

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAGICIANS CONTEST RULES & PROCEDURES

(Revised 11 May 2010 by Don Greenberg)

I. OVERVIEW

- A. The International Brotherhood of Magicians (I.B.M.) conducts magic contests at its Annual International Convention to consider presentation of awards in the following seven categories:
 - 1. Outstanding Stage performance by a Youth Member age 7 through 17, and a \$500 (U.S. currency) Savings Bond prize.
 - 2. Outstanding Stage performance by an Adult Member age 18 years or greater, and a \$1,000 (U.S. currency) cash prize.
 - 3. The Gold Medal International Award of Excellence in Stage Performance, and a \$5,000 (U.S. currency) cash prize (winner must have entered the Stage Contest in either Category 1 or Category 2.)
 - 4. Outstanding Close-up performance by a Youth Member age 7 through 17, and a \$500 (U.S. currency) Savings Bond prize.
 - 5. Outstanding Close-up performance by an Adult Member age 18 years or greater, and a \$500 (U.S. currency) cash prize.
 - 6. The Gold Cups International Award of Excellence in Close-up Performance, and a \$5,000 (U.S. currency) cash prize (winner must have entered the Close-up Contest in either Category 4 or Category 5.)
 - 7. The Karrell Fox Comedy Award (winner must have entered the Stage Contest in either Category 1 or Category 2.)
- B. The I.B.M. Contest Chairman on the Convention Committee is responsible for the conduct of the contests. The I.B.M. Contest Chairman will appoint the Head Judge.
- C. Contestants will be recruited through articles describing the contests, contest rules and procedures, the convention registration chairman and/or writing to the Contest Chairman, whose address will be published prior to the Annual International Convention in the "Linking Ring" magazine. The I.B.M. membership at large and local "Rings" will also encourage participation in the Annual International Convention contests.
- D. Copies of the contest rules and procedures, and contest entry forms will be provided by the International Office or the Contest Chairman to members by request, and will be available for download on the organization's internet website.

II. RULES GOVERNING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF ENTRANTS

- A. All contestants must be members in good standing of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.
- B. All contestants must complete the appropriate official contestant application form for each contest being entered.
 - 1. The completed forms with the contestant's original signature must be received by the Chairman of the Stage Contest or Close-up Contest, as appropriate, no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of the Annual International Convention.
 - 2. Contest applications for Youth category contestants must also be signed by that contestant's legal guardian.
 - 3. Applications sent via electronic mail (e-mail) are acceptable. In these cases, an application with the contestant's original signature, and the signature of the contestant's legal guardian in cases where the applicant is in the Youth category, must be received by the Chairman of the Stage Contest or Close-up Contest, as appropriate, prior to the pre-contest meeting.
- C. All contestants must be registered for the Annual International Convention.
- D. All contestants are subject to the contest Rules and Procedures, which will be provided to them with the official contest entry form upon request.
- E. Contest performances may not include the knowingly unauthorized use of intellectual property.
- F. No contestant may be a paid performer or lecturer on any of the Annual International Convention shows or events, or a paid provider of any other services performed in the interest of the Annual International Convention.
- G. The audience at the I.B.M. Annual International Conventions includes children and families, and the material presented in the contest performance must be suitable for this type of audience, i.e., no "blue material."

III. RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE CONTEST PERFORMANCES

A. CLOSE-UP CONTEST PRELIMINARY CONTEST

- 1. There must be at least three (3) contestants in each category in order for an award to be given in that category.
- 2. The Chairman of the Close-up Contest will hold a Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest meeting for the contestants prior to the contest. Contestants will be briefed regarding the rules and procedures for the conduct of the Close-up Contest. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for contestants. Failure to attend this meeting may result in disqualification.
- 3. All Close-up contestants must present themselves prepared to perform at the location designated for the Close-up contest in the Convention program at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled beginning of the Close-up Contest. Contestants must make their presence known by personally reporting to the Chairman of the Close-up Contest.
- 4. The facilities for the contest will vary with the Convention site. The performances for the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest will normally take place in the same rooms as the Convention Close-up performances. The Convention Committee will provide a waiting area/preparation area (Green Room), and a performance room with a cloth covered table. Chairs will be provided for the contestant and, at the discretion of the contestant, up to two spectators. Contestants are responsible for providing all other equipment and resources they need for their performance. If a CD or cassette tape player is to be used as a source of music or sound effects, the contestant must cue the CD or cassette tape so that it is ready for play.
- 5. Each contestant is allowed two (2) minutes to set up the equipment necessary for their performance. An announcer in each of the Close-up performance rooms will announce only the contestant's name and city of residence. No "build-up" is permitted. This announcement will initiate the beginning of the performance, and the timing of the performance will begin immediately following the introduction of the contestant. The time limit for the performance is eight (8) minutes. Each contestant is allowed

one (1) minute to strike (remove equipment) at the completion of their performance. Points will be deducted if the time limit is exceeded.

