Entry Deadline
12.13.2019

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CityOperaHouse.org/YPF

Your voice.
Your topic.
Your play.

Sponsored by
Michigan State University
Building Dreams Together

Supported by
City Opera House

“We the future will be told by the storytellers we are training. This program is a gem.”
Doug Stanton, New York Times best-selling author, Traverse City resident

“This program provides life-changing opportunities for high school students at no cost to them—experiences usually only available to college students or those living close to metropolitan areas.”
Minda Nyquist, Educator, TCAPS

Your voice.
Your topic.
Your play.

See your play performed at City Opera House.
Your voice. Your topic. Your play.

It’s Easy!
Write your own one-act play - just 9-12 pages with 4 characters or less.

Submit to Win!
Let’s face it, this is easier than your homework for the weekend! One-act plays are only nine to twelve pages of script with lines and spaces for each character and you only have time for one significant event. Start writing!

Picture This!
• You get picked as one of six finalists
• Your story gets told
• Your play is produced
• Your work is performed at City Opera House!
• You get your own national theater mentor
• $100 in your pocket and . . .
• You get your first work performed before you graduate

See your play performed on the City Opera House stage and win $100.

Getting Started!
A good one-act play focuses on one main action or problem; there’s not time to get into complicated layers of plot. It’s a good idea to keep your play to one set and as few scenes as possible. A one-act play is 9-12 pages with four characters or less.

Theme
• Ask yourself, what is the play about? Revenge? Self-discovery? Romance?
• Your mind needs to be clear about the theme
• Characters, plots need to point to and support the theme

Plot
• Different in one-act play from a full-length play. In a one-act play, there is only time for one significant event
• Determine the place for hero, where all can be won or lost
• Events leading to this can be included without being shown to audience
• The events that follow must be inferred or understood by the audience

Character
• There is not much area to develop all the characters – limit-four
• The hero or the protagonist’s character needs to be more developed and focused on
• The antagonist can be developed to show conflict
• Some other characters can also be a little bit developed to move the story forward

Dialogue
• Economy is the key aspect here
• Each line must be crafted carefully to focus on the theme, the incident and the character of the protagonist
• The dialogues need not be terse, but concise and full of meaning
• Dialogues irrelevant to the plot, must be altered or omitted immediately

Protagonist/ Hero: pro-tag-o-nist | noun
the leading character or one of the major characters in a drama, movie, novel other fictional text

Antagonist: an-tag-on-ist | noun
a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary

Plot: plot | noun
the main events of a play, novel, movie similar work, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence

Dialogue: di-a-logue | noun
conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play or movie

Creative: cre-a-tive | adjective
relating to or involving the imagination or original ideas, especially in the production of an artistic work

Teachers:
Young Playwrights Festival complements the ELA Common Core Standards and offers an alternate way for students to learn and grow. A YPF toolkit is available online: Entry Form | Sample Plays | Poster FAQs and more. Questions? ypf@cityoperahouse.org

Entrants:
• Exercise creative-writing in a non-traditional way (while complementing ELA standards)
• Express topics relevant to them in a safe and nurturing way
• Embrace the art of crafting and structuring language through research, construction, and application
• Apply communication skills through explanation and experiences

Finalists:
• Learn alongside national theater mentors
• Collaborate with teachers, mentors, actors and peers to see their play come to life
• Experience their works produced and performed on the City Opera House stage by regional actors
• Showcase their work on stage to friends, family and classmates at no costs

Finalists are matched with professional theatre mentors who guide students through revisions via email and in person the weekend of the festival performance.

Start Writing!
Check out CityOperaHouse.org/YPF. You’ll find the entry form, dates, samples, and more.

Enter your script by Friday, December 13, 2019.

Questions? ypf@cityoperahouse.org

Hot Dates!
Script Entry Deadline
Friday, December 13, 2019

Semifinalists & Finalists Announced
February 2020

Finalist/mentor workshop
Saturday, April 18, 2020

Performances at City Opera House
Sunday, April 19, 2020

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