

This year we again proved that the format of three, six-play quarter finals and a six-play semi final creates both a festive atmosphere and something that the treasurer can smile about. My thanks to all those who hosted the four AETF events for their commitment to the cause.

### Preliminary rounds

**Birmingham:** Although our festival played to a slightly smaller audience this year, it was a success both artistically and financially. Keith Phillips proved a popular choice as adjudicator and has been booked by another of our PRF's for next year.

**Worcestershire:** The festival was well attended and staged a variety of performances. Paul Fowler's decisions were well received by the audience and teams.

**Warwickshire:** The fare was varied and entertaining. The adjudicator, Nick Wilkes, appearing for a second consecutive year, was well received by the teams and their supporters.

**South Staffordshire:** Jennifer Scott-Reid was encouraging in her adjudications and her appetite was whetted for the five days of drama.

**Leicestershire:** The festival was well attended (with ten entries). Mike Kaiser's decisions proved popular with cast and audience.

**Herefordshire:** Due to a last-minute cancellation on one night, the cancelled play was replaced by a filmed reading by one of the teams, which proved to be a very interesting experience.

**North Staffordshire:** Robert Meadows, the adjudicator, said that the strong youth groups performing in the festival meant that the future of live theatre in the area was in capable hands.

**Shropshire:** The adjudicator, Chris Baglin, said that it had been a very versatile festival and that great credit must be given to all those who had taken part.

### Quarter Finals

**Western Division:** This year's festival was at the Norbury Theatre, Droitwich. We witnessed a good day's theatre and Jennifer Scott-Read concluded that the play selected to go through to the semi final would be a worthy representative.



Colwall Players representing Western Division at the Semi-Final



TACT representing the Central Division at the Semi-Final

**Central Division:** Chris Jaeger adjudicated six very different plays performed to a large and appreciative audience.

Leicester Drama Group Semi-Final Winners

**Eastern Division:** Alan Hayes adjudicated six very different plays at the Little Theatre, Leicester and praised the festival for its high standard.

### Semi Final

This year our semi final was held at the Brouhouse. The six competing teams played to two very good houses over two sessions. In his summing up, Ben Humphrey said that it had been a full day of high-quality drama.



Thus concludes another successful year and I would like to thank everyone involved at all levels within the Area for their contribution, especially team supporters and AETF members, a number of whom have made valued financial donations. We are actively looking ahead to 2022 when Eastern Division hosts the AETF Grand English Final and to 2023 when we take on the far greater task of hosting the British Final. Meanwhile you are cordially invited to our Central Area AGM which takes place on Saturday 5th October. Email [cunnington@talk21.com](mailto:cunnington@talk21.com) for time and venue.