

2010

PRODUCTION

RULES AND SUGGESTIONS

CONCERNING COMPETITIONS

AT STATE FINALS



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***From the Producer***

To All Miss Louisiana Pageant Contestants and Executive Directors: ***Congratulations!*** As a contestant in the 2010 Miss Louisiana Pageant, these rules and regulations will help you prepare for your time in Monroe.

***READ ALL*** of the following. A form is included with this packet to sign verifying you read the Rules and Regulations. We suggest that each Contestant and Executive Director read these rules and regulations very carefully.

The information herein applies to the Miss Louisiana stage - most of what you will need to know concerning the State Pageant Preliminaries and the Statewide Telecast. These are the Production Forms and Rules and Suggestions Concerning Competitions. You should have a clear understanding of these regulations, as they are adapted from the Miss America rules. Understand that the **DEADLINE is March 27, 2010**. After we receive the information, the Production Team has a tremendous amount of work to do, and this information is due no later than **March 27, 2010**.

You MUST fill in all pages of the **Participant Talent Questionnaire** - Complete the Music Clearance forms – the On Stage Question Form - and all the other requested material. **Deadline** to turn in your two (2) copies of your **ACCOMPANIMENT CD** and **ALL** talent information is the State Meeting - **March 27, 2010**. Talent selections must be cleared by the Producer. This assures you that there will be no duplication. If you haven't done so, e-mail [wayne@showcasevp.com](mailto:wayne@showcasevp.com) today with your song selection. After the accompaniment CDs are turned in at State Meeting they **will not be returned**.

The Contestant numbers will be drawn by lottery at the State Meeting. Contestants that have turned in all required paperwork will select her position in the line-up as her name is drawn. Contestants not present at the time of the drawing or that do not turn in their paperwork at the State Meeting will be assigned one of the remaining numbers after all present Contestants have selected.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:** The Backstage Coordinators job, as defined by the producer, is Checking Wardrobe including Swimsuits before the contestant appears on stage and are responsible for getting the contestants in their place at the right time during rehearsals and performances. The Backstage Coordinator's word is final. Respect these ladies because their job is very important in running this operation on time!

Contestants **WILL NOT** be allowed to have cell phones, pagers or personal computers with them at the Theatre during rehearsals or performances. If a hostess asks a Contestant more than once to put away her cell phone or laptop the property will be confiscated and will be returned to the contestant following the finals on Saturday. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Each contestant MUST gather all of her belongings from the dressing room, including props after the finals on Saturday night. **NO ITEMS WILL BE SHIPPED OR MAILED.** Your family member will be given a location for pick-up of your things on Saturday night.

If you have any questions pertaining to your appearance in the show, please do not hesitate to contact me. You the Contestants are the **STARS OF THE SHOW**. Production Numbers include the Opening, another Production Number and the Finale' and will include all Contestants. Get your friends and family to join us June 24, 25 and 26 in Monroe.

The Production Team is Excited and is looking forward to seeing you in March and June.

Wayne Gentry  
**Producer - The Miss Louisiana Pageant**

The **DEADLINE** for **ALL** the Information we ask for **IS March 26-27, 2010**  
**This applies to everyone. DO NOT BE LATE WITH YOUR INFORMATION!**

**1. CLOTHING:**

**A. Rehearsal Clothes**

It is very important that you bring cool, comfortable, informal rehearsal clothes. The weather in Monroe during Pageant Week is warm and humid. Shorts, jeans, & slacks are acceptable. We will provide T-shirts for you to wear each day, other than your college T-shirt & the T-shirt or outfit representing your title. Shoes should be the most comfortable you own, NO FLIP FLOPS. Bring a lightweight sweater or jacket to rehearsals in case the air-conditioning chills you. You will do a lot of walking & standing. Regardless of WHAT YOU'VE HEARD, you are not judged, nor are you even seen by judges at rehearsals.

**B. Dressing for The Stage**

**1. General Stage Information**

Backstage Coordinators & Hostess Committee make the **final decisions** on a wardrobe. We know you will use good judgment in selecting your wardrobe, however, please know the Backstage Coordinators will decide if a dress, costume, or swimsuit is too high or low cut or is not in good taste.

