



*Nostradamus*

## Contest Rules

« NOSTRADAMUS D'OR 2024-2025  
of the Best European Mentalist »

of the European Order of Mentalists



**EUROPEAN ORDER OF MENTALISTS — OEDM**

[www.oedm.fr](http://www.oedm.fr)

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**Association member of the French Federation of Conjuring Artists — FFAP**

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## 1. ABOUT THE CONTEST “GOLD NOSTRADAMUS FROM THE BEST EUROPEAN MENTALIST.

- a) The objectives of the NOSTRADAMUS D'OR Competition for the Best European Mentalist are to develop the art of mentalism, creativity, originality and technique in order to recognize and promote artists, designers and creators.
- b) The European Order of Mentalists, called the OEDM, is the organizer of the NOSTRADAMUS D'OR competition for the Best European Mentalist. This competition takes place on Saturday January 27, 2024 in Coudekerque-Branche, France.
- c) The NOSTRADAMUS D'OR competition for the Best European Mentalist is open to magician artists:
  - Of European nationality ;
  - Ready to take part in a competition of an international level;
- d) The NOSTRADAMUS D'OR competition for the Best European Mentalist may issue the titles of NOSTRADAMUS d'OR, SILVER, BRONZE and the CAGLIOSTRO prize.
- e) The NOSTRADAMUS D'OR competition for the Best European Mentalist is recognized by the FISM and applies its scoring scale (Qualified FISM Regional Contest), but distributes the prizes according to the criteria for awarding the Nostradamus trophies.
- f) In addition, the first prize in the competition, NOSTRADAMUS D'OR for Best European Mentalist, directly qualifies for the French Championship organized by the French Federation of Conjuring Artists (FFAP) in the Mentalism category. The participating French artists compete for all the prizes, including the title of " French Magic Champion ". Foreign artists taking part cannot obtain the title of " French Magic Champion but they can compete for the other prizes.
- g) The number of selected candidates is limited to ten. However, the President of the OEDM can decide to increase this number with a maximum of thirteen suitors.
- h) If spoken, the number must be presented in French or English.
- i) A contestant who has won a Nostradamus award in the past cannot compete with the same number.
- j) The President of the OEDM sets up a team responsible for the practical organization of the competition.

## 2. ABOUT THE JURY

- a) The competition jury NOSTRADAMUS D'OR for Best European Mentalist » consists of a president and 4 (four) to 6 (six) qualified members, at least half of whom are official FISM judges and a representative of the FFAP office.
- b) The organizer of the contest ensures that a majority of the members of the jury are chosen in priority among magicians having a thorough knowledge of the theory and a practical experience of the art of mentalism.
- c) This jury awards the prizes for the “NOSTRADAMUS D'OR du Best European Mentalist” competition, with the exception of the CAGLIOSTRO prize awarded by the public.
- d) There can be no tied winners of the Nostradamus Gold, Silver and Bronze titles. Consequently, the president of the jury is responsible for arbitrating a final classification in the event of equality of points.
- e) The competition director is present during the deliberations in order to assist the jury if necessary.

### 3. ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR STAGE ACT

- a) Each candidate is responsible for his own number, his insurance, compliance with the law and legal provisions in force in the country.
- b) Each candidate must present a number whose duration must be greater than five minutes and less than twelve minutes.
- c) In the event of manifest plagiarism of all or part of another artist's number, the candidate concerned will be disqualified during the final deliberation of the jury. The candidate will be called before the jury and will be able to explain himself.
- d) The compérage and the pre-show are not authorized, with the exception of the method known as the "instant mate" or the communication of information to his assistant spectator being « secretly during the time of the number. However, if any doubt remains, the jury may question each candidate and/or assistant spectator on the modus operandi of the effects presented in order to verify the validity of the methods used.
- e) The candidates will respect the order of passage decided by the organizer. Each competitor must be ready 15 minutes before the scheduled time. Competitors who are not ready in time risk being disqualified. However, if the candidate had a stage set to assemble, it must not exceed more than 3 minutes of assembly.
- f) The timing of the number starts when the contestant starts their number, or their music starts.
- g) In the event of a technical incident independent of the candidate and his equipment (light or sound failure, etc.), the President of the jury may authorize the candidate to repeat his number or to count down a time limit .
- h) The OEDM cannot guarantee the absence of technical problems including those related to the interactions between the devices, electronic in particular, of the candidates .
- i) The order of appearance of the candidates is decided by the director of the competition, in all impartiality.
- j) Each candidate must imperatively turn off his equipment during the passage of the other candidates. It is strongly encouraged to declare the use of particular devices, in particular electronic, to the director of the contest, in order to coordinate numbers possibly concerned by interactions, in particular electronic.
- k) The candidate must inform the competition director of the presence of partner(s), whose presence is essential for the performance of the act, on stage and/or backstage and/or among the spectators.
- l) For each candidate presenting an act in English, the competition organizer will provide a short translation into French after the candidate's passage for the benefit of the spectators. This translation is a summary of the routine and the conversation with the assistant on stage.
- m) Depending on the request of each candidate, a determined number of assistant spectators will be drawn by lot by the organizer in order to avoid any compérage. In the particular case of candidates speaking English, the draw will be made among English-speaking spectators. The drawing of lots for the assistant spectators is done during the competition with a time in advance between each passage of the candidate.
- n) The master of ceremonies will make a sober presentation of each candidate (surname, first name, country represented), refraining from any comment on the number or the candidate and from any reminder.

