



ariZoni Awards of Theatre Excellence Award Adjudication Process

For any awards program the adjudication process is the most important process. We at the ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence agree!

That is why we have a comprehensive adjudication program designed to provide the best evaluation possible.

Who are the Adjudicators:

Adjudicators are chosen through a detailed application process. They are asked to provide their theater experience and training and other important criteria. Adjudicators include people with degrees in theater (both undergraduate and graduate), theater educators, and those with extensive work in theater. All would be considered highly qualified. They are not "hobbyists" but rather those who have real, measurable, theater experience.

We are always selective in developing our adjudication pool.

How do they adjudicate?

There are more than 30 adult and youth theaters represented by the ariZoni Awards. This equates to over 200 productions each season. Since it is impossible for the same people to attend every production, a process of adjudication has been designed to provide a thoughtful evaluation of each production.

It is important for participating theaters to realize that with this adjudication structure, performances are not, and cannot be adjudicated against each other. They are, rather, adjudicated against a fairly complex and detailed set of rubrics that each adjudicator is asked to follow. Adjudicators receive training in application and understanding of the rubrics.

Each production has FIVE people evaluating it using detailed rubrics. Once the scores are submitted, the highest and lowest score in each category is thrown out and the three mid scores are used to calculate the average score for the area being adjudicated.

Adjudicators are asked to note any potential conflicts of interest during the application process and during adjudicator training they are provided additional information on what conflicts may look like. They WILL NOT be allowed to adjudicate productions where one or more of these may exist:

1. They (or their family members) have auditioned for and not been cast
2. They (or their family member) are cast
3. Theaters for which they are board members or paid staff
4. Theaters for which they volunteer extensively or would be considered their "home" theater.

What is done with the ballots?

Starting in 2017, the ariZoni Theatre Awards of Excellence moved to a completely online adjudication system. Once an adjudicator completes their ballot in the online system, their scores are locked and only accessible by our non-partisan accountant.

Once all the ballots are received, the accountant ranks the scores and the nominee list is provided to the ariZoni board members overseeing the reading of the nominations.

There are never any changes made by these board members. They only check for spelling errors and provide pronunciation support to the nominee readers at the reading of the nominations ceremony.

Once the nomination list is public and theaters have all had a chance to make corrections to any spelling errors on the nomination list (and provide phonetic spellings to us so the names will be read correctly), those changes are submitted to the accountant who then orders the awards based on the final numbers that had already been tallied. The accountant and the award-creation company are the only people who know the recipients of the award before the names are read during the annual ceremony.

ariZoni Theatre Awards board members do not know who the winners are until they are announced at the ceremony.