

NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES THEATRE ARTS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (NUTASA)

NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES THEATRE ARTS FESTIVAL

NUTAF: FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

PHILOSOPHY OF THE FESTIVAL

The Nigeria Universities Theatre Arts Festival (NUTAF) shall provide an annual platform for university undergraduates to exhibit their creative talents in an intellectually stimulating environment under the guidance of tested academics and professionals in the performing arts in Nigeria. It shall function as a bridge between theory and practice in the Performing Arts training in Nigeria. The Festival shall engender constructive conversation of ideas between students and scholars in all Nigerian Universities offering full time degree programmes in Theatre/Performing/Dramatic Arts.

Finally, NUTAF shall bring about the desired interface and communication between the *town* and the *gown* as it shall expose creative products from university undergraduates to the general public for possible patronage by individuals and corporate bodies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FESTIVAL

Drama connects, and indeed celebrates unity, love, peaceful co-existence, social justice, participatory democracy, freedom of association, freedom of speech and all other socio-political metaphors enshrined in the Nigerian constitution and Universal declaration of human rights. It is, therefore, important to note that NUTAF aims at dramatizing and celebrating cultural rejuvenation, healthy competition, social engineering, national rebirth, love, peace, unity, brotherhood and group cohesion. Also, the participants who are mostly youths studying in the Nigerian Universities are given free opportunities to experiment with positive creative possibilities, thoughts and ideas.

Consequently, the specific objectives of the festival are to:

- i. harness the dramatic talents and creative potentials of Nigerian youths for greater national cohesion
- ii. nurture new crop of Nigeria theatre professionals like playwrights, directors, choreographers, designers etc
- iii. nurture the organisational and managerial ability of Nigerian youths
- iv. boost the creative ability of undergraduates in drama compositions and their stage realisation
- v. shape the vision of our youth on the developmental challenges of nationhood through role-play
- vi. create a platform for expressing and exhibiting the diverse and rich cultural heritage of Nigeria
- vii. foster intra/inter cultural integration for mutual appreciation the diverse Nigerian cultures
- viii. instil national consciousness and patriotic ideals in Nigerian youths
- ix. produce youths who can use the performing as methods of social investigation and communication and as means of finding common solutions to development problems
- x. produce self-reliant skillful individuals who can earn a living on their own through the performing arts
- xi. create a platform for undergraduates to appreciate, express and exhibit the rich and diverse cultural heritages of Nigeria for tourism and export
- xii. collapse ethnic borders and stereotypes by inculcating the spirit of oneness through the performing arts

ELIGIBILITY

All Nigerian Universities (federal, State and private) that offer full time degree programmes in Theatre/Performing/Dramatic Arts and are duly licensed by the National Universities Commission (NUC) are eligible to participate.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Participation fee is Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000) to all financially up-to-date branches of NUTASA.

ACCREDITATION OF CONTINGENT

Accreditation of individual members of each participating University's contingent shall commence on the advertised date at the festival venue annually. Contestants are to provide evidence of their student status with the institutions they represent.

FESTIVAL THEME:

The NUTASA executive committee shall announce the approved theme for the festival at least six months to each edition of the festival.

DOCUMENTATION & ARCHIVAL OF FESTIVAL PROCEEDINGS

The NUTASA executive committee in liaison with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) shall ensure comprehensive audio-visual documentation, publication and archiving of all proceedings of the festival and its preparatory events for posterity. The NUTASA exco could identify and appoint official marketers to capture and market specific aspects of the festival nationally and internationally.

PRODUCTION PROCESS & SUBMISSION OF SCRIPTS BY PARTICIPANTS

Script Production

Students in each participating university will create, develop and write scripts, which will be rehearsed and performed at the festival. Originality is the keyword here. Even though lecturers may guide the participants, they are not to take over the production process from the student participants, as this will negate the overall goal of NUTAF.

Duration

The duration of each drama entry is 30 minutes. A performance can, however, be less than that in terms of time. Any performance that runs for more than 30 minutes from the point of entry of first actor or set piece to removal of last prop/set piece on stage will be penalized.

Production Style

Participating institutions are to determine the production style(s) they intend to use. However, ingenious, experimental, and or a medley of Western style(s) are encouraged. The production concept and approach should be clearly documented in the *production book*, which should be submitted to the festival secretariat along side *a soft copy of the script* and *three (3) hard copies* at the point of registration.

Submission of Scripts & Production Books

In order to facilitate proper documentation and qualify to be considered for any special AWARD/PRIZE, participating institutions MUST submit the following to the festival secretariat on arrival for the festival:

- i. 3 hard copies of the drama script and any relevant audio-visual material
- ii. 1 DVD containing softcopies of the drama script, production book, albums, or brochures etc.
- iii. 1 DVD containing scanned identity cards, briefs and evidence of student status of all members of the contingent

NOTE: all softcopies of the above materials are to be submitted in PDF formats. Any institution that fails to submit such shall not be considered for any special Award or Prize that may be introduced from time to time.

