



MTA Playwriting Contest

PLAYWRITING SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Playwriting Contest Eligibility

1. An individual is eligible to submit to the **Secondary Playwriting Contest** if they are
 - a. A high school student, including students, enrolled in homeschool programs, in grades 9 - 12
 - b. Currently residing in the state of Mississippi
 - c. A registered member of MTA
 - i. Either through a participating school that is an organizational member of MTA or
 - ii. As an individual (as is often the case for homeschool students)
 - d. Has not won the Secondary Playwriting Contest in the prior year
2. An individual is eligible to submit to the **Adult Playwriting Contest** if they are
 - a. Eighteen (18) years of age AND not enrolled in a high school or homeschool program
 - b. Currently residing in the state of Mississippi
 - c. A registered member of MTA
 - i. Either through a participating group that is an organizational member of MTA or

- ii. As an individual
- d. Has not won the Adult Playwriting Contest in the prior two (2) years

Playwriting Contest Timeline

1. Call for Submissions: April 1 – October 1
 - a. Entries are accepted from April 1 until October 1
 - b. Entries submitted after this date will not be considered
2. Playwrights will be notified via email of their finalist status on or before November 10
3. The winning selection will be announced on or before December 10
4. There will be a staged reading of each division's winning submission at the annual festival in January

Playwriting Contest Entry Requirements

1. Each submission should be a one-act play that **has not been published** and **has not been professionally produced**
2. Each playwright may only submit one play per year
3. Plays may be written collaboratively, but a winning playwriting team will share awards
 - a. MTA provides one free festival registration and hotel accommodation for one room for one night, regardless of the number of writers on the winning script
 - b. Any other necessary arrangements must be made by the playwriting team
 - c. Playwrights may not submit more than one script a year
4. MTA is currently unable to accept musicals, full-length plays, adaptations, or screenplays
5. Submission Format:
 - a. All scripts must follow the style sheet found in the [MTA Handbook](#)
 - b. Plays must not exceed 45 pages
 - c. There is no minimum page limit, but MTA encourages writers to keep in mind that the staged reading block is designed for a script that runs approximately an hour
 - d. Electronic submissions are required
 - e. Scripts must be saved as PDFs and submitted through the MTA website
 - f. Playwrights' names must not appear on the pages of the script text
 - g. All submissions will be evaluated anonymously

- h. Playwright biographical and contact information will be collected through the online submission form as well as a one-page cover attached to the submitted script
- 6. Mississippi Theatre Association reserves the right not to produce a winner in any given year
- 7. Aside from the necessary permissions to stage the reading of the winning entry, all rights are retained by the playwright
- 8. See the [MTA Handbook](#) for complete contest rules and guidelines

Playwriting Contest Awards

- 1. The winning play in the Secondary Playwriting Contest receives:
 - a. A staged reading at the MTA Annual Festival
 - b. Free festival registration
 - c. Hotel accommodations for the evening of their staged reading
 - d. A \$250 cash prize
- 2. The winning play in the Adult Playwriting Contest receives:
 - a. A staged reading at the MTA Conference
 - b. Free festival registration
 - c. Hotel accommodations for the evening of their staged reading
 - d. A \$500 cash prize

Festival Contact

- 1. Jesse Wade, Youth Playwriting Chair
- 2. Cayson Miles, Adult Playwriting Chair.

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