International Science Drama Competition 2027 (Singapore)

Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

The International Science Drama Competition is a yearly event that encourages participants to marry their passion for science with acting. This competition is open to teams from Singapore schools and the public. It is an excellent platform for participants to display their talents and compete on an international stage and is surely an opportunity that is not to be missed.

You may view the past performances of the winning teams from Grand Finals 2025 and 2026. Do note that the criteria may have changed over the years, please refer to 2027 criteria for submission.

Category	Country	Winning team performance
Junior (2026)	Singapore	Video Link
Open (2025)	Indonesia	Video Link
Short Films (2025)	Thailand	Video Link
Short Clips (2025)	Singapore	Video Link

How the Competition Works

Stage 1: Preliminary Round

- All registered teams submit videos of their performances, films or clips.
- Selected teams from each category (based on judges' scores) advance to Singapore Finals

Stage 2: Singapore Finals

- Junior & Open Categories: Live performances at Science Centre Singapore
- Short Films & Short Clips Categories: Final judging based on submitted videos; results announced at Finals ceremony

Stage 3: Grand Finals

Singapore Finals champions will advance to represent Singapore on the international stage, competing against champions from around the world.

Official Competition Logo

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THEME FOR 2027: "Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars"

All performances and videos should be based on the theme of "Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars", focusing on inspiring scientific advancement in Space Exploration, representing humanity's push beyond our known universe.

Here are some suggested topics (but not just limited to these) to go with the theme:

- Lunar water ice extraction and the race to establish a permanent Moon base
- The ethics and science of terraforming Mars
- Space debris and the sustainability of low-Earth orbit
- Private spaceflight and the commercialisation of the cosmos
- The search for extraterrestrial life using next-generation telescopes
- Space medicine and the physiological challenges of long-duration spaceflight

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Category	Age Requirements	Performance Length	Format
Junior	All participants 12 years or below	7 minutes max	Drama performance
Open	At least 70% of participants must be 20 years old or younger, with a maximum of 30% above 20 years old e.g. If the team has 15 participants, at least 11 of them must be under 20 years old and maximum of 4 can be above 20 years old.	7 minutes max	Drama performance
Short Films	Open to all ages	7 minutes max	Film
Short Clips	Open to all ages	1 minute max	Social media clip

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES

Team Registration

- Each school or organisation can register as many teams as they want.
- If participants are representing a school or organisation, all participants in the team must be current students or members of the school or organisation.
- Should a school or organisation decide to register more than 1 team in the same category, there should be no repetition of team members across teams; the same team members can, however, participate across categories, e.g. Member A can take part in Junior Category and Short Films Category.

Team Composition

- Each team must comprise of a maximum of 15 participants, including backstage crew for Junior and Open Categories and video editors for Short Films and Short Clips Categories.
- Backstage crew can assist to place props, control audio/visual equipment, and help cast members backstage.
- Additionally, up to 3 teachers or adults may provide extra backstage support without being counted towards the team size limit. The additional teachers or adults can place props, control audio/visual equipment, and help cast members backstage, but they cannot speak lines or participate in the acting.

Content Requirements

- Should a team participate in more than one category, the same storyline cannot be repeated.
- The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars" theme with scientific accuracy.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRY FORMS

Please complete the competition entry form via this link: https://for.edu.sg/isdc2027-regi

https://for.edu.sg/isdc2027-regi

- Kindly submit one entry form per team.
- Deadline for submission: **12 Feb 2027, 5pm**

STAGE 1: PRELIMINARY ROUND

Video Submission Requirements

- Each team is to upload their video onto Google Drive or WeTransfer. Please set the sharing permissions to “Anyone with the link can view”.
- Please submit the **link to the Google Drive or WeTransfer video and softcopy of the performance scripts (including a short synopsis)** via an online form (link to the form will be sent to the email used in the submission of entry form).
- Deadline for submission: **22 Mar 2027, 9am**
- Please ensure that the team's name and organisation/school (if applicable) are clearly stated in all submissions, as well as the category.

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- Teams must ensure that the recording is clear, and the sound is clearly audible.
- Late submissions will not be accepted in the competition

Checklist for Video Submission

- ✓ Google Drive / WeTransfer link
- ✓ Softcopy of script (including a short synopsis)
- ✓ Names of participants in block letters (Please ensure that the names are correct as this will be used for certificate purposes)

STAGE 2: SINGAPORE FINALS

The top teams from each category (based on judges' score) will advance to Singapore Finals.

Prizes and Awards (For Singapore Finals)	
1st Prize[1]	$600
2nd Prize	$400
3rd Prize	$200
Merit Awards	$100
Best Video Editing and Cinematography Award[2]	e-Certificate
Most Creative and Engaging Award[3]	e- Certificate
Outstanding Perfomers[4]	e-Certificate

[1] The Champion for each category will get to compete in the Grand Finals.
[2] Only applicable for Short Films category.
[3] Only applicable for Short Clips category.
[4] Only applicable for Junior and Open categories.