Hair Styles - We recommend natural hair styles. We want every Contestant to look their best, their way, but we do recommend you **stay away from** outdated (traditional pageant style), overly sprayed styles.

Make Up - Make up is important to you. Stay away from heavy, "stage" make up, although because of the stage lighting, you should consider a little bit more than normal. We want the Judges to see you at your best.

Padding - If a young woman can enhance her appearance, within the confines of good taste, she may do so. Please do not permit anyone to question the addition of padding to your swimsuit or dress.

**2. Show Wardrobe**

This information is included on in the cover letter of this packet.

**3. Production Numbers**

All Contestants will participate in the Opening and Finale' Production Numbers. For the Opening production number wear a bright colored cocktail dress. For the Production Number the wardrobe is available for purchase thru the State Organization. For the Finale' you will wear your Evening Wear or back-up Evening Wear.

**4. Swimsuit Competition**

All Participants may wear one piece or (off the rack) two piece swimsuits of their choice. The suits must be fitted to the body as necessary. No peek-A-Boo holes, Must fully cover the buttocks (NO thongs or creped-up suits, Must have an adhesive substance to keep the suit in place, Must modestly cover the breast (decollate OK, but the outer portion of the breasts must be covered. If padding, Must Not reveal that fact), Must be lined so that the stage lights will not show through the suit. The suit should cover without puckering or gaps. If there are straps, the straps should be sufficient to support the body in the suit. NO more than 2 inches below the belly button. The sides of the bottoms can be no thinner than one inch. Contemporary style sandals with the heel height of your choice. ***Swimsuits will be checked and approved during Pageant Week by the backstage Coordinators.*** Please be sure your swimsuit is flattering - not too skimpy and the material is of the thickness the television lights will not make transparent. **Unacceptable swimsuits will not be allowed to compete.** It will be the contestant's responsibility - **NOT** the Hostesses or Coordinators responsibility to replace the swimsuit! Please use good taste when selecting your swimsuit!

**5. Evening Wear Competition**

Number of Evening Wear Outfits: Because of space, we limit the Evening Wear brought to the theater to three, (1) Evening Wear Competition (2) Spare. The Participant may interchange the Spares for production only, if the Production Team decides the Contestants will wear Evening Wear on stage. **YOU MAY NOT CHANGE YOUR COMPETITION EVENING WEAR. IF YOU MAKE TOP TEN - YOU MUST WEAR THE SAME EVENING WEAR SATURDAY NIGHT - THAT YOU WORE FOR PRELIMINARY COMPETITION.**

## 2. TALENT COMPETITION

### A. Talent Guidelines and Requirements

The TIME LIMIT for each talent presentation is **90 seconds!** This will be **STRICTLY** enforced. Judges will be informed immediately if a Participant is over her time limit and instructed to adjust scores accordingly. It is much better to have your talent at 85 seconds and leave your audience wanting more than going over and being docked on your score. **IF THE TALENT ACT YOU WON YOUR LOCAL WITH EXCEEDS THIS LIMIT, IT MUST BE CUT BEFORE YOU COME TO STATE.**

Talent performances must be LIVE. If a Participant is a singer, she must perform that talent live. She cannot be judged on any material that is pre-recorded. **Available Piano:** 9' Baldwin Concert Grand

There can be no duplication of a talent act among the Participants. This is determined on a first-come, first-served basis. The first Participant to register her talent with the Producer by telephone or e-mail and by sending in her completed TALENT REQUEST FORM is the one who will have preference. A Participant **MAY NOT** include in a medley, the same song another Participant is planning to perform as a solo or as part of a different medley. The same song may be played on a musical instrument or used as accompaniment for a dance.

Pantomiming or Lip-Syncing. If a Participant wishes to lip-sync to a recording, there must be full disclosure that she is doing so. There must also be full disclosure of the name of the artist on the recording. There can be no illusion that the Participant is singing.

Accompanying yourself with a prerecorded tape. A Participant MAY prerecord herself as a backup vocalist or instrumental accompanist and use that tape to accompany her live talent performance here. However, it CANNOT be announced to the judges that the accompaniment tape contains any performance by the Participant. She will be judged only on what she is doing live. A talent cannot be performed electronically.

