



U of T Spotlight - Playwriting Competition

Frequently Asked Questions

The following FAQ sheet has been assembled by the Spotlight team. If you have any not addressed here, feel free to email them to uoftspotlight@gmail.com

Q: When can I submit my script?

A: The contest is open between 12:00 am on September 26, 2018 and 11:59 pm on February 1, 2018.

Q: How long does my play have to be?

A: There is no minimum or maximum length for contest entries. However, we recommend that plays be no shorter than 15 minutes and no longer than 2.5 hours. No matter the length of your text, we strongly recommend consulting our Competition Criteria online.

Q: Does the play have to be original?

A: Yes. Only original works written by current University of Toronto students are accepted.

Q: If my play is chosen for the University of Toronto Drama Festival, is it still eligible for the Spotlight Playwriting Competition?

A: It is indeed! Feel free to submit your play(s) to both competitions.

Q: Can the play have been staged before?

A: No. Not only must your play be original, it must also be unproduced. A production of the script before February 1, 2018 constitutes disqualification. However, after the contest deadline, all rights to the script remain the playwright's, so production after the final deadline is certainly permitted without disqualification.

Q: Can I submit more than one play?

A: Absolutely. As long as none of the scripts have been produced before, and all are original, there is no limit to the number of scripts that may be submitted by any one playwright.

Q: What is the Drama Coalition Repository of Plays?

A: The Drama Coalition Repository of Plays is an initiative to catalogue student written works and make them available for perusal by campus theatre groups. Allowing your script to be included in the Repository does not constitute forfeiting your own rights to the script. Allowing your play to be included in the catalogue merely makes it available to be searched and read by campus production companies. Having your script in The Repository may result in your being contacted by a student director or producer in future, in hopes of producing your play for the U of T Drama Festival, or as a regular season production. The goal of The Repository is to encourage theatre makers to utilize homegrown scripts by up-and-coming writers on campus.



Q: Are plays with more than one author accepted?

A: Yes! You are welcome to submit your co-written scripts, as long as both authors are current University of Toronto students.

Q: My play is inspired by an existing work of art, literature, or media. Can it still be accepted?

A: Yes! Past contest winners have included creative adaptations on existing literature. We encourage you to look for inspiration everywhere. However, you must give credit for your specific inspiration (if you have used one) on the contest submission form.

Q: Is the deadline firm?

A: Yes. No late entries will be accepted, so make sure you send us your entries between 12:00 am on September 26, 2017 and before 11:59 pm on February 1, 2018.

Q: When will the contest winners be announced?

A: The official announcement will be made at The Dougies 2018 (The Annual Drama Coalition Awards). The winner and two runners up will be contacted in the week prior to the awards ceremony to ensure they receive invitations to the event (however, no one will know the final results until the big night!). Results will be posted online following the event.

Q: What are the prize amounts?

A: The competition winner will receive \$500 in prize money. Two runners up will also each receive an honorarium, the amount of which will be determined by the contest jurors.

Q: How should I format my play submission?

A: Submissions should be saved as a doc., docx., or pdf., with the format YourName_Submission Title. Please number your pages and include your name and title on the page headers. Please include a list of content and trigger warnings at the beginning of your piece. Don't forget to include all contact information and entry information with your submission, and make sure to fill out the GoogleForm located in the Spotlight Event.