

State Children's Drama Festival – 2025
Limited/Open

Introduction and Objective

State Children's Drama Festival is among the several cultural events launched by the Department of Cultural Affairs for the better sustenance and promotion of culture in the country. It is envisaged that this will help identify contemporary trends of the local art of drama and to direct the parties concerned to intervene in this field. This festival helps encourage the dramatists to produce children's dramas which could escalate the power of appreciation and better attitudes among the children while evaluating such dramas.

There are general objectives and conditions with regard to these events. This document introduces special objectives and conditions with regard to each and every event. The Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Panel of Drama possess the authority to make any amendments to this constitution.

Events are held with following general objectives in view.

- a) Provide an impetus to promote the art of drama, one of the live components in our culture.
- b) Get the contribution of the newcomers to the field of children's theatre and provide a stage for them to widen their experiences.
- c) Nurture the local art of children's drama through above procedure.
- d) Developing a theater audience capable of having a positive impact on social, cultural and spiritual life.

General Conditions

1. Competitors should agree to accept the special as well as the general conditions.
2. Applications are called through electronic and print media. Only the Sri Lankan citizens could apply.
3. Dramas that represented the Second Round and the Final Round of the State Children's Drama Festivals held in previous years, cannot be presented to this competition.
4. Prizes, awards and certificates are presented only to the dramas which are formally evaluated under the competition from the First to the Final Round.
5. If it is decided by the State Panel of Drama and the Panel of Judges to offer any award in addition to the prizes, awards and certificates prescribed in pre notices or not to offer any award on account of nonconformity with the standards, violation of rules, the Department of Cultural Affairs possesses the authority to act on accordingly.
6. True and correct information should be furnished in filling of applications. If the information given is proved to be false and incorrect, the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Panel of Drama shall have the authority to remove from the competition or to cancel the presentation of prizes, awards and certificates.

7. The duly filled application attached to this document issued by the Cultural and Arts Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, together with requisite documents in terms of the following schedule and a duly prepared 03 copies of the script (If the script is not self-composed, the script should be accompanied by the original script in English on which the drama is based and 03 copies in Sinhala) should be sent or handed over to the Secretary, State Panel of Drama, Cultural and Arts promotion Division, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla. Relevant information and the application could be obtained from the State Drama Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs or from the Cultural Officers of the District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats throughout the island, or from the Facebook “Department of Cultural Affairs” or via www.culturaldept.gov.lk
 - 7.1 Scripts should be submitted on A4 single side papers, clearly computer printed or type written. The State Panel of Drama and the Department of Cultural Affairs possess the full authority to reject any illegible script and illegible applications without considering its content.
 - 7.2 The summary of the drama should be presented clearly.
 - 7.3 The scripts once submitted for the competition will not be returned.
8. State Children’s Drama Festival 2025- (Limited/Open) should be written on the top left hand corner of the enclosing envelope. The following all relevant documents should be sent with the application. Incomplete or illegible applications will be rejected.
 - 8.1 If another playwright (translator/adaptor) is directing the drama, a copy of the letter authorizing the director of the drama to produce the relevant script must be submitted.
 - 8.2 List of names of all artistes in the drama, their addresses, and signatures must be submitted.
 - 8.3 If a script selected from the drama scripts is produced/directed by someone else, a certified copy of the letter of authorization from the original scriptwriter/translator/adaptor must be submitted.
9. Suitable scripts will be selected in the First Round. Selected scripts of dramas are staged in the district in which the producer or the director of the drama applied for, in the Second Round. The directors, whose dramas are recommended for the Final Round in terms of the quality, will be informed by the Department of Cultural Affairs.
10. The Final Round will be held at an appropriate theatre hall nominated by the Department of Cultural Affairs.
11. Preliminary hall facilities and light facility will be provided for the Final Round by the Department of Cultural Affairs. But special lighting and audio visual effects will not be provided.
12. All the evaluations from the inspection of scripts to the Final Round will be done by a veteran Panel of Judges who are professionals in the art of drama and appointed by the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Panel of Drama. The decision of the Panel of Judges would be the final.
13. If a drama is not staged on a specific date at a specific location as agreed upon earlier, without any justifiable reason, the said drama is deemed to have been removed from the contest by the relevant producer / director at his/her own will. If the drama could

not be staged as agreed upon, fresh date should be obtained from the Director of Cultural Affairs by informing such inability, at least 07 days prior to the due date. However, the Department will not hold responsibility for any difficulties encountered in giving fresh dates, hindering the time schedule of the competition.