#### 4. ABOUT THE RIGHT TO COMPETE

- a) The selected candidate and his partners (whose presence is necessary for the running of the number, on stage and/or backstage and/or among the spectators) pay a single registration fee, amounting to 120, 00 €uros.
- b) The candidate and its partners must cover all of their costs, in particular travel, accommodation and catering costs.
- c) The candidate and his partners are invited free of charge to the activities taking place during the OEDM congress. The number of places at the gala Masters of Magic “, organized by the city of Coudekerque-Branche on Saturday January 27 in the evening being limited, the partners will only be allocated a place from October 1, 2024 'subject to availability on this date.
- d) The application only becomes effective if the artist has complied with the obligations indicated in the registration file by returning the requested documents as well as a link to a video without editing or cutting of the routine intended for the selection committee.
- e) The competition director must have received the candidate's complete registration file by October 31, 2023 at the latest . However, the Organizer may decide to postpone the registration deadline for candidates to a later date.
- f) At the end of the study of the files, the selection committee determines the list of candidates selected to participate in the competition of the “NOSTRADAMUS D'OR of the Best European Mentalist”. The announcement of this list will be made by November 15, 2023 at the latest, unless there is a specific reason justifying a postponement.
- g) The competition director must have received the single entry fee from the candidate no later than December 15, 2023 to validate his entry.
- h) Selected candidates undertake to respect these rules and to accept the decisions of the jury without any possibility of discussion or appeal of any kind.
- i) The candidates undertake, in the event that they are awarded, to participate free of charge in the closing gala on Sunday January 28, 2024 at 4 p.m. and in the rehearsal which precedes it if the organizers of the congress ask them to do so.
- j) Each candidate is responsible for his equipment, both for the flight and for regulatory compliance with the safety standards in force on the day of the competition. The candidate will take out civil liability insurance to cover all of his performance, his technical and artistic equipment, as well as damage caused to others (room, stage, dressing room, sound and lighting equipment, public, etc.).
- k) Under no circumstances can the organizers be held responsible for any incident or accident that may occur to the candidates because they do not respect the labor and safety legislation in force on the day of the performance.
- l) The candidate authorizes the photo, video and audio recording of his performance. It authorizes the organizer to use its image for non-commercial communication, before and after this event, with any media of its choice, without limitation of time or place.
- m) The candidate undertakes to present the same number as that presented on the video support, necessary for the selection, knowing that improvements a posteriori on the number in question are tolerated .
- n) Contact details : [nostradamus@oedm.fr](mailto:nostradamus@oedm.fr)

## 5. ABOUT PRICES

### a) NOSTRADAMUS Prize

Three prizes can be awarded by the jury:

- A Golden Nostradamus as first prize,
- A Silver Nostradamus as second prize,
- And a bronze Nostradamus as third prize.

For this edition, a special endowment will be granted to the winner of the Nostradamus d'Or: a return flight to Las Vegas, with two days of accommodation, two entries for a show (that of Frédéric Da Silva, doubly titled Nostradamus d' Gold, is expected), or a financial contribution of 1 500 euros for the winner of the NOSTRADAMUS D'OR trophy for the Best European Mentalist. The total cost of the prize awarded (trip or consideration) may not exceed 1 500 euros.

### b) CAGLIOSTRO Audience Award

The CAGLIOSTRO prize is the prize for the public attending the competition. At the end of the competition, the competition director organizes the voting. The counting is carried out by three members of the public and a member of the Board of Directors of the OEDM. The competitor who wins the majority of the votes cast is awarded the public prize, known as the CAGLIOSTRO prize. In the event of a tie vote, the President of the OEDM will have the casting vote in the choice of the sole candidate to take precedence. The prize may be awarded when the results are announced in agreement with the director of the NOSTRADAMUS D'OR competition for the Best European Mentalist and the president of the jury.

### c) Other possible special prizes

The other prizes (city prize, sponsor prizes, commitments, etc.) are left to the initiative of the congress organizer and the OEDM office. They are announced before the CAGLIOSTRO & NOSTRADAMUS awards ceremony.

### d) Use of the price

The holder of the "GOLDEN NOSTRADAMUS for Best European Mentalist" award is the only one who can mention this distinction and state his title of Best European Mentalist 2024-2025. The other prize-winning participants will state their prize according to " NOSTRADAMUS D'ARGENT in the competition for the Best European Mentalist 2024-2025 " Or " NOSTRADAMUS DE BRONZE in the competition for the Best European Mentalist 2024-2025 ". Other participants without prizes may mention " Finalist in the NOSTRADAMUS d'OR competition for the Best European Mentalist ". A reserved logo will be made available to the winners for this purpose.