6. Contestants may be required to complete their performance as many as four (4) times (one performance in each of up to four different rooms). Performance frequency will depend upon the size of the audience and the facilities, and will be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Close-up Contest.
7. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (III, A) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Close-up Contest, as appropriate.

B. CLOSE-UP CONTEST FINALS (The Gold Cups Contest)

1. The general rules and procedures governing the conduct of the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest also apply to the Close-up Contest Finals except that the Chairman of the Close-up Contest will hold the meeting for the contestants on the morning of the Close-up Contest Finals. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for contestants. Failure to attend this meeting may result in disqualification.
2. All contestants in the Close-up Contest Finals must present themselves prepared to perform at the designated location at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled beginning of the Close-up Contest Finals. Contestants must make their presence known by personally reporting to the Chairman of the Close-up Contest.
3. The facilities for the contest will vary with the Convention site. The performances for the Close-up Contest Finals will normally take place in the same rooms as the Convention Close-up performances. The Convention Committee will provide a waiting area/preparation area (Green Room), and a performance room with a cloth covered table. Chairs will be provided for the contestant and, at the discretion of the contestant, up to two spectators. Contestants are responsible for providing all other equipment and resources they need for their performance. If a CD or cassette tape player is to be used, the contestant must cue the CD or cassette tape so that it is ready for play.
4. Each contestant is allowed two (2) minutes to set up the equipment necessary for their performance. An announcer in each of the Close-up performance rooms will announce only the contestant's name and city of residence. No "build-up" is permitted. This announcement will initiate the beginning of the performance, and the timing of the performance will begin immediately following the introduction of the contestant. The time limit for the performance is eight (8) minutes. Each contestant is allowed one (1) minute to strike (remove equipment) at the completion of their performance. Points will be deducted if the time limit is exceeded.
5. Contestants may be required to complete their performance as many as four (4) times (one performance in each of up to four different rooms). Performance frequency will depend upon the size of the audience and the facilities, and will be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Close-up Contest.
6. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (III, B) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Close-up Contest, as appropriate.

C. STAGE CONTEST PRELIMINARY CONTEST

1. There must be at least three (3) contestants in each category in order for an award to be given in that category.
2. The order of the contestants' appearance in the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest will be determined by a random drawing ten (10) days prior to the first day of the Annual International Convention.
3. The Chairman of the Stage Contest will hold a Stage Contest Preliminary Contest meeting for the contestants prior to the contest. Contestants will be briefed regarding the rules and procedures for the conduct of the Stage contest. The Stage Director will interview each contestant to obtain lighting and sound cues, and the order of effects for the contestant's performance. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for contestants. Failure to attend this meeting may result in disqualification.
4. All Stage contestants must present themselves prepared to perform at the location designated for the Stage Contest in the Convention program at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled beginning of the Stage Contest. Contestants must make their presence known by personally reporting to the Chairman of the Stage Contest.
5. The facilities for the contest will vary with the Convention site. The Convention Committee will provide a waiting area/preparation area (Green Room), a location in which to prepare, a location in which to perform, a microphone, a CD player, and a spotlight. If a music system other than a CD player is to be used as a source of music or sound effects, the contestant must provide the player and connecting cables. Only one CD may be used for each act. In the interest of fairness, no additional sound or lighting equipment will be permitted. Contestants are responsible for providing any other resources needed for their performance.
6. The contestant must be present and be ready to perform at least ten (10) minutes before the scheduled time of the performance.
7. A reasonable amount of time, at the discretion of the Stage Contest Manager, will be permitted for the setting of apparatus in the performance area. An announcer will announce only the contestant's name and city of residence. No "build-up" is permitted. This announcement will initiate the beginning of the performance, and the timing of the performance will begin immediately following the introduction of the contestant. The time limit for the performance is eight (8) minutes. Points will be deducted if the time limit is exceeded. Each contestant is allowed one (1) minute to strike (remove equipment) at the completion of their performance. All contestants must depart the performance area with tables, props, etc. upon the completion of their performance.
8. The use of any smoke generating effects, or pyrotechnic materials larger than matches, candles, or small displays of flash paper/string/cotton are prohibited. All use of these materials must be approved by the Chairman of the Stage Contest. Any deviations from the approved effects, i.e. pyrotechnic effects greater in magnitude or quantity than those approved by the Chairman of the Stage Contest, are grounds for disqualification.

9. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (III, C) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Stage Contest, as appropriate.

D. STAGE CONTEST FINALS (The Gold Medal Contest) -- The general rules and procedures governing the conduct of the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest apply to the Stage Contest Finals with the following exceptions:

1. Contestants will be provided with a stage and the services of the Stage Director and staff. It is the responsibility of each finalist to contact the Stage Director and discuss their performance and any requirements and to ascertain the schedule for and to be present at any rehearsals which the Stage Director may require.
2. The order of the presentation of performances in the Stage Contest Finals will be determined by the Talent Chairman or a person designated by the Talent Chairman.
3. The performances in the Stage Contest Finals will be announced by a Master of Ceremonies. The final performance of the show will be either the Master of Ceremonies or a paid performer or performers. The deliberations of the Judges and the final decision of the Judges will be made during this performance or performances.
4. The use of any smoke generating effects, or pyrotechnic materials larger than matches, candles, or small displays of flash paper/string/cotton are prohibited. All use of these materials must be approved by the Chairman of the Stage Contest. Any deviations from the approved effects, i.e. pyrotechnic effects greater in magnitude or quantity than those approved by the Chairman of the Stage Contest, are grounds for disqualification.
5. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (III, D) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Stage Contest, as appropriate.

IV. RULES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE JUDGING

A. CLOSE-UP CONTEST PRELIMINARY CONTEST

1. There will be a minimum of one (1) Judge per Close-up room, preferably two Judges per room.
2. The selection of the Judges is the responsibility of the Head Judge as appointed by the Contest Chairman of the Convention Committee. No person other than the Head Judge may judge more than two consecutive years, or more than two years in any four consecutive year period for the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest or the Close-up Contest Finals, or a combination of the two. No person other than the Head Judge may judge both the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest and the Close-up Contest Finals in the same year. No two Judges on the same panel may be related to each other by marriage, as siblings, as parent and child, or be in any other way bound by affection. No person may judge a contest if that person is related to one of the contestants, is bound by affection to one of the contestants, has a business relationship with one of the contestants, or acts as coach/mentor to one of the contestants. No person who has received the Gold Cups International Award of Excellence in Close-up Performance or won first place in the Close-up Contest may be a Judge in the Close-up Contest. No person may judge a Contest if that person has an association with an organization that provides, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, any money, goods, or services, as a prize for any Contestant in the I.B.M. Contests, or if any other potential conflicts of interest are present.
3. After the completion of the contestants' performances, the Judges will convene in the judging chamber for deliberation. The Judges, the Close-up Contest Chairman, and the I.B.M. Contest Chairman are the only people permitted in the judging chamber during deliberation. If any other uninvolved person needs to enter the room (e.g., to deliver food) the Judges will immediately stop deliberations and conceal all notes and scoring sheets from view.
4. Judging will be by the merit or point system. Additional evaluation tools (e.g., paired comparison rankings) may also be employed, as deemed appropriate by the Judges.
5. The Judges will rank the contestants in order of excellence. The finalists for the Close-up Contest Finals will be selected from the highest ranked performances on the list. The acts that are selected (usually six) will progress to the Close-up Contest Finals, which will normally be held the day following the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest. If, in the opinion of the Judges, there are fewer than six (6) contestants of sufficient merit to progress to the Close-up Contest Finals, fewer finalists will be selected.
6. If less than two (2) contestants from a category (category 4 (Youth) or 5 (Adult)) are selected to progress to the Close-up Contest Finals, the highest ranked two contestants in that category will be awarded with the First Place trophy and prize, and Second Place Award of Merit respectively. These will be announced at the regular awards presentation. If more than two (2) contestants from a category (category 4 (Youth) or 5 (Adult)) are selected to progress to the Close-up Contest Finals, the Judges will determine the winners of the First Place Trophy and the Second Place Award of Merit for that category during the Close-up Contest Finals.
7. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (IV, A) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Close-up Contest, as appropriate.

