties needed for their performance. LITF will provide: full-stage curtains, general furniture, and minor properties requested and agreed to in advance. **Basic technical support will be provided, but companies are advised to keep the technical requirements to a minimum.** Available technical equipment is listed on the [Astor Theatre website](#).

Set up time for sets, furniture and props on stage before the play is limited to 15 minutes. Set strike following performance is limited to 10 minutes, following the on-stage adjudication.

The Production Stage Manager has full control of the performance space and is the final authority for scheduling for troupes for rehearsals, set-up times, and any conflicts that may occur within these areas.

The Astor Theatre, in which companies will perform, will be made available in proper working order, under the charge of the Production Stage Manager.

Companies are responsible for obtaining, from the agent or playwright, written permission to present their performance at LITF.

For publicity and legacy, LITF will photograph and record video footage of participating companies in rehearsal/performance/set up or in workshop.

Company members (actors, technicians or producers) must respect these rules. Breaking these rules may result in the withdrawal of the invitation, cancellation of the official presentation, or the removal of the official participant award.

LITF will follow, in principle, the [GoDA](#) rules for adjudication, including penalties for over-running or underrunning the play, set-up and striking of the set, and overrunning technical rehearsal time limits.

CHAPTER III - Hosting

Travel expenses to Halifax Stanfield International Airport are the responsibility of the troupe members. International companies, and Canadian companies from outside Atlantic Canada, will be hosted in private homes, free of charge for up to six nights. Breakfast is provided by the host. Lunch and dinner will be provided for international companies (up to 8 persons) between October 15-18.

* **The number of “hosted” participants is a maximum of 8 persons per international group.** The number of non-actors should not normally exceed three persons. If groups wish to exceed this number, then any members of the group beyond eight must travel from the airport to Liverpool at their own expense and be accommodated at their own arrangement and cost.

International companies will be met at Halifax Stanfield International Airport and be transported to Liverpool (approximately 2 hours away) and returned to the airport following the Festival.

CHAPTER IV – Application Process

All companies attending the festival will provide complete details of their proposed performance to the Artistic Director by **February 3, 2026**.

This must include:

- a description of the group, its history and its activity;
- the full text of the play (in the case of a non-text play, the scenario),
- a complete synopsis of the play **in English, 250 words in length**
- a list of all the actors and their professions
- details of technical design and requirements
- 4 high resolution digital performance photographs of the play
- an internet link to a minimum of 5 minutes of a performance of the play
- Media reviews/patron reviews of past performances

The decision of final selection belongs to the Artistic Director and Executive Committee of LITF, based on the proposals submitted. The program for the festival is planned to be made up of ten troupes. At least one of the ten will be Canadian.

Travel to Canada

Each company is responsible for providing written evidence of permission from the author or publisher to present their production at the 2026 Liverpool International Theatre Festival, Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada.

This must reach the LITF Executive by June 30, 2026, at the latest.

It is the group's sole responsibility to obtain appropriate [VISA](#), [Electronic Travel Authorization \(eTA\)](#), and travel documents for Canada. **If any groups need any material from the LITF Executive (i.e. invitation letter), please contact LITF as soon as possible.**

It is strongly recommended that all groups obtain appropriate travel insurance, props insurance, health insurance, or any other insurance that could be considered appropriate with travelling abroad. LITF cannot be held responsible for any losses or damage to

properties of the troupes or for costs for health care occurring during the Festival.

Chapter V – Organization

The Executive Committee and its contracted Artistic Directors are responsible for the organization of LITF.

The Artistic Directors will decide the date, time and place of the performances.

On arrival at the Festival Headquarters, each participant will receive an official badge of the Festival. This badge shows their official status at LITF and must always be worn for access to all the venues of the Festival.

The interpretation of the general rules and all financial matters are the responsibility of the LITF Executive, including points not covered above. These decisions will generally be communicated to the participants in writing.