



The English-Speaking Union
National Shakespeare Competition
2019-2020 School Year



How It Works

Structure

High school students read, analyze, perform and recite Shakespearean monologues and sonnets in three qualifying stages: at the school, community (Branch) and national levels.

Timeline

Fall 2019/early Winter 2020:

The program begins in classrooms nationwide, culminating in school-wide competitions where students memorize and perform a monologue. The Teacher/Judges choose one student (from a minimum of three) to advance to the ESU Branch Competition scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2020 at Arden Theatre, 40 N. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA. (Teachers are encouraged, but not required to attend). Here students perform their monologue *and* a Shakespeare sonnet. The top ten students recite a cold reading from a selection provided to determine the top 3 finalists. The first place winner advances to the National Competition held in New York City in late April. The top three winners are required to attend a reception in Center City Philadelphia on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at 4pm to receive their scholarship checks.

Late April 2020 :

At the ESU National Shakespeare Competition on April 26-28, students perform their monologues and sonnets in New York City before a distinguished panel of judges as well as their fellow contestants from across the country. Based on their performances, seven to ten students advance to the final round. Finalists, will perform their selections again for a 2nd panel of Judges to compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to attend a summer drama program.

Awards

Branch Awards:

The ESU Philadelphia Branch (community) First Place winner receives an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City to compete in the National Competition in April and \$1,500. Certificates of Participation, a t-shirt and gifts are provided to each registered participating student. The top three winners receive scholarship checks (\$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500) and medals. The First Place winner gets to display the engraved trophy at their school until the following year's competition. Attendance at the March 18th reception is mandatory to receive scholarships.

National Awards: (Tentative)

First Prize: Scholarship and airfare to attend Royal Academy of Dramatic Art Young Actors' Summer School **Second Prize:** Scholarship and airfare to attend the American Shakespeare Center Theatre Camp

To **register** for the February 24th Competition at Arden Theatre, please visit the website at

http://www.esuus.org/philadelphia/about/shakespeare_competition/

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