



Artful Living presents **Playwrights for Tomorrow**

Original plays by Connecticut High School students

The mission of Artful Living's *Playwrights for Tomorrow* is to give Connecticut youth an opportunity for artistic expression through reading and producing their original short plays and empowering their art through validation and potential scholarship awards. Artful Living is a 501c3 Community Theater organization dedicated to education and community building. Details & contacts for this event can be seen at our website: www.ArtfulLivingCT.com

Original plays should be written in Standard Script Format (see Helpful Hints page) and submitted electronically NO LATER THAN JANUARY 8, 2018 to chris@ArtfulLivingCT.com. Up to three Playwrights will be chosen to win \$500 Scholarships. Three or more plays may be selected for staged readings and presented by rehearsed actors at The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center on April 29, 2018.

The Playwright and the Guardian/Parent of Playwright must attest that:

- 1) The submitted play is an ORIGINAL work (plagiarism is a serious offense) running no more than 40 minutes.
- 2) The Playwright is a High School student (or home schooled at the grade 9-12 level)
- 3) The Playwright is the only writer of this play (no co-writers allowed)
- 4) If selected, the Playwright could win a \$500 Educational Scholarship and/or have the play produced

If your play is selected, you will have the opportunity to discuss with a director, designer and actors the development and limited staging of your script. This process will begin in March with a meeting of all playwrights and directors. You're invited to participate from the initial round-table reading and discussions with directors, designers and fellow playwrights, through the rehearsals with an artistic team, to the staged performance of YOUR work on April 29, 2018.

Questions? Call Producer, Chris Solimene at 860-389-1363 or email chris@ArtfulLivingCT.com

Helpful Hints for Young Playwrights:

Storytelling 101: Be sure to have a beginning-middle-end, but also think in terms of introducing your characters, revealing their conflict(s) and resolving them (or not) in some complete way. Remember you are writing a play for the stage, not a novel or a movie. Move the action with dialogue.

Staged Stories are Visual: Writers need to describe the setting, time, and place, if not with dialogue, then in the notes. What do you want the audience to see, hear, smell, taste, feel? Dialogue (or notes) can evoke our imaginations and make YOUR world our world.

Characters with 'character:' Who wants what? What stands in the way? What is the consequence of her/him/them not getting whatever that is? Give each character her/his own distinct personality. What's the reason he/she exists in your story? Use dialogue to advance your story, but remember, a bit of the 'unknown mystery' gives the audience a way to be engaged and fully involved. Move us emotionally, but have a purpose and whenever possible, show us emotion through the action(s) taken rather than just the words spoken. Explaining is not experiencing!

Hooray! This creating is FUN: Yes, writing and re-writing a new play can be hard work, but collaboration with other theatre artists is fun and seeing YOUR work on the stage is tremendously rewarding. Trust your imagination and writing skills to create a story that will engage and excite other theatre artists and, eventually an entire audience!

Standard Script Format: Sample

Set up your pages for 8.5" x 11" to be printed on one side only, using black ink. Font: Times New Roman or Courier, 12 point. Be sure to number ALL pages Don't forget a Cast of Characters page. See the standard format for play scripts below.

The below example is based on and credited to The Eugene O'Neill Theater whose original may be seen at http://www.theoneill.org/files/9213/0835/2540/YPF_Script_Format-1.pdf.

Another more in depth source for formatting scripts can be found at https://ptfaculty.gordonstate.edu/lking/CPF_play_formatting2.pdf

Title of Show in Bold and Italics

by

← This information can also be
on your cover page

Your Name

(When you are opening a scene or you need to describe action that is not apparent in the spoken lines, Stage Directions can, and should, be used. Stage Directions should be placed two tab stops in from the left hand margin and in italics. Please use only Times New Roman or Courier 12- point font. Remember setting, time of day, etc.)

CHARACTER #1

Your Character name should be placed 3 tab stops over from the left hand margin, and be in all caps. You do not need to indent your first line of Dialogue.

(If you have stage directions in-between lines, then they go in-between the CHARACTER'S dialogue. Also, when referring to CHARACTERS in the stage directions, their names should appear in all caps.)

CHARACTER #2

Please note that the Character dialogue is not double spaced within the lines, but there is a double space between the Characters.

CHARACTER #1

(Softly)

If you want to include a note about how a line of is to be delivered, it will go two tab stops over from the left hand margin, under the character's name. These should be limited to one to two words and need not be italicized, but should go in parenthesis.

CHARACTER #2

This is how your script should look when you submit it. If you follow this format, each page will be approximately one minute of running time on stage. Isn't that pretty cool?

CHARACTER #1

Have fun and Happy Writing!!!

End of Scene

THE END