If you are representing a school/organisation, the prize money will be awarded to the school/organisation. It is up to the school's or organisation's discretion on the use of the prize money.

STAGE 3: GRAND FINALS

- The Champion for each category will be representing Singapore to compete against the overseas winners in the Grand Finals @ Brunei.
- More details will be shared with the winning teams after the Singapore Finals.

For more detailed information such as key dates, rules and requirements for each category, please refer to the sections indicated.

- Junior & Open Categories: Annex A
- Short Films Category: Annex B
- Short Clips Category: Annex C

CONTACT

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ANNEX A

JUNIOR & OPEN CATEGORIES – DETAILED INFORMATION

KEY DATES

Date	Activity
12 Feb, 5pm	Submission of Entry Form
22 Mar, 9am	Video submission deadline for Preliminary Round (online)
5 Apr	Shortlisted Singapore finalists will be informed
3 – 6 May	Rehearsals for shortlisted Singapore finalists @ Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1
8 May	Singapore Finals @ Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1
Jul	Grand Finals @ Brunei *(The exact dates will be confirmed at a later date.)*

CATEGORY RULES & REQUIREMENTS

Aspect	Junior Category	Open Category
Age Limit	All participants must be 12 years old or younger. Teams with any member over 12 years old cannot participate in Junior Category.	At least 70% of participants must be 20 years old or younger, with a maximum of 30% above 20 years old.
Performance Duration	The performance should not exceed 7 minutes. A penalty will be imposed for performances that exceed these durations.	
Team Size	Maximum 15 participants (including backstage crew)	
Content	The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars" theme with scientific accuracy.	

Backstage Crew Guidelines

- Teams may include backstage crew within their 15-person limit to assist with technical aspects of the performance.
- Additionally, up to 3 teachers or adults may provide extra backstage support without being counted towards the team size limit. The additional teachers or adults can place props, control audio/visual equipment, and help cast members backstage, but they cannot speak lines or participate in the acting.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Criteria	Description	Weightage
Scientific Content	Judges will assess the accuracy of scientific information presented, relevance to the theme, as well as how in-depth the scientific content was explored in the drama.	20%
Cast Performance	Judges will evaluate the acting skills in delivering the storyline and how well the cast members work together as a team.	20%
Overall Presentation	Judges will evaluate the production quality through the pacing, transitions, clarity, and technical aspects such as background design, sound, costumes, and props.	30%
Creativity	Judges will look for unique and imaginative approaches in presenting the scientific content, as well as the originality of the storyline, characters, and concept.	30%

STAGE 1: PRELIMINARY ROUND – VIDEO SUBMISSION

- Teams are encouraged to add English subtitles to the performance for video submission. If the performance is not presented in English, English subtitles must be included.
- Videos should have NO cuts/editing in between (other than the addition of English subtitles); whole video must be in one take.
- Videos should be taken from one camera angle (i.e. the camera should not be moving during the recording).

Submission Checklist:

- ✓ Google Drive/ WeTransfer link
- ✓ Complete performance script including synopsis
- ✓ List of all participants' names in block letters (for certificates)
- ✓ Submit via online form by 22 Mar 2027, 9am (late submissions not accepted)

STAGE 2: SINGAPORE FINALS – LIVE PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Venue: Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1
Date: 8 May 2027
Rehearsals: 3 – 6 May 2027 (shortlisted teams will book their rehearsal time slots)

Stage Equipment Provided

Item No.	Available Equipment	Remarks
1	Up to 6 headset microphones	
2	4 Boom Microphones (or similar)	Placed in fixed positions, not allowed to be moved.

3	LED screen (16:9 ratio)	Connected via HDMI cable
4	Standard stage ceiling lights	On/off control only

Important Stage Notes:

- Front stage curtains remain open throughout competition
- Teams must bring and manage their own props
- Teams will be given 3 minutes for prop placement/removal before/after performance

Pictures and Dimensions of Annexe Hall 1 stage



Front view of stage

(Four boom microphones will be provided and cannot be moved)



Front view of stage

(Only the center LED screen can be used for the performance)

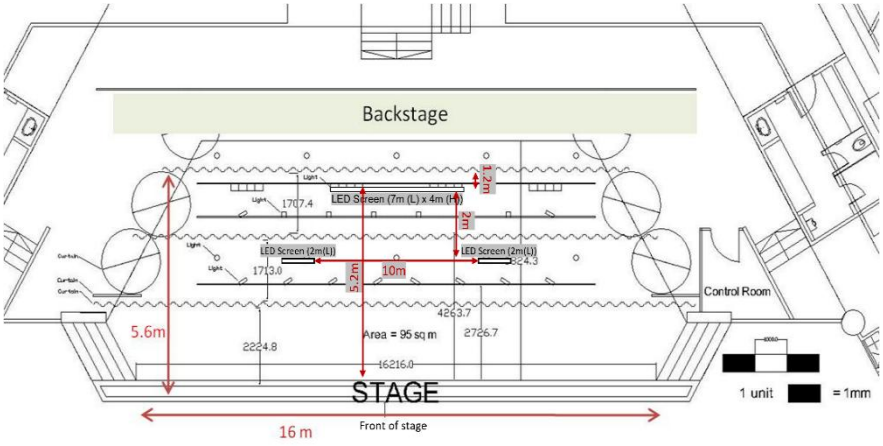


LED Screens

(The LED screens are fixed on the stage and cannot be moved)



