



## IMAGES OF THE KING CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

(Updated Sept 2019)

*All competitors at the IOTK must abide by the following rules. Rules are subject to change without notice. "Contest(s)" refers to both Preliminary events and the World Championship in Memphis. "World Championship" refers only to the event in Memphis.*

### **GENERAL:**

1. Registration: All interested parties must officially register and submit the following to be deemed as an officially registered participant in the IOTK, without exception:

- A completed registration form.
- The applicable registration fee. Payment must accompany the registration form.
- A clear professional quality digital photograph (preferably a head and/or head and shoulders photo)
- Completed song selection sheets.
- A signed "Tribute Promotions/TributeFestival.Rocks Assumption and Acknowledgement of Risk."

---

#### What do I get for my registration?

- *First is the obvious. Your chance to win some very decent prize money, and (only for the Professional division for contests with multiple divisions) the right to represent the contest in the Images of the King World Championship in Memphis.*
- *Your fee also includes tickets for you and a companion to all of the events at the festival (may exclude some third party events). This is a \$250+ value.*
- *You'll have the opportunity to perform on a stage with one of the best tribute bands in the country supported by a professional sound and lighting system to hundreds if not thousands of fans.*

---

2. Qualification: Some Contests may be restricted to certain ETAs. The World Championship is open to any and all ETAs, however we reserve the right to preclude an ETA from participating for any reason. Past World Champions eligible to compete following a one year of absence from the competition. We do this in order to offer others the opportunity to win both the title and the prize money.

3. Capacities: Due to time restraints contests may limit the number of competitors.

4. Age Restrictions: All ages are welcome to participate in Professional and Non-Professional divisions. Those under the age of 18 by the start of the event will need a parent's signature. When offered, entrants in the Youth category must be no older than 12 years old at the start of the event.

5. Expenses: The contest is not responsible for any expenses for participants at any time during the festival, including, but not limited to travel, meals or accommodations unless agreed upon under contract.
6. Licensing, Copyrights and Trademarks: Participants will not violate the rights of Images of the King and/or Tribute Promotions/Tribute Festival.Rocks or any other entity through copyright or trademark infringement or in any way disparage or abuse the likeness or reputation EP.
7. Behavior: Profanity, vulgarity or abusive behavior of any kind, to contest management, staff or volunteers, whether on stage or in public will not be tolerated. Violations will result in disqualification and removal without recourse.
8. Right To Usage: All participants grant the contest the right to use their name, image, likeness, biographies, photographs, or audio/visual footage of their participation without the payment of any compensation, in connection with advertising, promotion or marketing of the contest and/or World Championship without limitation or exception, in perpetuity.
9. Personal Belongings: Participants are responsible for their own personal property and belongings while attending the contest. The contest accepts no liability for lost or stolen property.
10. Transportation: Participants are solely responsible for their own transportation to and from the contest daily while attending, unless otherwise agreed upon by contract.
11. Access: Only ETAs participating in the contest round are permitted backstage. Companions, relatives, managers, assistants etc. are not allowed. One exception: One parent of a child in the Youth category may accompany him or her.

---

*What do we expect from you?*

- *Win, lose or draw, we expect you to be humble or gracious.*
- *We expect you to have fun, mingle with the crowd, smile, make new friends and enlarge your fan base!!*
- *We expect you to keep the legacy and music of the King in the forefront of your performance. You can be sexy, but NOT vulgar, on or off stage.*
- *If this festival has outside venues you are assigned to we expect you to be there on time and give the fans a great show. If there is some reason you don't want to participate we'll need to know this before the festival begins to get a replacement for you. At these fests we refund \$50 of your registration fee back to you for helping out at the venues who are the sponsors of the festival, and this is our way of giving back.*
- *If the festival has a parade, you are expected to be at the designated start-area on time, regardless of how much partying you did the night before.*

---

**COMPETITION:**

1. Judging Criteria: The contest judging will be based on three main categories and thirteen subcategories.

A. Appearance: 20%

Costume Fit, Accessories, Authenticity (for song era)      5 pts.

Facial Characteristics, Body Proportion, Hairstyle      5 pts.

Look-a-like 10 pts.

B. Performance: 40%

Movements and Choreography 5 pts.