B. CLOSE-UP CONTEST FINALS (The Gold Cups Contest)

1. There will be a minimum of two (2) Judges per Close-up room. The panel of Judges will include no fewer than two (2) non-magicians (laypeople,) preferably one per room.
2. The selection of the Judges is the responsibility of the Head Judge as appointed by the Contest Chairman of the Convention Committee. No person other than the Head Judge may judge more than two consecutive years, or more than two years in any four consecutive year period for the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest or the Close-up Contest Finals, or a combination of the two. No person other than the Head Judge may judge both the Close-up Contest Preliminary Contest and the Close-up Contest Finals in the same year. No two Judges on the same panel may be related to each other by marriage, as siblings, as

parent and child, or be in any other way bound by affection. No person may judge a contest if that person is related to one of the contestants, is bound by affection to one of the contestants, has a business relationship with one of the contestants, or acts as coach/mentor to one of the contestants. No person who has received the Gold Cups International Award of Excellence in Close-up Performance or won first place in the Close-up Contest may be a Judge in the Close-up Contest. No person may judge a Contest if that person has an association with an organization that provides, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, any money, goods, or services, as a prize for any Contestant in the I.B.M. Contests, or if any other potential conflicts of interest are present.

3. After the completion of the contestants' performances, the Judges will convene in the judging chamber for deliberation. The Judges, the Close-up Contest Chairman, and the I.B.M. Contest Chairman are the only people permitted in the judging chamber during deliberation. If any other uninvolved person needs to enter the room (e.g., to deliver food) the Judges will immediately stop deliberations and conceal all notes and scoring sheets from view.
4. Judging will be by the merit or point system. Additional evaluation tools (e.g., paired comparison rankings) may also be employed, as deemed appropriate by the Judges.
5. The Judges will rank the contestants in order of excellence. If more than two (2) contestants from a category (category 4 (Youth) or 5 (Adult)) were selected to progress to the Close-up Contest Finals, the Judges will determine the winners of the First Place Trophy and the Second Place Award of Merit for that category.
6. If, in the opinion of the Judges, a contestant's performance in the Close-up Contest Finals is worthy, then the Gold Cups International Award of Excellence in Close-up Performance trophy and a cash prize of \$5,000 (US currency) will be awarded. If no performance is deemed worthy of the Gold Cups International Award of Excellence in Close-up Performance, then that award will not be given.
7. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (IV, B) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Close-up Contest, as appropriate.

C. STAGE CONTEST PRELIMINARY CONTEST

1. There will be a minimum of three (3) Judges for the preliminary stage contest.
2. The selection of the Judges is the responsibility of the Head Judge as appointed by the Contest Chairman of the Convention Committee. No person other than the Head Judge may judge more than two consecutive years, or more than two years in any four consecutive year period for the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest or the Stage Contest Finals, or a combination of the two. No person other than the Head Judge may judge both the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest and the Stage Contest Finals in the same year. No two Judges on the same panel may be related to each other by marriage, as siblings, as parent and child, or be in any other way bound by affection. No person may judge a contest if that person is related to one of the contestants, is bound by affection to one of the contestants, has a business relationship with one of the contestants, or acts as coach/mentor to one of the contestants. No person who has received the Gold Medal International Award of Excellence in Stage Performance or won first place in the Stage Contest may be a Judge in the Stage Contest. No person may judge a Contest if that person has an association with an organization that provides, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, any money, goods, or services, as a prize for any Contestant in the I.B.M. Contests, or if any other potential conflicts of interest are present.
3. The Head Judge will have the responsibility for the conduct of the judging of the preliminary stage contest.
4. After the completion of the contestants' performances, the Judges will convene in the judging chamber for deliberation. The Judges, the Stage Contest Chairman, and the I.B.M. Contest Chairman are the only people permitted in the judging chamber during deliberation. If any other uninvolved person needs to enter the room (e.g., to deliver food) the Judges will immediately stop deliberations and conceal all notes and scoring sheets from view.
5. Judging will be by the merit or point system. Additional evaluation tools (e.g., paired comparison rankings) may also be employed, as deemed appropriate by the Judges.
6. The Judges will rank the contestants in order of excellence. The finalists for the final stage contest will be selected from the highest ranked performances on the list. The acts that are selected (usually six) will progress to in the Stage Contest Finals, which will be held on one evening of the Convention. If, in the opinion of the Judges, there are fewer than six (6) contestants of sufficient merit to progress to in the Stage Contest Finals, fewer finalists will be selected.
7. If less than two (2) contestants from a category (category 1 (Youth) or 2 (Adult)) are selected to progress to the Stage Contest Finals, the highest ranked two contestants in that category will be awarded with the First Place trophy and prize, and Second Place Award of Merit respectively. These will be announced at the regular awards presentation. If more than two (2) contestants from a category (category 1 (Youth) or 2 (Adult)) are selected to progress to the Stage Contest Finals, the Judges will determine the winners of the First Place Trophy and the Second Place Award of Merit for that category during the Stage Contest Finals.
8. If, in the opinion of the Judges, a contestant's performance in the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest is worthy, then the Karrell Fox Comedy Award will be presented to that contestant at the regular awards presentation. If no performance is deemed worthy of the Karrell Fox Comedy Award, then that award will not be given. Selection as a Finalist is not a requirement for this award.
9. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to the rules in this section (IV, C) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Stage Contest, as appropriate.