Double talents. If a Participant wishes to perform a double talent, i.e., singing and dancing, or singing and playing piano, she must do both live on stage. She will only receive points for what is done live. For example, if a Participant dances to a prerecorded tape of herself singing, she would ONLY be judged on her dancing.

Talents involving original work or material. Any Participant, who plans to present a talent act that involves prior original work on her part, i.e., painting, dressmaking, musical arrangement, song writing, dramatic reading, etc., MUST send us notarized authentication that she created that work if she wishes to receive credit for same. These responsibilities will rest with the Participant and her Pageant Director.

Talents involving published literary material. Any Participant performing a talent presentation involving the reading of a literary work (dramatic reading) must contact the author and/or publisher for "permission letters. These letters should indicate that we have the owner's permission to use his or her material, both in a live production and/or in a live telecast.

Lighting. A Participant may not present lighting plots. **This is a television show and each contestant will have the lighting decided on by the Television Lighting Staff.** The State Production Staff will determine all lighting.

Sound. We have Wireless or Wired hand microphones, Straight or Boom stands, Wireless lavalier and Wireless headset microphones available. Also, Tap Microphones will be used for tap dancers and cloggers. A Piano microphone will be used during the performance. Please state your preference on the TALENT REQUEST FORM.

Staging. Entrances and exits during the talent competitions will be from stage left. Only the Participant will be permitted on stage during her talent performance, no other person can be part of her act! A floor plan of the stage is attached. The risers will remain in place. Each Participant will be allowed two run-thrus on stage during her assigned rehearsal time. These will not be stopped and started. The Judges are seated in the audience, STAGE RIGHT, during the preliminaries and finals.

Removing clothes on stage. The national ruling concerning the removal of any clothing during a talent act has been relaxed. All we ask is that whatever clothing is removed be done so in good taste. Final decisions will be made by the State Production Committee at rehearsal.

\*\*\* A Contestant's talent performance will only be restarted if there is an equipment problem. If the music starts and the Contestant does not hear it or if a Contestant makes a mistake and stops - THE PERFORMANCE **WILL NOT** BE RESTARTED OR RE-PRESENTED.

**B. Props**

Restricted use of props. **NO PROPS WILL BE PERMITTED UNLESS THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY FUNCTIONAL.** Therefore, no mood-setters or background enhances, nothing imitating the prop used in a Broadway or screen version of your music, nothing that requires excessively large stage areas and complicated setting up. If there are doubts in determining such props, contact the Producer. The use of motion pictures, slides or projection of any kind WILL NOT be permitted. No live animals or birds will be permitted on stage at any time. Props involving safety hazards, such as fire batons, swords and/or knife twirling, bow and arrow skills, etc., WILL NOT be permitted! We can provide simple stage props such as a chair if absolutely necessary, but others must be furnished at the participant's expense. **All props must be picked up after the show on Saturday.**

**C. Music**

A live orchestra WILL NOT be used for talent. We feel that full use of accompaniment CDs will help each Participant maximize her performance capabilities.

\*\*\* The Music Clearance forms with directions on How To Get Clearance are included in this packet. This **MUST** be completed and turned in at the State Meeting in order for you to compete in the Pageant.

If your talent is timed to run over the 90 second time limit, **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A TAPE UNDER 90 seconds.** If your talent runs over 90 seconds **IT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.** It is wise that your act run less than the allotted 90 seconds. When an act is timed for the maximum, we have found in some cases it will exceed 90 seconds when performed live!

1. Use of Commercial or "canned" tracks

Canned or commercial tracks are readily available through many companies. Several production companies make accompaniment CDs oriented toward pageant talent competitions at the 90 second time limit. These are more than adequate for use in our production. **REMEMBER,** however, that they must be under the 90 second time limit and they must follow our guidelines pertaining to "acceptable" background music. For a list of accompaniment track recording companies, contact your Director or the State Producer.

2. Use of Custom-Made Tracks

Accompaniment tracks made especially to fit your performance can be produced in almost any professional studio. Synthesized or computerized background music is acceptable for our production.

