

Viewing in the 2014/2015 season:

Persons desiring to become viewers submitted online applications in July 2014. Follow-up questions were asked by members of a board committee to any with red flags. Potential viewers were voted on by the board, designated member theatre representatives, and the current viewers at the time. A total of 20 different viewers were elected with 15 viewing musicals and 16 viewing plays.

Each viewer is encouraged to see all viewable shows in their category, however 75% is the baseline required amount. If a viewer cannot fulfill this, they are dropped from the list. New viewers were provided personal and group training by President Becky Jascoviak, Vice-President Larry Hinken, or Viewing Secretary Ken Mertens.

An online submission form was created for each type of show (play or musical). It is password protected at the NIETF website. Each viewer is to submit their form within 72 hours of seeing a production. On this form there is a scoring section for technical elements including overall show, direction, sets, lights, sound, and costumes for plays, additionally music and vocal direction as well as choreography are scored for musicals. Each element is scored from 1-5 with 5 being best. Each element score is averaged over the number of viewers and the top 5 end up on the final ballot at the end of the season.

A second section of the form allows viewers to submit acting nominations by listing the actor's name and character name in one of five categories (principal male, principal female, supporting male, supporting female, cameo). Viewers determine for themselves which category an actor is submitted. Based on the number of viewers at the time, an actor's name must show up a certain number of times to be listed on the preliminary ballot at the end of the season. For instance if there are 15 active viewers, an actor must be listed on 4 nomination forms in order to appear on the preliminary ballot.

A final section provides places for viewer's choice nominations, additional nominations that don't fit on the form, and comments for the director. These are shared anonymously by request only after the show has closed. Either the theatre or the director may request viewer comments.

At the end of the season (usually in early September), a preliminary ballot consisting of all the qualified nominations in each category is presented at a meeting of the viewers. At this meeting the viewers discuss final category placement for an actor. For instance, if 3 viewers nominated an actor in a role as a principal and 2 viewers placed the same actor/role in a supporting category, the viewers would discuss which category they will be placed in before voting. Then each viewer individually selects their top five in each category and submits them privately.

After the acting votes and technical scores are tabulated, a final list of nominees in each category is announced (usually around September 15). At this time, each viewer receives a mailed ballot personalized to them. If they did not see a production, it is not included on their final ballot. They rank each category nominees and send their ballots to an independent tabulator who compiles the votes and prepares the sealed envelopes for presentation the night of the gala. No one but the independent tabulator knows the winners until that night.

Viewing topics for discussion and constant improvement. Each of the following independent topics have been discussed or proposed at one time or another. This chart is an attempt to categorize each proposal into its distinct elements. Each cell should be read independently of all others.

WHO	WHAT	WHEN	WHERE	WHY	HOW	VANTAGEPT
Community theatre actors/directors	Full production both plays & musicals	Any public performance of the run	All viewable shows at all member theatres across NWI	Provide straight scores for complete ranking	Open point system	Member theatres
Patrons	Full production plays or musicals	All at same performance	Only shows not associated with	Vote to 'move ahead' or reconsider at end of season	Point system based on rubric	Viewers
Theatre educators	Only acting	All at same dress rehearsal	Only shows at assigned theatres	Provide immediate feedback for show run	Group discussion	Patrons
Theatre adjudicators	Only tech elements (incl direct & design?)	Authorized video on own		Provide feedback for future improve	Private points, group narrowing, member voting	Actors, directors, designers
Professional theatre actors/directors	Submitted elements only	Authorized video as group		A long list of specific awards		
Member Theatre appointees	Open categories (like state festival)			Short list of WOW awards		
Volunteer or Paid?	What qualifies to be viewed?	Full season or part season?			All individual or some group?	Who pays?
How selected?		All or % reqd?			All at once, increments, or each show?	
How many?					Vote after show or at show via tablets?	