14. The Department of Cultural Affairs is not bound to make any payment to any dramatist who is participating in the competition. However, the Department of Cultural Affairs will take steps to make financial grants for the dramas selected for the Final Round.
15. In the event of any expression of right or objection with regard to any drama selected for the competition, during any time of the drama festival, such right or objection should be submitted by an affidavit to the Department of Cultural Affairs. With due consideration to the said right or to the objection, the State Drama Panel and the Department of Cultural Affairs possess the authority to make the final decision whether to stage or not to stage the said drama in the festival or to present or not to present awards even if it is recommended for awards.

Limited Category

- The dramas presented by the government or nongovernmental schools and performed by the children will fall under this category.
- The drama may be an original/ a translation/ an adaptation or any other genre or format. It cannot be extracts from prescribed texts or prescribed dramas of the school curriculum.
- Only live music is considered in the evaluations.
- Script writer, director, actors, actresses and other artistes including dancing, music, make-up, costume designers, stage decorators and others must be the students or the teachers of the said school.
- In case of dramas produced only for a specific age group, it should be indicated in the application.
- The time duration of the drama should be between 20-30 minutes. The maximum time duration should not be exceeded.
- The maximum number of total participant artistes in the drama including the participants of the consequential events should be 35.
- Scripts forwarded in previous occasions will not be reconsidered.
- The script should be based on an incident, story or hypothetical plot suitable and appropriate solely for children with their activities reflecting their real life. Childhood is generally considered to be the age from 05 to 14 years. Young adolescents aged 15 to 18 years, as well as adults, can also enjoy children's dramas. However, since the festival defines children's dramas aimed at a child audience, it is expected that the characteristics and activities relevant to that age group will be appropriately utilized. The power of appreciation of a child varies according to their age. Therefore, child audience is categorized as per the following age categories and you should mention clearly to which age group does your drama belong to. The responsibility of presenting the drama in a manner that suits the relevant age group of the audience, lies with you. The attention of the Panel of Judges will also be focused on this aspect.

I. Age group between 05-10 years (Preschool to Grade 5) Time Duration of the drama should be 10-15 minutes.

II. Age group between 11-14 years (Grade 6 to Grade 9) Time Duration of the drama should not be more than 30 minutes.

III. Age group between 15-18 years (Grade 10 to Grade 13) Time Duration of the drama should not be more than 45 minutes.

- It is not a barrier to present a drama which has been presented previously to a drama contest, conducted by the Ministry of Education or in any other contest. However this matter should be indicated in your application.
- There is no limit in the number to the drama scripts an individual can present but for each script, a separate application should be sent and should submit with a covering letter through the principal.
- Attention should be drawn especially to the language used and whether it is used in such a way that is suitable to the general children's audience.

Open Category

- Arts Schools, children clubs, youth clubs, arts associations, children's drama groups and individuals can participate under this category.
- Time duration of the drama should be between 20-30 minutes. The maximum time duration should not be exceeded.
- Even though there is no restriction for the maximum age of the actors/actresses, it is expected to give priority to young and child actors/actresses. The maximum number of total participant artistes in the drama including the participants of the consequential events should be 35.
- The script should be based on an incident, story or hypothetical plot suitable and appropriate solely for children and their activities reflecting their real life. It cannot be extracts from prescribed texts or prescribed dramas of the school curriculum.

General Conditions for the State Children's Drama Festival

- Duly filled applications issued by the Cultural and Arts Promotion Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, together with 03 copies of the script and a summary of the drama directed by you, with a certification by the principal and the producer to the effect that the information furnished in the application is true, should be sent or handed over to the Secretary, State Panel of Drama, Cultural and Arts Promotion Division, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla before **30th June 2025**. (No fee is charged in this regard). "State Children's Drama Festival- 2025- (Limited/Open)" should be written on the top left hand corner of the enclosing envelope.
- The directors of whose scripts have been selected for the Second Round will be informed to stage their dramas on a prescribed date at district/provincial level or in Colombo.
- As the dramas are staged at day time, lighting facility will not be provided. Therefore, the Panel of Judges will not consider make-up, costumes or lighting. But to encourage the drama troupe and for training purposes, costumes, stage instruments and decorations, make-up could be used with the consent of the director of the drama.
- Scripts once presented will not be returned.

- The name of the script writer or any note to disclose his/her identity should not be mentioned in the script but in the application.
- Artistes who have displayed outstanding performances at the Second Round will be issued a Merit Certificate at the occasion of the Awards Presentation Ceremony.
- Dramas selected for the Final Round will be staged in Colombo. Each and every dramas selected for the Final Round will be presented with a plaque at the Awards Presentation Ceremony.
- The dramas of the Final Round will be evaluated by a proficient Panel of Judges. The following awards, cash prizes and certificates will be awarded for Limited and Open categories as per the decision of the Panel of Judges.