If using a custom-made CD, **BE ADVISED:** We **MUST** receive permission letters signed by **ALL** parties involved in the tape's production: The music arranger, the producer, musicians, background singers, and the recording engineer. The letter must state we have their permission to use the CD for live on-stage performance and/or a live telecast. **DUE March 27, 2010.**

3. Guidelines for "Acceptable" Background CDs

A CD **MUST BE TIMED TO NO MORE THAN 90 SECONDS.** IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOUR MUSIC RUNS NO MORE THAN 85 SECONDS.

**IN THE CASE OF A VOCALIST:** An accompaniment may contain background vocal parts. While those voices should blend with the Participant's, they **MAY NOT** overpower her. Also, a Participant may provide her own background vocals, using her own voice, but it will **NOT** be announced that she has done so to the judges. A Participant will only be judged on what she performs live.

**IN THE CASE OF A MUSICIAN:** An accompaniment may include the instrument a Participant is playing on stage, but again, the instrumental **MUST NOT** overpower the Participant. (For example, the accompaniment tape for a pianist may contain piano, but there should be no question in the judges' minds what notes are coming from the Participant!) **AGAIN:** The Participant may participate in the recording of her tape by playing an instrument during her pre-record, but such **WILL NOT** be announced to the Judges. She will only be judged on what is performed live. A final decision on the acceptability of an accompaniment tape will be made by the Production Staff. **Unacceptable CDs WILL BE returned and replaced immediately!**

A poor quality accompaniment CD can distract from a Participant's performance - in order to have a quality performance - you **MUST** have an excellent quality accompaniment CD!

**D. MUSIC CLEARANCE**

We need clearance on all Music. Enclosed you will find the How To Get Clearance information. We have an ASCAP & BMI license.

**Be sure to listen** to your MASTER CD and your COPY, for defects and quality, before turning them in at the State Meeting to the Production Team.

**ITEMS WE MUST RECEIVE**

**1. PARTICIPANT TALENT REQUEST FORM:** This two-page form asks for more detailed information about your talent. It must be turned in at the State Meeting. This confirms your talent selection and it provides us with an e-mail address and phone number in the event we need to contact you. TO AVOID A DUPLICATION, IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT YOU REGISTER YOUR TALENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY PHONE or E-MAIL. TALENT SELECTIONS ARE ONLY CONFIRMED BY THE PRODUCER. You will be notified if there is a duplication and a change will have to be made. **DEADLINE – March 26-27, 2010.**

**2. TALENT INTRODUCTION:**

The talent introduction will be written by the Production Team from your request form and the emcee will read this introduction just prior to the Participant's performance. The introduction will end with the Contestant's name and Title.

**3. COPYRIGHT PERMISSION LETTERS (FOUND IN PACKET):**

If your talent involves a literary work, YOU MUST obtain the necessary clearance from the copyright, owner. A letter granting permission to use the material on stage and/or on television must be received at the State Meeting. DO NOT DELAY IN REQUESTING THIS PERMISSION.

**4. PERMISSIONS OF COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL RECORDINGS (FOUND IN PACKET):**

If your song is not listed in the BMI or ASCAP web site a Permission Letter MUST be received by the State Production Committee if you plan to use recorded vocal accompaniment CD's. You can OBTAIN WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM COMPANIES THAT DESIGN OR MAKE TAPES ESPECIALLY FOR PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS JEFF MICHAELS, BILL WOLFE, etc. available on their web site, IF IT NOT STATED IN THEIR PURCHASE AGREEMENT. Non-commercial recordings (made by friends or college combos, etc.) may be used at the State level...BUT...for us to accommodate this type of recording; it is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT YOU OBTAIN WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM ALL OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION. We have an ASCAP & BMI license. Materials licensed by these licensing companies MUST HAVE A COPY OF THE LISTING FROM THEIR WEB SITE. **DEADLINE - March 26-27, 2010.**

**5. A COPY OF THE LYRICS:** include a copy of the exact lyrics you will be performing or performing to.

**6. ACCOMPANIMENT CDs:** REMEMBER - Be sure your CDs have no defects before turning it in! Listen to it. You must BRING WITH YOU TO THE **March 26-27, 2010 MEETING THE CD MASTER AND ONE QUALITY CD COPY OF YOUR MASTER.** **YOUR CDS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**