



ACAMIS ACE and The International School of Macao
Present

Play In A Day Festival

**ONE DAY TO REHEARSE,
ONE NIGHT TO PERFORM**

January 17, 2026

Plays begin at 7:00 PM

Neil P. Johnston Theatre
The International School of Macao



**Additional
Information**

Tickets available at the
door

Tickets: Free

theatre@tis.edu.mo

E-mail for more
information

ACAMIS/TIS Play in a Day Festival Guide 2026

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Introduction

Dear Colleague,

The International School of Macao (TIS) is proud to host the ACAMS Play-In-A-Day Festival, **Saturday, January 17, 2025**, and we are interested in having you join us to celebrate the Arts.

Important Festival details:

Contact person: Thom Ferlisi +853 6650 3773 thom.ferlisi@tis.edu.mo

Contact about logistics: Merrill Ross

Participating Schools

- The event will be limited to 4 schools (including TIS).

Cost per participant:

- The cost per student is: **400 MOP**
 - Includes: Dinner x2, Lunch x1
 - Transportation from Macao port to TIS (border, ferry, airport).
 - Transportation to/from Hotel/TIS
 - Transportation from the Hotel to the port in Macao
 - Participation certificates
 - Ribbons for the winning team.

Hotel Information:

- TBA

Timeline:

- **December 5, 2025** - Online - 5 pm: Confirm your school's participation in the festival
- **Monday, December 8, 2025** - Online - 5 pm: E-mail roster to theatre@tis.edu.mo
- **Thursday, January 15, 2026** - Online - 7 pm: Playwrights receive the prompts
- **Friday, January 16, 2026** - TIS- 7 pm: Getting To Know You Ice Breakers and Dinner
- **Saturday, January 17, 2026** - Online - 7 am: Directors receive the play
- **Saturday, January 17, 2026** - At TIS - 8 am: Rehearsals begin
 - Breakfast at the hotel/home
 - Lunch provided at TIS - 12 noon
 - Dinner provided at TIS - 5 pm
 - Show Time at TIS - 7 pm

Putting Together a Group:

- While each school will be asked to bring a specific set of students, they will not compete as a team. In an effort to encourage cross-scholastic cooperation, teams will be created to intermingle among the schools.
- Students should be in grades 7 - 12
- Each school should designate:
 - 1 playwright
 - 1 director
 - 1 booth technician
 - 1 artistic technician
 - 4 - 6 actors

Playwrights:

- The playwright will work from 7 p.m. on Thursday to 7 a.m. on Saturday to write a play based on prompts for the number of actors they are assigned. They will come in for script notes during the table read on Saturday. They will help their team throughout the rehearsal process, assisting where needed.

Directors:

- The director will work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday to direct the play. They will work with actors and technicians to produce the play in 12 hours.

Actors:

- Actors will rehearse from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and perform the play.

Artistic Technicians (Costumes, Set, Props, Etc.):

- This role will work with one director/cast and is an integral part of the team. They work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., gathering materials, making props, building sets, finding costumes, etc.
- They will have access to the costume and props closet as well as simple art materials and stationery.
 - The theatre has some flats, doors, and windows. Other set items that are readily available: couch, bed, stairs, 30 standard-sized cubes, 2 double-sized cubes, table, chairs, and standard classroom furniture.
 - The costumes in the closet are from a variety of eras and locations including Shakespeare, Greek, Indian, East Asian, Basketball/cheerleaders, and contemporary.

- Props readily available include most kitchen necessities, phones, computers, plants, and musical instruments.

Booth Technician:

- This role will work with one director/cast to program and run the light board and provide any music/sound cues. They will work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., meeting with directors and programming.
- They will have an orientation on our light board on how to program and save cues.
- They will also be instructed on how to connect a computer to the soundboard for video projection and music (no microphones will be provided).

Judging:

- Each school will designate one teacher to be a judge for the competition.
- Each judge will give each team a score out of 25 based on the following criteria.
- The judges will then combine their scores. The team with the highest score will win the festival. In the event of a tie, the judges will make a tie-breaking decision. If the judges cannot make a tie-breaking decision, the festival coordinator will.

Writing	Acting	Design	Tech	Use of Prompts
5 = well-plotted, interesting story	5 = memorized and believable	5 = Costumes, props, and sets added to the understanding of the play	5 = Lights and sound were flawless	5 = The prompts were fully integrated into the play

Detailed Schedule

When	Who	What	Where
Thursday Evening January 15, @7pm	Playwrights	Prompts given	Drama Room
Friday Evening January 16, @7pm	All	Icebreaker and Dinner	TIS MPR 1
Saturday, January 17, 7 am	Playwrights	Scripts Due to Directors	Online
7 am	Directors	Get scripts	Online
8 am -12 noon	Actors, Directors, Technicians	Meet, get groups, table read, rehearse	Theatre Breakout rooms
9 am	Directors, Playwrights	Directors give playwrights any notes	Breakout rooms
9:00 am	Booth Technicians	Learn the boards Each team will have equal time on the board before lunch.	Control room (4th floor)
9:00 am	Artistic Technicians	Time to build and find items	Drama Room
10 am	Playwrights	Submit the final version of the plays to theatre@tis.edu.mo and the directors	Breakout rooms
12 noon	ALL	Lunch	MPR 1
1:00 - 5:00	ALL	Rehearsals	Breakout Rooms
1:00 - 5:00	Groups will be assigned an equal amount of time in the theatre to have tech rehearsals		
5 pm	ALL	Dinner	MPR 1
6 pm	ALL	Final Rehearsals, clean room	Breakout rooms