Side view of stage



Layout of stage

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ANNEX B

SHORT FILMS CATEGORY – DETAILED INFORMATION

KEY DATES

Date	Activity
12 Feb, 5pm	Submission of Entry Form
22 Mar, 9am	Video submission deadline for Preliminary Round (online)
5 Apr	Shortlisted Singapore finalists will be informed
8 May	Singapore Finals @ Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1*
Jul	Grand Finals @ Brunei *(The exact dates will be confirmed at a later date.)*

**The shortlisted films will be judged in advance and results will be announced on 8 May 2027 @ Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1.*

CATEGORY RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- **Age limit:** Open to all ages.
- **Film duration:** The performance should not exceed 7 minutes. A penalty will be imposed for performances that exceed these durations.
- **Team size:** Maximum 15 total (including video editors)
- English subtitles must be included in the film.
- Videos can have cuts/editing in between; part of the grading criteria will be on cinematography and video editing.
- Videos must be filmed and submitted in landscape orientation, using a 16:9 aspect ratio.
- Submissions should contain more than 1 scene and must have acting involving actual performers (minimum 1 actual human performer).
- Any usage of AI should be for special effects only.
- The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars" theme with scientific accuracy.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Criteria	Description	Weightage
Scientific Content	Judges will assess the accuracy of scientific information presented, relevance to the theme, as well as how in-depth the scientific content was explored in the drama.	25%
Cast Performance	Judges will evaluate the acting skills in delivering the storyline including acting skills, character portrayal and vocal delivery.	25%
Video Editing and Cinematography	Judges will evaluate the production quality through technical aspects such as video editing,	25%

	cinematography, visual effects, composition, colour grading and camera movement.	
Creativity	Judges will look for unique and imaginative approaches in presenting the scientific content, as well as the originality of the storyline, characters, and concept.	25%

ANNEX C

SHORT CLIPS CATEGORY – DETAILED INFORMATION

KEY DATES

Date	Activity
12 Feb, 5pm	Submission of Entry Form
22 Mar, 9am	Video submission deadline for Preliminary Round (online)
5 Apr	Shortlisted Singapore finalists will be informed
8 Apr – 16 Apr	Popularity Polling of Shortlisted Videos for Short Clips (online)[1]
8 May	Singapore Finals @ Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1[2]
Jul	Grand Finals @ Brunei *(The exact dates will be confirmed at a later date.)*

[1]*The shortlisted clips will be posted on an online polling system from 8 Apr – 16 Apr 2027.*

[2]*The shortlisted clips will be judged in advance and results will be announced on 8 May 2027 @ Science Centre Singapore, Annexe Hall 1.*

CATEGORY RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- **Age limit:** Open to all ages.
- **Video duration:** The Short Clips should not exceed 1 minute. A penalty will be imposed for performances that exceed these durations.
- **Team size:** Maximum 15 total (including video editors)
- English subtitles must be included in the film.
- Short Clips should feature captivating content that engages the viewers.
- Videos can have cuts/editing in between; part of the grading criteria will be on production quality.
- Videos must be filmed and submitted in portrait orientation, using a 9:16 aspect ratio.
- Submissions should be in portrait orientation (suitable for social media) and must have acting involving actual performers (minimum 1 actual human performer).
- Any usage of AI should be for special effects only.
- The performance/film/clip should combine scientific content and drama. It must relate to "Beyond Borders, Beyond Stars" theme with scientific accuracy.

JUDGING CRITERIA*

Criteria	Description	Weightage
Scientific Content	Judges will assess the accuracy of scientific information presented, relevance to the theme, as well as how in-depth the scientific content was explored in the drama.	20%
Cast Performance	Judges will evaluate the acting skills in delivering the storyline including acting skills, character portrayal and vocal delivery.	25%
Production Quality	Judges will assess the overall production quality through technical aspects such as efficient video editing, impactful cinematography, appropriate visual effects, effective composition, and purposeful camera work, as well as clear audio quality and suitable use of music or sound effects. All elements should be optimised for and work together effectively within the 1-minute format.	25%
Creativity and Engagement	Judges will look for unique and imaginative approaches in presenting the scientific content, and how effectively the video retains viewer's attention.	25%
Popularity	The Short Clips will be uploaded on the ISDC Facebook page where the public will get to vote for their favourite Short Clips.	5%

**The judging criteria for ISDC Grand Finals may differ slightly for Short Clips Category.*