DURATION OF THE FESTIVAL

The festival shall hold for six (6) days inclusive of the arrivals, opening and closing ceremonies.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

The following code shall be binding on every NUTAF contingent. Participating Universities shall be responsible for the conduct of individual members of their contingent. An institution can be disqualified from participating in a festival event or subsequent editions of NUTAF in the event of contravention of any of the following code of conduct by any of its registered participants.

- i. as part of the registration process for the festival, the team leaders/staff advisers from each participating University shall be required to sign an undertaking that their registered participants will adhere strictly to the code of conduct
- ii. members of each contingent shall be required to dress decently all through the duration of the festival. Contestants not properly dressed in line with the prevailing dress code in the host institution will be barred from venues of the competitions.
- iii. drinking of Alcohol, cigarette and use of stimulants are not allowed in ALL venues of the festival
- iv. all contestants must relate with fellow contestants and officials with the greatest sense of decorum
- v. quarreling or fighting are strictly prohibited within the venues of the festival
- vi. only accredited members of respective contingents shall be allowed entry into venues of all festival events. Such accredited members must hang their accreditation cards at all times
- vii. the security of lives and properties at all venues of the festival shall be the collective responsibility of all contestants. Any contingent whose member (s) jeopardizes the peace and security of any individual or property shall be sanctioned
- viii. Theft, graffiti, hooliganism or removal of any property from its official position without proper permission shall be sanctioned and treated as criminal activities requiring prosecution
- ix. all complaints and protests must follow proper channels of communication. For avoidance of doubt, the proper channel for communication of grievances is from the individual delegate to the LOC through the official leader of the complainant's contingent. No mob action shall be tolerated at the festival. The NUTASA Board of Trustees on recommendation of the NUTASA Executive Committee will sanction the host institution of the originator or mastermind of such mob action as appropriate.

SPECIAL NUTAF EVENT

Stand-up comedy has in the last decade become one of the fastest growing sources of self-employment for youths in the Nigerian entertainment industry. Consequently, NUTASA executive committee may introduce a special performance window in the area of Stand-up comedy during some editions of NUTAF as resources will allow. This is necessitated by the need to broaden the avenues for self-employment for Nigerian youths. It is hoped that the competition will help undergraduates to discover their latent talents in this regard and further project those who are desirous to develop a career out of this emerging entertainment genre.

General Guidelines

- i. Only one contestant will represent an institution in the competition
- ii. all jokes must promote positive Nigerian identity and African values
- iii. each participant has five (5) minutes on stage or as may be directed by the judges
- iv. No outwardly offensive language is allowed on stage
- v. Spontaneity, originality, variety and rich cultural content shall be emphasized

HOSTING OF NUTAF

- i. All financially up-to-date institutional members shall host the Festival on rotational basis.
- ii. The festival shall be a highly artistic event that shall display the diverse artistic talents of members.
- iii. The choice of NUTAF host institution shall be through submission of a written expression of interest to the National Secretary by the desiring branch.
- iv. all applications for hosting of NUTAF should be submitted to the National secretary NOT later than FOUR WEEKS to the opening of the NUTAF preceding the one the branch desires to host
- v. the Exco shall screen all duly submitted applications and shall dispatch at least a three man team of inspectors to the intending hosts at least TWO WEEKS before the commencement of the NUTAF preceding that which the applicant intends to host so as to prepare an interim report for the next congress.
- vi. in recommending the host of NUTAF to congress, the Exco shall bear in mind the facilities available (performance spaces, accommodation, feeding, health), the relationship between the branch association and the host University authorities, the security of delegates, and geographical spread in the rotation of hosting.
- vii. the congress having received the full report of the inspection teams shall make further recommendations and RECOMMEND provisional hosting rights to TWO of the most qualified institutions.
- viii. the final HOSTING right shall be granted by the Board of trustees from amongst the TWO institutions recommended by congress at the preceding NUTAF
- ix. before recommending the institutions to the Board of trustees, the Exco must have conducted the second and final inspection of the TWO applicants, NOT less than EIGHT WEEKS after the preceding NUTAF to monitor the applicants' conformity to the last directive of congress.
- x. in the event that no applications were received by the Exco before the stipulated time for expression of intention to host NUTAF, the Exco could nominate FOUR possible host institutions in writing and forward same to the nominated branch Presidents at least THREE weeks before the opening of the preceding NUTAF encouraging them to bid for hosting of NUTAF.
- xi. in the event that the institution granted the final hosting rights is NOT in a position to host owing to unforeseen circumstances, either the National Secretariat, or the branch hosting the NUTAF President shall take over the hosting;
- xii. in such cases (x & xi above) of emergency, which neither the Secretariat nor the NUTAF President's host department is able to host NUTAF; the Exco could convince any other branch to takeover the hosting. In such cases of emergency, the decision of the Exco shall be VALID but shall at the nearest available opportunity report its decisions to either the board of trustees or Congress, depending on which is readily available for ratification.