



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Next Narrative Monologue Competition?

The Next Narrative Monologue Competition™ features True Colors-commissioned works from 50 of America's leading contemporary Black playwrights that engage students in artful exploration of 21st century themes, while instilling confidence in all to find their voices. This free program serves high school students, grades 9-12. Each participating region holds three rounds of competition- preliminaries, semi-finals and finals- with the top two winners of each region's finals going on to compete in the National Finals in New York City, contingent on travel and gathering guidelines. The all-expense paid trip to New York includes workshops and master classes with theatre professionals, a trip to a Broadway show, the opportunity to perform on stage in New York City, and cash scholarships for the top three National winners. The objectives of the Next Narrative Monologue Competition are to introduce students to today's leading contemporary Black writers, expose students to acting techniques that enhance their knowledge of the art and skill of performance, utilize the arts to support students in making co-curricular connections, investigate how history and culture influence personal perspective through artful exploration, and embolden students to use their voices to inspire social action.

Who runs the competition?

The NNMC is run by Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company, a nonprofit regional theater company based in Atlanta, GA. True Colors Theatre Company's mission is to celebrate the rich tradition of Black storytelling while giving voice to bold artists from all cultures. We add dimension and relevance to our work on the stage through community events and education programming. The vision of Artistic Director Jamil Jude is for the company to "thrive at the intersection of artistic excellence and civic engagement."

What is a regional partner?

Regional partners are institutions across the United States who have students participating in the competition. They include regional theatres, colleges and universities, and non-profit foundations.

Who can become a regional partner?

Any institution that serves more than 30 students and which has successfully completed the shadow program offered by True Colors is eligible to become a regional partner

Who is participating in the NNMC this year?

This year's regional participants include: True Colors (Atlanta, GA), The Huntington Theatre Company (Boston, MA), Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX), Triad Stage and North Carolina A & T State University (Greensboro, NC), Milwaukee Rep (Milwaukee, WI), LEAP (New York, NY), Bill Nunn Theatre Outreach Project (Pittsburgh, PA), World Stage Theatre (Portland, OR), Seattle Rep (Seattle, WA), and Michigan State University (Detroit/East Lansing, MI)

What will the process of onboarding partner cities/organizations entail?

True Colors, as the sponsoring organization, will oversee the management of the National Competition and facilitate successful regional competitions. Regions who have not previously participated in the competition will be required to complete a shadow program, through which they will learn how to hold their own regional competition.

What is the shadow program?

For the NNMC, True Colors has a two year onboarding process, known as the shadow program. A shadow city will participate in all meetings and attend one regional final and the national finals. After two years, the shadow city will submit plans for their regional competition model, and upon approval from True Colors, will be instated as a full partner.

What fees are associated with the competition?

Shadow cities are required to pay \$1,500 a year. This covers all programmatic, travel, and boarding costs. Regional partners are required to pay a fee of \$6,500.

Who can I contact with additional questions?

Questions pertaining to the competition in general can be directed to the Competition Coordinator, Larsen Kennedy, at lkennedy@truecolorstheatre.org. Questions specifically about becoming a regional partner can be directed to True Colors Managing Director, Chandra Stephens-Albright, at csa@truecolorstheatre.org.