Gestures and Mannerisms 5 pts.

Audience Interaction and Reaction 5 pts.

Charisma, Showmanship & Delivery 10 pts.

Performs like 15 pts.

C. Vocals: 40%

On Key 5 pts.

Memorization of Songs 5 pts.

Rhythm & Timing 5 pts.

Phrasing, Timbre & Range 10 pts.

Sounds like 15 pts.

---

### Notes on Scoring

*This ISN'T a singing competition. It's not a performing competition. It's not a look-a-like competition!! It is a combination of all three. We're looking for the best ILLUSION!! So, the best singer, or the best dancer, or the best looking may not win!! Hone your skills, study the King, not other ETAs.*

- **APPEARANCE: DO YOU LOOK LIKE THE KING?**
  - *Costume Fit / Accessories / Authenticity: Your costume should fit correctly. Baggy or (worse) too tight, too long, too short, etc. will not get you the max points in this category.*
    - *Accessories should be worn to the extent of the era you are portraying and the costume chosen. Wearing sunglasses is NEVER acceptable.*
    - *Authenticity means the correct costume for the songs you are singing. Example: Don't perform 'Polk Salad Annie' in the gold lame' suit. We also use this category to differentiate between a well made costume or a "Halloween" costume.*
    - *In the past we've had very subjective criticisms concerning 'movie' costumes. Example: An ETA wore a tight white bathing suit, bare feet with a Hawaiian shirt completely unbuttoned. He was young with a thin body, wore the exact color and style outfit the King wore in the movie and performed the beach songs flawlessly. In this case he scored quite well (and actually won the competition) but I caution you in going down this road as it IS quite subjective. If you own a black tux you may want to stick to 'Fame And Fortune' and 'Stuck On You'. If you wear the white (If I Can Dream) suit, then you had better sing that song, with maybe a Gospel song added in to complete your set.*
    - *Basically we ask that if you choose a specific 'movie costume' then all your songs in that set come from that movie.*
    - *The judges will also look for cleanliness and neatness. The King was meticulous in his grooming. Make sure your costume is clean, shoes aren't scuffed, nails aren't unkempt, etc.*

- *There will be no 'breakaway' costumes allowed on stage, and of course no costume change allowed in between songs. Note: You may remove a jacket, but not change it for another. The only exception to this is if you want to add a cape.*
    - *You are not allowed to throw any part of your costume into the audience. This will get you disqualified. The only item you are allowed to throw are scarves. And scarves are only allowed to be handed out in one of your songs each set. A scarf assistant will be available if you choose this option.*
  - *Facial Characteristics / Body Proportion / Hairstyle:*
    - *This category is self explanatory. Do you look like the King? Do you have those wide set eyes, high cheekbones?*
    - *The King's hairstyle ranged from a dark blonde pompadour to almost shoulder length black hair with huge sideburns. Is your style appropriate to the songs you have chosen? Is your body weight proportionate to the era you have chosen?*
    - *Again, this category is extremely subjective and our judges opinions will vary widely (as no one really actually LOOKS like the King) but the professional use of make-up and quality wigs can greatly enhance the illusion.*
- **PERFORMANCE: DO YOU PERFORM LIKE THE KING??**
  - *Movements and Choreography: Think of this as from the waist down...*
    - *The King was like a panther moving across the stage. It was seamless and made to look easy as he worked the stage throughout the late 60s and 70s. Studying his walk, his stance and positioning will get you points with the judges. The same with the sometimes erratic moves of his 50s appearances!! Do NOT put your own moves into this category. Bottom line is - If the King didn't do it, don't you do it in a competition!! And by all means, keep it clean !!*
  - *Gestures and Mannerisms: Think of this as from the waist up....*
    - *Hand and arm movements, even on slow songs goes a long way in creating the illusion and gaining you points. Pointing, head gestures, guitar work, eye movement are good examples, but don't do anything so repetitive (like bobbing your head the entire set) as to cause distraction.*
  - *Audience Interaction and Reaction: The King made eye contact and brought the audience into his performances. His smile was intended for each audience member. The judges will be looking for this trait in you as well.*
    - *Try to work the stage, both stage left and right at least once every song to interact with as many fans as possible.*
    - *'Reaction' is how the audience responds to you. If there is widespread reaction to something you've done, you can believe the judges felt it too!! Try to channel that electricity in the audience to your benefit!*
  - *Charisma, Showmanship and Delivery: The King had charisma in abundance. His good looks and charm only added to his phenomenal voice. It's very hard to charm an audience with just a couple songs, however, if you don't come off 'cocky, are a bit humble, are choreographed and can deliver a great vocal,*