Awards, Cash Prizes and Certificates for limited and open categories

❖ Best drama production of the year	
First Place	– Rs.50, 000.00
Second Place	– Rs.30, 000.00
Third Place	– Rs.25, 000.00
❖ Best drama script of the year	
First place	–Rs.25, 000.00
Second Place	– Rs.15, 000.00
Third Place	– Rs.10, 000.00
❖ Best Child Actor of the year (Limited Category)	
First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best Child Actress of the year (Limited Category)	
First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best Actor of the year (Open Category)	
First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best Actress of the year (Open Category)	
First Place	– Rs. 20,000.00
Second Place	- Rs. 15,000.00
Third Place	- Rs. 10,000.00
❖ Best music of the year	– Rs.15,000.00
❖ Best make-up of the year	– Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best costume design of the year	– Rs. 15,000.00


❖ Best stage background/Stage Set up of the year	– Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best stage management of the year	- Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best stage lighting of the year	– Rs. 15,000.00
❖ Best choreography of the year	- Rs. 15,000.00

In addition, according to the decision of the Panel of Judges, 20 Merit Certificates and Cash prizes will be awarded for special skills in the limited and open categories (Sinhala, Tamil, English).

Special Remarks

- The details of the contributors of the drama (signatures of all the contributors for the drama should be included here), presented at the meeting of the producers, held prior to the Final Round should be considered as the final.
- Any changes in the contributors before the Final Round could be done by handing over a letter mentioning on such changes, to the State Panel of Drama of the Department of Cultural Affairs with the signature of the relevant contributor. The responsibility of such changes lies upon the director of the drama.
- The State Panel of Drama of the Department of Cultural Affairs possesses the authority to remove any dramas or cancel awards in case of furnishing false information or violation of rules and regulations of the competition.
- The State panel of Drama will draw its attention to print any scripts that shows outstanding qualities.
- Steps will be taken to get the participation of the scriptwriters and producers who have presented dramas for the Limited and Open Categories at the preliminary workshop organized on children's dramas.
- As the Awards Ceremony will be a state function with media coverage, all the relevant parties including the competitors are kindly requested to participate in the festival dressed in appropriate clothes. Only the nominated award winner should come to the stage to receive the award.

The above document is the preliminary statute for the State Children's Drama Festival and its effective date is 05th May 2025. This is also the only decisive document of this Drama Festival. The scheduled application is also a part of this document. Any clarification on the festival will be made as and when necessary by the State Panel of Drama of the Department of Cultural Affairs in writing or through telephone. The Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Panel of Drama shall responsible for defining, revising, rescinding this document or compiling a new statute.



K.S.Dilhani
Director
Department of Cultural Affairs.

05.05.2025

Inquiries – Cultural and Arts Promotion Division 011-2872385

K.S. Dilhani
 Director
 Department of Cultural Affairs
 Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla

State Children’s Drama Festival- Limited/Open – 2025
Application

(03 copies of the script and the summary should be submitted)

1. I. Name of the school by which the drama is presented: (for Limited category)
:.....
.....
- II. Name of the association/institution/person by whom the drama is presented (for Open Category)
.....
.....
- III. Postal Address:
.....
.....
- (Please note that the above address will be used for all future correspondence with you.)
- IV. Telephone No: MobileFixed.....
WhatsApp :-.....
Email :-.....
- V. District:
- VI. Province:
2. i. Name of the drama:
- ii. Director of the drama:
- iii. Address:
- iv. Telephone No: WhatsApp:.....
- v. Name of the scriptwriter:
An Original/ a Translation/ an Adaptation/ Other (Delete the words inapplicable)
- vi. Number of Actresses:
- vii. Number of Actors:
- viii. Number of Supporting crew:

- ix. Total number of the crew:
- x. Duration of drama:
- xi. What age group is the drama intended for:-.....
- 3. Has this drama produced and staged before? (Yes/No).....
 If so, the date and the venues
 - i.....
 - ii.....
 - iii.....
- 4. i. Convenient District to stage the drama in the Second Round.....
 ii. Distance from Colombo to that place.....

I hereby certify that the above particulars submitted are true and accurate, and I have read and understood the rules and regulations stipulated in the Circular No:08/2025 dated 05.05.2025 meant for calling applications for the State Children's Drama Festival - 2025 and also agree to adhere to such rules and regulations. And I also agree by placing my signature below to be removed my drama at any instance in case the particulars furnished by me are found to be false as per the powers vested in the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Panel of Drama

Signature:
 Name:.....
 Principal/ Secretary of the Drama Association
 Date:

Signature:
 Name:.....
 Scriptwriter/ Producer
 Date:

Office use only

Province	District	City
Suitable Regional Center		No