

Section IV  
**NON-EQUITY PRODUCTIONS**

A. Season

The Non-Equity season runs from January 1 – December 31 of each year. The presentation of the Non- Equity Jeff Awards is made at a ceremony in the spring.

B. Eligibility Rules and Procedures

1. For initial consideration, a theatre organization that wishes to have a Non-Equity production judged must qualify under either of the following options:
  - a. Been in existence for two consecutive years prior to being granted eligibility and have presented at least two productions during each of those two years. Each production during that two year period must have had a minimum of 9 performances and all requirements set forth below (with the exception of Section IV.B.2.f) must have been met.
  - b. Been in existence for three consecutive years prior to being granted eligibility and have presented at least one production during each of those three years which has had a minimum of 9 performances with a total number of performances over the 3 years of no fewer than 36 and meets all the requirements set forth below (with the exception of Section IV.B.2.f).

After becoming eligible, the theatre organization must continue to produce at least two productions per year that adhere to all the requirements listed below, including the 18-performance minimum. An eligible theatre that wishes to have a production judged must notify the Non-Equity Wing Chair by the 18th of the month before the month in which the opening performance of that production is to take place. A theater seeking initial Jeff eligibility must contact the Non-Equity Wing Chair by the 10th of the month before the month in which their opening performance is scheduled.

2. Additional eligibility requirements
  - a. The Committee considers professional, non-union theatre organizations incorporated in the State of Illinois, whether as not-for-profit organizations or as commercial for-profit companies.
  - b. The Committee will only consider productions within the city limits of Chicago, including productions located on streets which form the boundaries of the City of Chicago.
  - c. The Committee does not consider theatres with ties – either financial or artistic – to any educational, religious, or social service institution, or to a municipal park district.
  - d. The Committee does not judge late-night performances (i.e., curtain at or after 9:30 p.m.), puppet theatre, opera, performance art, children’s theatre, student or youth theatre, mime theatre, unscripted or improvised productions, online performances or staged readings. World language theatre with sub-titles is eligible for judging if the theatre meets all eligibility requirements for Non-Equity Productions.
  - e. We do not judge evenings of multiple plays unless all artistic components, with the exception of actors and authors, are the same for each (i.e., director, set

designer, etc.). With rare exceptions, no performer in such productions will qualify for the Principal Actor/Actress category.

- f. Productions must run for a minimum of four weeks and eighteen performances -- previews do not count -- and each week must include performances on at least three days. At least one of these three days must be a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
- g. A revival of the same work by a theater, even with additional producers, in a different venue or in the other Jeff Wing, is not eligible to be judged if that prior production was judged less than seven (7) years earlier.
- h. For productions presented in repertory, the minimum number of performances requirement in Section IV.B.2.f may be modified, although for each show included in the repertory presentation there still must be at least three performances each week, with at least one of the performances on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, and a total of 14 performances.
- i. In a co-production that includes non-eligible theatres, all theatres must substantiate artistic contribution to the show. Regarding this guideline, the provision of venue, funding, business services or equipment is not considered an artistic component. The ineligible theater(s), when seeking future Jeff eligibility, may count the co-production as one of their qualifying shows if all other criteria are met.

#### C. Eligibility Judging and Ballot Procedures

##### 1. Judging Procedure

- a. Seven judges (5 Jeff judges and 2 A/T judges) are randomly assigned to attend the opening night. Jeff judges are generally limited to judging one opening per season for any company. Judges are not to judge productions if they have a conflict of interest with that company or any member of the cast or artistic team.
- b. Judges report their votes by 7:00 a.m. the morning following the opening night for any elements of the production they consider excellent or to register no votes.
- c. With seven judges in attendance, a Non-Equity production is recommended if it receives 21 total votes for either a play or a musical; or 5 votes for a single element.
- d. With only six judges in attendance, a Non-Equity production is recommended if it receives 18 total votes for either a play or a musical; or 4 votes for a single element.
- e. If recommended, the theatre and the members of the Jeff Awards are notified. They are not told what elements of the production received votes. Each member is expected to see the production during the course of the run and submit a ballot voting for any element(s) he or she considers excellent.

## 2. Final Ballot Procedure

- a. At the end of the season (1/1 to 12/31) the ballots are tabulated. The top 5 vote recipients in each category are placed on the final ballot, provided the votes for that nominee fall within an appropriate percentage. In some cases, as in the case of a statistical tie, the category may be expanded by the Ballot Committee to include more than 5 nominees on the final ballot.
- b. On the final ballot, members may vote in any given category only when they have seen at least three nominees when there are five or more nominations or at least two when there are two to four nominations.
- c. The ballots are tabulated and the award recipients are determined after all final ballots are turned in. One recipient is identified per category, except in the case of a tie. Multiple awards may be presented for New Play, New Musical and Artistic Specialization categories.
- d. Openings and Judging Ballots for Short Run Productions will be the same as the full-run ballots, but Short Run Productions will not compete with full-run shows. Instead, they will have separate nominations and one or more awards presented at the annual Non-Equity show. The Ballot Committee will determine final nominees and recipients based on percentages from Opening and Short Run judges' ballots.
- e. World Language productions with subtitles and a minimum of 18 performances are eligible to request judging to be in competition with all other fully eligible Non-Equity companies. On the other hand, World Language productions that have 9-17 performances will be eligible in the Short Run Production category, which will be governed by procedures set forth in Paragraph IV.C.2.d above.