D. STAGE CONTEST FINALS (The Gold Medal Contest) -- The general rules and procedures governing the judging of the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest apply to the Stage Contest Finals with the following exceptions:

1. There will be at least five (5) Judges for the Stage Contest Finals. They will generally consist of three (3) magicians and two (2) non-magicians (laypeople,) in theater-related professions. This may vary, depending upon the availability of qualified Judges.

2. The selection of the Judges is the responsibility of the Head Judge as appointed by the Contest Chairman of the Convention Committee. No person other than the Head Judge may judge more than two consecutive years, or more than two years in any four consecutive year period for the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest or the Stage Contest Finals, or a combination of the two. No person other than the Head Judge may judge both the Stage Contest Preliminary Contest and the Stage Contest Finals in the same year. No two Judges on the same panel may be related to each other by marriage, as siblings, as parent and child, or be in any other way bound by affection. No person may judge a contest if that person is related to one of the contestants, is bound by affection to one of the contestants, has a business relationship with one of the contestants, or acts as coach/mentor to one of the contestants. No person who has received the Gold Medal International Award of Excellence in Stage Performance or won first place in the Stage Contest may be a Judge in the Stage Contest. No person may judge a Contest if that person has an association with an organization that provides, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, any money, goods, or services, as a prize for any Contestant in the I.B.M. Contests, or if any other potential conflicts of interest are present.
3. The Head Judge will have the responsibility for the conduct of the judging of the final stage contest according to the rules and procedures provided by the Contest Chairman. The Head Judge will report the decisions of the Judges to the Contest Chairman at the completion of the judging.
4. After the completion of the contestants' performances, the Judges will convene in the judging chamber for deliberation. The Judges, the Stage Contest Chairman, and the I.B.M. Contest Chairman are the only people permitted in the judging chamber during deliberation. If any other uninvolved person needs to enter the room (e.g., to deliver food) the Judges will immediately stop deliberations and conceal all notes and scoring sheets from view.
5. Judges' scoring sheets will be available to the contestants at the discretion of the Head Judge.
6. The Judges will rank the contestants in order of excellence. If more than two (2) contestants from a category (category 1 (Youth) or 2 (Adult)) were selected to progress to the Stage Contest Finals, the Judges will determine the winners of the First Place Trophy and the Second Place Award of Merit for that category.
7. If, in the opinion of the Judges, a contestant's performance in the Stage Contest Finals is worthy, then the Gold Medal International Award of Excellence in Stage Performance trophy and a cash prize of \$5000 (US currency) will be awarded. If no performance is deemed worthy of the Gold Medal International Award of Excellence in Stage Performance, then that award will not be given.
8. All decisions concerning interpretations of, and exceptions to these to the rules in this section (IV, D) will be made by the I.B.M. Contest Chairman, or Chairman of the Stage Contest, as appropriate.

V. PRESENTATION OF THE CONTEST AWARDS

- A. Categories 1, 2, 4, and 5 - Contest award winners will be presented at the conclusion of the Gold Medal Contest Show.
- B. Category 3 - The Gold Medal International Award of Excellence in Stage Performance and a cash prize of \$5,000 (U.S. currency) will also be presented at the conclusion of the Gold Medal Contest if, in the opinion of the Stage Contest Judges, there is a performance of sufficient merit to receive the award.
- C. Category 6 - The Gold Cups International Award of Excellence in Close-Up Performance and a cash prize of \$5,000 (U.S. currency) will also be presented at the conclusion of the Gold Medal Contest if, in the opinion of the Close-Up Contest Judges, there is a performance of sufficient merit to receive the award.
- D. Category 7 – The Karrell Fox Comedy Award will also be presented at the conclusion of the Gold Medal Contest if, in the opinion of the Stage Contest Judges, there is a performance of sufficient merit to receive the award.