



YOUNG PLAYRIGHTS FESTIVAL AT CITY OPERA HOUSE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Young Playwrights Festival?

Calling all writers! Your voice. Your topic. Your play. See your play produced on the City Opera House stage and win \$100. Michigan high school students (grades 9-12) are invited to write and submit an original one-act play to the Young Playwrights Festival. A juried competition, six finalists are paired with national theater mentors, win \$100 and see their play performed on the City Opera House stage.

Who can enter?

All Michigan high school student in grades 9 – 12 are invited to submit an original one-act play. It is free to enter and attend.

Entry Fee:

Young Playwrights Festival is a free competition. There is no fee to enter.

When is the entry deadline?

December is the last date to enter. Submit entries by email to ypf@cityoperahouse.org

How to enter:

1. **Submit your original script in Microsoft Word format along with the application form.** Scripts must be original works. • See Script Submission Rules for complete details. Visit cityoperahouse.org/ypf
2. **Application form** must be signed by student, sponsoring teacher, and parent or guardian and returned with scripts.
3. **Submit entries by email to ypf@cityoperahouse.org Subject to include: YPF entry**

What is the professional theatre mentoring aspect of YPF?

The six finalists work with a national theater mentor to revise their scripts for a second reading. Finalists meet their mentors in person the weekend of the Young Playwrights Festival and work side by side.

What happens at the Young Playwrights Festival?

Finalists work side by side with the mentors Saturday and Sunday while the actors and directors rehearse the plays onstage at COH. The plays are performed for the community at 1:30p.m. Sunday. Following the performance, there is an artist forum and dinner following the performance. Young Playwrights Festival is a free event.

What are the awards?

All six finalists will receive certificates of participation, a \$100 award and see their play produced and presented to the community on the City opera house stage in Traverse City.

How can students learn to write scripts?

Visit www.CityOperaHouse.org/ypf for a sample script. Many great resources are available online by searching on keywords: “writing one-act plays”

A good one-act play focuses on one main action or problem; there is 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. The Young Playwrights Festival entry must be an original one-act play of 9-12 pages with three characters or less.

Young Playwrights Festival Schedule of Events

December

- Final call for scripts - entry deadline for Michigan high school students.

February

- **Twelve semifinalist playwrights** chosen to work with a professional theater mentor to prepare their script for a second reading.
- Playwrights and mentors begin work on revising the play.
- Six finalist are selected and notified.

April - Young Playwrights Festival Weekend – Finalist attendance required

- Playwrights and professional theatre mentors complete work on the play.
- Finalists and directors meet at City Opera House.
- Performance displaying six original works written by high school students, produced by community artists, and performed at City Opera House.

Saturday of YPF Performance Weekend– Finalist attendance required

Finalist/Playwright & Mentor Met Up & Rehearsal 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Playwrights and mentors gather at City Opera House in the afternoon to meet and watch a dress rehearsal of the plays followed by a brief discussion.

Sunday of YPF Performance Weekend– Finalist attendance required

1:30pm Free Public Performance at City Opera House

- Post-performance Reception, Recognition and Awards Ceremony

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm Artists Forum and Dinner

- Playwrights, mentors, directors, actors and guests come together for a moderated discussion of the six plays.
- Dinner provided by City Opera House.