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6:30 pm	ALL	Call Time	Green Room
7 pm	ALL	Show	Black Box

Email to Playwrights when Given Their Prompt:

Dear Playwrights,

Here are some guidelines for writing your play:

1. Length of Play - Your play should be between 10 -15 pages. Reminder: the actors will only have one day to memorize their lines, so you must keep their pieces relatively short.
2. Setting - Please consider the set designer's restraints when penning your pieces. Simple locations with no more than two settings are best. This goes the same for props, costumes, etc.
3. Number of Characters - You will be told who your director is when given the prompts. But you will not know who the actors are. However, you will be told how many actors you are writing for and their genders.
4. Time Limit - Keep the plays around 10 minutes.
5. Prompts - You must include all three prompts in your play.

Break a leg
Mr. Ferlisi

Group # 1

Playwright's name:
Director name:

Actors: # Boy, #Girls, # Non-Binary

Prompts:

1	Line	
2	Theme	
3	Prop	

Email To Directors when Given Their Prompt:

Dear Directors,

Here are some guidelines for directing your play:

1. Read the play MANY times and take notes BEFORE the table read.
2. Come up with a plan on how you will stage the play.
3. Table read with the actors; discuss the play and share any notes with the playwright.
 - a. Notes to the playwright can be MINOR changes to the script
 - b. Script Changes that are okay to suggest
 - i. Changing a word or line to suit the actor/direction better.
 1. Some examples:
 - a. Changing a line from “Kiss me now (kiss)” to “I love you so much (hug)”
 - b. Changing “How could you do this to me?” to “Why did you do this to me?”
 - ii. Grammar - if you notice some bad grammar, you can ask the playwright if it was purposeful (a character might purposely talk with bad grammar).
 - iii. Gender - if the playwright misgendered a character.
 - iv. Changing plot points because that cannot be staged safely
 1. Examples:
 - a. Flying is required.
 - b. Stage combat for any actor who has not been approved by their teacher.
 - c. It is your job to interpret and honor the play, not make changes and not judge their play.
 4. Rehearse. Guide your actors to your vision of what the play should be. Take into account that you all are in this together and listen to their suggestions. But overall, you do get to make the final decision.
 5. Technical and Artistic Teams: Have your tech and artistic teams watch the rehearsal a few times. When actors are on a break, you should meet with these teams to discuss your thoughts. Again, listen to your team and their ideas.
 6. Rehearsal space: In your breakout room, you need to keep it clean and return it to how it looked when you arrived. Teachers will check the rooms in the evening, and your team will be disqualified from the competition if your breakout room is not cleaned and returned to its normal state.
 7. Theatre Rehearsal time: You will be assigned equal amounts of time in the theatre to rehearse. That is the only time you will be allowed in the space. Make sure you are on time.
 8. Clean up (strike) - After the show, you are expected to lead your team (tech, artistic, and actors) in cleaning up the items they used and returning them to their proper location.

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Break a leg

Mr. Ferlisi

Group # 1

Playwright's name:

Director name:

Actors: # Boy, #Girls, # Non-Binary

Prompts:

1	Line	
2	Theme	
3	Prop	

School Roster

School Name:			
Chaperones' Names and Phone Numbers:			
Designated Judge:			

Student Name	Job	Age	Gender	Grade	E-mail
	Playwright				
	Director				
	Artistic Technician				
	Booth Technician				
	Actor				
	Actor				
	Actor				
	Actor				
	Actor				
	Actor				

Play In A Day Permission Slip

I have included a copy of the form I will have TIS parents sign to signify they agree for their child to participate. You may edit for your own purposes, or use your own permission slip

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone #: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Phone: _____

School Name: _____

Total Cost: MOP (Includes: Dinner x2, Lunch x1, Participation certificates, Ribbons for the winning team, transportation to/from venue) **Your price should include your hotel cost and your transportation to/from Macau.**

Timeline:

- **Thursday, January 15, 2025** - At Home - 7 pm: Playwrights receive the prompts
- **Friday, January 16, 2025** - At TIS - 7 pm: Getting To Know You Mixer and Dinner
- **Saturday, January 17, 2025** - At Home/Hotel - 7 am: Directors receive the play
 - At TIS - 8 am: Rehearsals begin
 - Lunch provided at TIS - 12 noon
 - Dinner provided at TIS - 5 pm
 - At TIS - 7 pm: Show

Role (Choose One)

Playwright	The playwright will work from 7 p.m. on Thursday to 7 a.m. on Saturday to write a play based on prompts for the number of actors they are assigned. They will come in for script notes during the table read on Saturday. They will help their team throughout the rehearsal process, assisting where needed.
Director	The director will work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday to direct the play. They will work with actors and technicians to produce the play in 12 hours.
Artistic Technician (Costumes, set, props, etc)	This role will work with one director/cast and are an integral part of the team. They work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., gathering materials, making props, building sets, finding costumes, etc.

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Booth Technician	This role will work with one director/cast to program and run the light board and provide any music/sound cues. They will work from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., meeting with directors and programming.
Actor	Actors will rehearse from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and perform the play.

The winning team will be announced after a short intermission after the shows.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to Mr. Ferlisi in person by **December 5th at 3:45pm.**

After confirmation, please pay the front office: **MOP**



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January 25, 2025

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The International School of Macao



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Tickets available at the
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Tickets: Free

theatre@tis.edu.mo

E-mail for more
information