



Ethical Guideline

We are committed to our founding vision of allowing artists the creative freedom to bring their artistic vision to life on stage, with as few restrictions on their creativity as possible. Pole Theatre performances can be controversial and challenge the audience with different perspectives. We believe in the value of providing a platform to allow for artistic expression, creative freedom, and performances that might push boundaries.

At the same time, it is of the utmost importance that Pole Theatre has guidelines to ensure it is a safe, fair and ethical competition.

Pole Theatre and Censorship

Pole Theatre as an organization does not support the censorship of performances, except in limited circumstances. Outside of these limited circumstances, whether a performance is in good taste or has artistic validity is a matter for individual audience members to decide. As organisers, we remain committed to allowing performers to tell their story in the manner in which they choose, subject to the following limitations and considerations.

Banned Subject Matter

Pole Theatre Morocco will not tolerate performances that are:

- Racist (including but not limited to black face)
- Homophobic
- Likely to incite hatred towards or vilify a minority.
- Harming religious beliefs
- Showing explicit sexual content

Any performances that are deemed by the organisers to fall within the above categories will be required to submit a new performance concept. If on the night, a performance is deemed to fall within one of the above categories by the judges, the performer will be disqualified. If after a Pole Theatre has been held, it is discovered that a performance constitutes a grave breach of these guidelines, a performer may have their titles revoked.

Whether a performance constitutes a grave breach of these guidelines will be a matter for the Pole Theatre Morocco team to decide, having regard to any correspondence received from the public and the relevant performer.

Decisions made by the Pole Theatre Morocco team will be final.

Note: performances that deal with the topics of racism, homophobia or vilification, religion or sexuality are not banned, but will be considered sensitive content (see below).

Sensitive Content

Pole Theatre performances often deal with subject matter that can provoke strong emotional responses from the audience. We believe that audience members at Pole Theatres should feel safe and supported, and be given the opportunity to prepare themselves for performances that may be upsetting or triggering.

As a performer, you are required to provide your National Organiser with a detailed description of your performance when you enter Pole Theatre. If your performance concept changes, you must update your National Organizer so that a decision can be made as to whether your concept is appropriate and whether a warning is required.

Failure to provide an adequate description of your performance may result in disqualification.

If you believe that your performance deals with subject matter that has the potential to cause a strong emotional reaction in your audience, you must advise your National Organizer that a warning will be necessary on the night.

Examples of subject matter that may be considered sensitive and may require a warning include:

- Mental health
- Sexual assault
- Disability
- Abuse or torture
- Self-harming behaviour
- Eating disorders
- Suicide
- Hate speech or strong abusive language
- Violence, including domestic violence
- Murder or physical assault
- Depiction or discussion of discriminatory attitudes or actions, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, prejudice
- Drug, alcohol or substance abuse

We do not ban performances that relate to the above subject matter. However, we require performers to advise us if their performance relates to the above subject matter.

We also ask performers to avoid intentionally provocative and offensive content and to show respect to local culture, boundaries and laws. Any explicit sexual or religious content will NOT be tolerated and will be subject to disqualification. For all categories, a minimal

outfit is required: Bra and Brazilian panties. G- strings and pasties are NOT allowed.

Examples of not permitted religious content:

1. Blasphemous themes: Any content that could be interpreted as disrespectful or offensive to a religion or its followers.
2. Religious parody: Scenes or performances that mock, criticize, or distort religious beliefs.
3. Inappropriate use of religious symbols: Crosses, hijabs, prayers, or Quranic verses incorporated into a performance.
4. Religious figures: Representations of prophets, saints, or spiritual figures.
5. Depiction of religious rituals: Recreating prayers, ablutions, or any sacred rituals within choreography.

Examples of not permitted explicit sexual content:

1. Nudity or highly revealing outfits: Costumes that expose intimate body parts, even partially, or are too provocative (thongs, uncovered breasts, etc.).
2. Sexually explicit gestures or movements: Simulations of sexual acts, explicit caresses, or vulgar movements.
3. References to pornography: Performances that are inspired by content or representations from the pornography industry.
4. Performance themes centered around sexuality: Scenes referencing sexual practices, fantasies, or any content that could be interpreted as suggestive or provocative.
5. Sexually connoted accessories: Lingerie or any accessory that suggests explicit sexuality (whips, chains, handcuffs, etc.).

This list is intended as a guide to sensitive subjects and is not exhaustive. If you are unsure, we request that you contact the organizers to discuss your proposed theme in detail

Please understand that the aim is to create artistic, elegant, and culturally respectful performances while encouraging creativity and artistic expression and respecting local cultural sensitivities.

Pole Theatre Content Warning

The following content warning will be read out by the MC at the start of each Pole Theatre:

“Pole Theatre contains performances that can provoke strong emotions and reactions from the audience. There may be performances that contain content with offensive language, scenes that are graphic or sexual in nature, violent themes, religious references, sexual violence themes, nudity, and other themes that some may find offending.

The performances and themes presented onstage do not represent the views of the Pole Theatre organizers. We do not censor the performers, except in limited circumstances.

As your MC, I will give you a description of each performance prior to the performer taking the stage so that you are aware of the content of the performance and can prepare yourself accordingly.

At Pole Theatre, we want performers to have the artistic freedom to tell their stories, and we also want audience members to feel safe and supported. If you feel you need to step outside to avoid seeing a performance that may be distressing for you, please understand that we understand and support your decision to do so.
Thank you, and we hope you enjoy the show”

Cultural appropriation

Wikipedia defines cultural appropriation as:

“Cultural appropriation, often framed as cultural misappropriation, is a concept in sociology dealing with the adoption of the elements of a minority culture by members of the dominant culture. It is distinguished from equal cultural exchange due to the presence of a colonial element and imbalance of power.”

Pole Theatre acknowledges that cultural appropriation has the potential to offend or to upset, even where no offence is intended.

It is difficult for judges and organizers to determine the cultural and/or ethnic makeup of each individual performer, and we acknowledge that the question in itself might be inappropriate or offensive to the performer. Similarly, it is difficult for the judges to recognize whether a performer is part of a dominant or minority culture, or whether a performance would be considered inappropriate or offensive by a member of another culture.

Cultural appropriation is not in itself banned by Pole Theatre, however it is important for performers to understand that offence may be caused, and this may impact on the results of the competition, and it may affect the way the performance is received by the public.

If you are concerned that your performance might not be appropriate, please seek guidance from your National Organizer, but be aware that your National Organizer may not be able to give you a definitive answer as to whether your performance constitutes cultural misappropriation.

The onus is on the competitor to research their own theme and to be satisfied that they are presenting their performance in an appropriate manner.

Some examples of cultural appropriation to avoid include:

- Native American headdresses
- Traditional or indigenous costumes
- Dressing up as a different race