



MAINE PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

April 19 to 29, 2012

*St. Lawrence Arts Center
76 Congress St., Portland, Maine*

CALL FOR SCRIPTS

The Maine Playwrights Festival is entering its second decade of nurturing the development of new scripts by Maine playwrights. The event includes several opportunities for script development, culminating in two weekends of performances of short plays at the St. Lawrence Arts Center in Portland, along with staged readings of full-length scripts at the Acorn Studio Theater in Westbrook. These performances will feature collaborations between playwrights, professional and student actors, directors, and designers during an intensive rehearsal period between February and April 2012. Selected short plays will receive 3 or 4 performances, while selected full-length plays will receive 1 reading.

The festival consists of the following components:

- **Fully staged performances** of a dozen short plays during 2 weekends of performances at the St. Lawrence Arts Center. Preference will be given to plays running under 20 minutes, but we will consider one-acts of any length for this portion of the festival.
- **Staged readings** of 3 or 4 full-length plays in the Acorn Studio Theater. These readings will receive one rehearsal and include an audience talkback after the reading.
- **A 24-Hour Theater Festival** in which groups of artists from a variety of Southern Maine theaters along with festival playwrights will create entirely original works in one day.
- **Evening of 2-minute plays** to be presented at the St. Lawrence Arts Center during the festival weeks.

Playwrights may only submit a maximum of 4 scripts; only 2 longer than 2 minutes

If your play is chosen to be included in the festival, you will be invited to be a part of the rehearsal process, including the opportunity to incorporate re-writes into the final production. All St. Lawrence shows will be fully staged with set, lighting, costumes, and sound. All playwrights whose work is selected will receive extensive exposure for their piece through Acorn's marketing of the festival.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Scripts must be written by playwrights whose primary residence is in Maine;
- 2) Plays may vary in running time from 2-minute plays, short plays (10 to 20 minutes), one-acts (30 minutes to an hour), or full-length (two or more acts). Please indicate on your cover sheet which type of play you are submitting;
- 3) Please use a separate cover sheet for each play – plays submitted without a cover sheet will not be read;
- 4) DO NOT STAPLE YOUR COVER SHEET TO YOUR PLAY;
- 5) Production elements must be kept to a minimum. Preference will be given to plays that have only one scene and no special technical requirements;
- 6) Entries must be postmarked by December 15, 2011;**
- 7) Plays entered for consideration in previous years will not be accepted;
- 8) Each playwright may submit up to 4 scripts; however, only 2 of those plays may be over 2-minutes;
- 9) Preference will be given to plays without music that are primarily aimed at mature audiences;
- 10) Scripts must not have received a professional production prior to submission to the festival (submitted scripts may have received staged readings and/or workshop productions) – please call Acorn at 854-0065 with any questions about a script's eligibility;
- 11) Manuscripts must be typed and firmly bound with something other than a paper clip. If your script falls apart in our hands, we will not read it;
- 12) Ensure the title of the play is clearly indicated on the manuscript, along with your name and contact information;
- 13) Scripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope;
- 14) Playwrights wishing acknowledgement of receipt of manuscripts must send entries with a self-addressed, stamped postcard included.

Please mail this completed cover sheet and your script to us at the following address:

Acorn Productions, P.O. Box 304, Westbrook, ME 04098

We would prefer that you send your application by regular mail. We will not print scripts for you. Remember to include a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you would like acknowledgement of your script's receipt, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your script returned. We anticipate making decisions about script selections by February 1, 2012. Keep us up to date with any changes, especially regarding contact information.

MPF SUBMISSION COVER SHEET

Please answer all the questions below. If you are not sure of precise details, make a reasonable estimate. If the question does not apply to your play, please write "N/A" where appropriate. You must also sign and date the last page. Your answers do not affect your chances of acceptance. Please print clearly or type your application form and keep a copy for yourself. If you have any questions about this form or anything else, please call Acorn Productions at **854-0065** or e-mail mike@acorn-productions.org.

1. Play title: _____

2. Contact Information:

Name of playwright: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (d): _____ Phone (e) : _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

3. Please indicate the type of script submitted with this application

(please check only one box):

- 2-minute play
- Short play (10 - 20 mins)
- One-act play
- Full-length play

4. Provide a one-sentence overview of your play's dramatic action

Provide a one-sentence description of the essential change or realization experienced by the characters in your play. Think of this as marketing copy: what happens in your play that is of interest to the audience?

4. Running time

Please indicate the MAXIMUM running time of your script:

5. Brief description of your work and this script

Please describe in the space below your writing background, including previous productions your work has received, and the development of the submitted script. We are interested in the original inspiration for the work and the desired outcome from a festival production, should your work be selected. You may attach this information if you need more space or it is more convenient to do so. **Please also include a resume or CV.**

5. Signature

Please read this carefully. By signing, you agree that you clearly understand your responsibilities. If this portion is not signed and dated, we will NOT accept your application. By my signature below, I acknowledge that:

- If my play is selected, I give the festival the right to produce my script for no more than four public performances;
- It is my responsibility to obtain, if necessary, permission for my play to be included in the festival from any professional associations to which I might belong;

If your script is accepted into the Festival, this application will be considered a signed agreement between you and the Festival.

_____ Date: _____
Signature of playwright

Name of playwright in block letters