*you'll win them over!!  
coming to see you!!*

*Smile!! Let them know you appreciate them*

- **VOCALS: DO YOU SOUND LIKE THE KING??**
  - *On Key: Being 'on key' is hitting each note correctly and not being sharp or flat if not called for, being on pitch and in tune. Try to pick songs you can deliver on pitch. This, again is subjective to the listener and is one category that ETAs question on their score sheets a lot if they had a point taken off.*
  - *Memorization of Songs: This is just as it appears. Memorize the correct words. The King was the only one who could change the words to his songs. In a contest sing them the way they were intended. To be honest, this category has won and lost many competitions by getting just one word wrong!!*
  - *Rhythm and Timing: The King had a wonderful sense of timing. As an ETA please don't put your own "spin on it" by changing the rhythm or timing of a song simply because you want to make it your own. The judges will persecute you for this in a competition!*
  - *Phrasing, Timbre and Range: This is probably the hardest to master in paying tribute to the King.*
    - *Phrasing is the art of altering tone, tempo, dynamics, articulation and inflection, and the King was truly a pioneer at it and one of the reasons early on that he was so controversial. When you can learn the phrasing of a song you are halfway home!*
    - *Timbre: The timbre of a voice is like a fingerprint, it is unique for each person. Each voice produces different "partials" or "harmonics" with different strengths, the combination of these partials will make each voice (or) instrument sound different yet at the same pitch. The King's voice has a very 'warm' timbre. In other words, his was unique. ETAs sometimes make the mistake of trying too hard to recreate this and it comes off as phony.*
    - *Range is the lowest note to the highest note that you can comfortably sing with correct control, on key and pitch. As an ETA if you can't hit those big operatic notes (correctly the way the King did) then you might want to change your song choices. Many think you need the 'big' songs to win a competition. Not true. If you've been reading above you'll note so many other factors that determine an outcome.*

---

2. During initial rounds of the contest (if any) we will utilize all the judges score sheets. During the final round of the contest, if we have 8 judges or more we will discard the high and the low scores. If less than 8 judges we will utilize all the score sheets.

3. Initial Rounds: All competitors are required to compete in the initial rounds of the contest unless they have pre-qualified for the semi-final round of the World Championship (if any) through participation in a Preliminary Contest.

4. Semi-Final Round (World Championship Only): The number of ETAs that qualify for the semi-final round (if any) will be determined based on the time available and the number of pre-qualified semi-finalists. The

number will be posted prior to the start of the festival. Scores for the semi-final round will be independent and not cumulative of the preliminary round.

5. Final Round: The number of ETAs that qualify for the final round will be determined based on the time available and the number of finalists. The number will be posted prior to the start of the festival. Scores for the final round will be independent and not cumulative of the preliminary and/or semi-final round.

6 Awards and Prizes: Monetary awards and prizes will be determined prior to the start of the festival. All Monetary awards will be received via Business Check in US Funds. We are not able to pay out cash.

---

#### A Note on Judging

- *You will see some of our judges repeatedly. They may even be friends. However, you are not allowed to ask them any questions pertaining to you or any other competitor during the contest. Please don't think they are rude, as they aren't allowed to answer you. Don't ask to buy them a drink or for a ride or anything that can be perceived as collusion. That being said, being friendly and polite to everyone doesn't cost you anything.*
- *Our judges are professionals and very knowledgeable of the King's live performances, but yes, they all score a bit differently. Some consistently score high, and some consistently score very low. Please don't single out one judge until you ask some other ETAs how this judge scored them. You may find they were all scored low by this judge (and your score was the highest).*
- *Do not be paranoid about small details in your costuming. We realize you don't have 50 changes of costumes. We won't be looking at your rings to see if the King wore them in that particular song, or if he didn't sing "My Way" in the Peacock suit. Unless it's a blatant mistake, like singing Suspicious Minds in leather, you won't have points taken off.*
- *Our judges are fans!! They WANT you to do well.*

---

#### **MUSIC:**

1. Only songs that were performed or recorded by the King are permitted as competitor song choices during all rounds of the competition, from 1954 until August 16, 1977. No computer enhanced versions (such as homemade medleys) or "vocal eliminator" tracks can be used.

