



## CONTEST RULES

One entry per playwright, per category. Categories include:

- Youth Playwright Grades 1-5
- Youth Playwright Grades 6-8
- Youth Playwright Grades 9-12
- Mystery (Adults 18+)
- Love Story (Adults 18+)
- Heroes and Villains (Adults 18+)

Plays must be received by 11:59pm on Monday, December 5th to be considered.

All plays must be previously unpublished and unproduced

Plays cannot exceed a 10-minute running time

Plays cannot exceed five actors. More than five characters are fine, but the plays must be able to be performed by no more than 5 actors. Characters may be any gender identity/race/ethnicity. Please no characters requiring actors under the age of 8.

Playwrights should consider the limited production budgets of the contest when writing, as judges will be scoring on a play's "feasibility" in our short time and small budget. When you are considering design elements, please note the following:

**SCENIC ELEMENTS:** For this year's contest, we will be utilizing only HALF the usual stage depth, with a full stage black curtain as the backdrop. There will be no levels, and only basic furniture will be available (chairs, tables, desks). The TEN FOR ALL screen will still be hung, and playwrights can include suggestions for projection, but should not assume those elements will be possible.

**COSTUME ELEMENTS:** The theatre has a great deal of costume stock, and we are happy to pull items. HOWEVER, please keep in mind that we will not be making anything new for the productions so please keep costuming needs minimal.

**PROP ELEMENTS:** The theatre has a large props stock, and we are happy to pull items. HOWEVER, we will not be making new props for the production. Please reach out to Michael Wilson if you have questions about what the theatre has in stock: [michaelwilsonprops@gmail.com](mailto:michaelwilsonprops@gmail.com)

**LIGHTS/SOUND:** Basic lighting effects and sound effects are available.

With all of the production elements, remember: creativity counts! If you want a dinosaur to appear in your play, that's exciting - but offer some creative solutions for making that "work" on a limited budget.

While musical entries are not discouraged, entries need to include the following, to ensure that our actors will have the time and tools they need to perform the piece for semi-finals:

A recording of the backtrack with vocals being sung.

A recording of the backtrack WITHOUT the vocals being sung.

Sheet music for the vocal lines (preferably for the entire score).