

HOUSTONFEST

Puppet Show Critique Sheet

School: _____ Circle level: **Lower** **Upper**

Title of selection: _____

Number in cast: _____ (of which _____ are advantaged speakers – allowable only in Upper Level)

Judge's initials: _____ Beginning time (excluding 3-minute set-up time): _____ Ending time: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES

Please read the "Instructions to Judges" sheet in your packet.

RULES

Entry Limit: 1 Lower Level show (German I-II) and 1 Upper Level show (German III-V, incl. advantaged speakers) per school

Time Limits: Lower Level: 4-8 minutes

Upper Level: 7-10 minutes

Contestants have a 30-second grace period (under or over) plus a maximum of 3 minutes to set up.

Puppet shows may be written by the class, the teacher, German-speaking authors, or others. Fairy tales may be adapted as puppet shows. The performers must memorize all lines from the script. The judges will ensure that the performers have no scripts. No stage will be provided nor used on the contest site, but rather, contestants will perform behind chairs or desks covered by a black cloth (which is provided onsite). Backdrops should be no larger than 10' x 10'. They may be secured to the wall with painter's tape only. Each group must provide its own puppets, props, backdrops, and painter's tape. **If advantaged speakers are included in an Upper-Level cast, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the script must be provided for the judges. Excerpts from the puppet show may not be reused in other categories by the same cast member.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

1. **Selection and preparation:** The selection is interesting and at the appropriate difficulty level. The contestants know their lines well. All the above-listed rules are followed. (0-20 points)
2. **Pronunciation:** The contestants' pronunciation of the German language is correct and understandable. The intonation is characteristically German. (0-20 points)
3. **Voice and diction:** The contestants enunciate. Their voices are clear and audible. They use changes in volume, rate, pitch, and inflection. (0-20 points)
4. **Blocking, movement, and characterization:** The blocking is adequate and motivated. The contestants use creative puppetry to bring the characters to life. (0-20 points)
5. **Overall effect:** The contestants create and maintain a mood. They maintain character and pace. The backdrops, props, and puppets enhance rather than distract. The performance leaves a lasting impression. (0-20 points)

TOTAL POINTS: (100 possible) _____

MORE COMMENTS TO HELP THE CONTESTANTS (Write on the back if necessary.)