2. Competitors must come prepared with their own tracks for any round that does not include the band. Please bring your track on a USB drive at ETA registration when you first arrive. If you are unable to provide a USB drive, a CD may be acceptable if correctly formatted. Please have them appropriately labeled with your name and track selection if possible. It is the competitors responsibility to pick up their USB drive (or CD) prior to the end of the contest, if you would like it back.

3. If, and when performing with the band, please choose only songs on the band's list. To keep the competition fair, the band will only perform your chosen songs in the same key it was originally performed in. No key changes will be allowed. When using tracks, you may perform any song the King ever recorded.

4. Medley's longer than 4 minutes will be counted as 2 songs.

5. Lead-in instrumentals such as (2001 A Space Odyssey) are not allowed.
6. No exit music (outro) is allowed.
7. Songs that include accompanying solos are not allowed as competition songs. Examples being "Ole Sole Mio" (by Joe Scumaci) or "Crawfish" (by Trish), among others.

#### **KNOW YOUR MATERIAL:**

1. No karaoke, TV monitors or lyric sheets will be allowed.
2. Your costume should represent your song selection era for each day. (Example: Do not sing "Suspicious Minds" in a sport jacket or leather. Penalties WILL be assessed if this is disregarded.
3. For the purpose of judging and choosing your material, the Early Years (Sport Jacket, Gold Lane', Speedway Jackets, Black Leather, etc) will be considered from 1954 to Dec. 31, 1968. The "Jumpsuit Years" will be considered as Jan. 1, 1969 through Aug. 16, 1977.

#### **ON STAGE:**

1. The only 'Prop' allowed is a guitar. (Using keyboard, stools, personal microphones or any instrument etc. is not allowed.)
2. The only 'Give-A-Way' is scarves. (Teddy bears, Hawaiian Leis, flowers, any part of your costume such as belt, cape etc is not allowed.) You may only give scarves in one of your songs each day. You can only give scarves when the music is actually playing. (Not between songs or before or after your set.) Penalties WILL be assessed if this is disregarded.
3. Our scarf assistant will be available for you to hand you scarves, present you with a guitar or retrieve it. Please bring your own scarves. They will not be supplied to you.
4. You must stay standing and on the stage at all times. Jumping off the stage will be cause for disqualification. Sitting on the edge of the stage is also not permitted. Penalties WILL be assessed if this is disregarded.
5. The Stage Manager will ask you when to cue the music and where you would like the mic. You will not be rushed, however we ask that your salutation to the audience and exit from the stage be timely.
6. There will be no rehearsal time available for competitors during any round of the competition.
7. Costume change on stage is not permitted.
8. Water will be supplied.
9. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed backstage.

10. You will be told when to be backstage. Please check in with the stage manager as soon as you get there. They will ask you a couple of questions that will aid them in assisting you on stage, including questions about guitars, water, scarves, etc.

11. Keep your salutation to the audience brief. Say hello or a line or two. Excessive talking on stage may result in a point deduction.

#### **FINAL NOTES:**

These rules and regulations are mandatory. We have these rules in place for many reasons. The main reason is to produce a fair competition for everyone with no surprises along the way. Others are in place simply to stay on schedule. With an event this size, logistics can be overwhelming, yet we want everyone, fans and Tribute Artists alike to have a great time and enjoy the amazing legacy left to us all!

An official 'Confirmation Package' will be sent to you with much more information and specifics about the contest and your role in it. In this package you will find the forms you will need to fill out as well as your song selection sheets, the band's list and a more exact schedule of events.

ETA's seeking more information or clarifications can contact **TERRY COLLINS**, Tribute Promotions Talent Director, at (518) 796-4986 or [terrycollins77@yahoo.com](mailto:terrycollins77@yahoo.com).