The winner of the CAGLIOSTRO prize must specify that it is the public prize awarded in the "NOSTRADAMUS D'OR" competition for the Best European Mentalist.

The NOSTRADAMUS D'OR for the Best European Mentalist is a trademark registered by the OEDM.

## 6. ABOUT ASSESSMENT AND SCORING

- a) The jury uses the scoring grid of the International Federation of Magical Societies (FISM) called " Qualified FISM Regional Contest grading scale ". But he has the possibility of priming numbers, which would not have the sufficient mark to obtain a prize in a competition organized by the FISM. The Gold Nostradamus prize will be awarded to the jury's best score, the Silver Nostradamus will be awarded to the second best score, then the Bronze Nostradamus will be awarded to the third best score. However, the score must be greater than 55 points to access a prize.
- b) The jury marks and must make a fair judgment of the performance of each candidate according to the following criteria:
  - i. The technique
  - ii. Presentation and *showmanship*
  - iii. The impact on the public, the power of entertainment
  - iv. The aesthetics and composition of the number
  - v. originality
  - vi. The magical atmosphere
- c) The jury remaining completely in control of its choice may take into account the following clarifications, suggested by the OEDM:
  - i. **The technique:** the rigged devices or accessories, the practical methods used must serve the desired effect as much as possible. The less we feel the trick, the more the effect will be magical. The development of technical tricks and the application of new principles or materials will be appreciated. Electronic tricks are tolerated, but should not be the only technical means allowing the success of the number.
  - ii. **The presentation:** the staging, the general atmosphere of the act, the artist's attitude, his charisma, the care he brings to his movements, his text, the precision of his gestures... these are all parameters.
  - iii. **The impact on the public :** the reactions of the public (emotions, laughter, applause, etc.) must be taken into account. The magic spirit must be conveyed by the number and take the public into this universe. The impressions of « Amazing » or « Inexplicable can also be retained. The reaction of the public during the passage on stage must be taken into consideration by the jury.
  - iv. **The aesthetics and composition of the number:** the accessories must be in harmony with the style sought by the competitor. The rhythm of the number, the number of effects, their sequence as well as the apotheosis of the finale are all important parameters that must all be taken into account.
  - v. **Originality:** Uniqueness of the number should be the competitor's primary goal, if only in anticipation of commercial use.
  - vi. **The magical atmosphere:** the general atmosphere of the mentalism act.
- d) Under the leadership of its president, the jury, assisted by the competition director, meets before the start of the competition in order to empower its members and to inform them about the voting procedure and the scoring method.
- e) Each member of the jury marks the competitors out of one hundred points, distributed according to the criteria mentioned, in accordance with a scoring grid which will be provided to him.
- f) The head counter collects each point total assigned by each member of the jury after each number. The final score will then be calculated by dividing the total points obtained, by the number of members who rated. The maximum score cannot in fact exceed 100 points.
- g) Once the contest is over, after having seen all of the candidate numbers, the judges may reconsider their respective judgments, and, with the approval of the president of the jury, will have the possibility of modifying some of their scores. These changes will then be communicated to the people responsible for recalculating the final scores.

- h) The list of prizes and other awards will be kept secret until the announcement and delivery of the trophies to the winners.
- i) If a member of the jury fails, the competition director may decide to appoint a replacement. If a member of the jury is in default after he has started to sit, all of his notes are deleted. If the president of the jury fails, the competition director appoints a replacement from among the remaining members of the jury.
- j) If necessary, the French language regulations are the reference.

## 7. ABOUT A NECESSARY ADDITIONAL FOR CANDIDATES

- a) The Nostradamus d'Or competition unit is made up of:
  - A contest director
  - A timekeeper
  - A counting officer
  - Reception and follow-up of candidates
  - The stage management
  - The contest presenter
- b) A space behind the stage, equipped with boxes, will accommodate the candidates and store the equipment of all the candidates. For reasons of space behind the stage, a rotation will be organized between the candidates who have performed and the following candidates.
- c) About rehearsals
  - Rehearsals will take place on Friday, January 26, 2024 starting at 9 a.m. Each candidate will be notified of their rehearsal schedule prior to their arrival.
  - He must imperatively take all measures to be able to carry out his rehearsal at the exact time (equipment ready, assistants in place, etc.) .
  - Each candidate will provide the manager with a USB key in good working order with only the piece or pieces of music in the order of broadcast, ready to use.
  - He has twenty minutes, maximum, without the possibility of exceeding this time .
  - This rehearsal time includes the installation and evacuation of the equipment, the wiring with the technicians according to the conditions below .
  - The stage, sound and lighting technicians are present and available to the candidate and his team to:
    - Note the installation of the equipment ;
    - Note the conditions for the start of the number (curtain, sound, light) ;
    - Test the soundtrack, indoor level, feedback level ;
    - Validate lights, driving, etc.
  - The candidate can be assisted by the team of his choice to optimize the use of the twenty minutes.



## **RULES OF THE NOSTRADAMUS D'OR CONTEST 2024-2025 - SIGNATURE PAGE**

Name and first name of the candidate:

Date :

Signature of the candidate preceded by the words “Read and approved in its entirety”.