

THEATRE UNLEASHED WRITER GUIDELINES

How to submit a completed original play

To submit an original play, you must offer the following:

***Proper Play Format** - Most screenwriting programs now have a stage play option that will automatically format the play for you. Otherwise buy a book about play formatting or read a play. A submission written as if it is a screenplay or a novel won't be read. This shouldn't have to be said, but please watch your grammar and spelling.

***Relevance to the Mission Statement** - While our Mission Statement is broad, it does ask for a certain level of quality, focusing very much on storytelling, characters and themes to reach our Los Angeles based audiences. That doesn't mean proper five act structure can't be broken, but make sure there's a reason in doing so, that it lends to the story or characters rather than just being a device or gimmick. There are too many types of people in the world and situations to explore, we're looking for remarkable.

***Relevance to Theme or Subject Matter** - This will more often pertain to One Acts. If there are guidelines for a theme just make sure to follow them as closely as you can. There can be room for creativity and cleverness, but if we ask for shows with a talking phone and you send in one with a talking horse and no phone there's a conflict of ideas. If we're looking for a show with all females and you send one with all males...you get the idea. The only time it might affect a full length is if we're looking to fulfill a niche audience, like children's theatre...if there's cursing we won't take it.

What to Submit With Your Play

- *A synopsis of a few lines describing your play's story and theme.
- *The genre.
- *The time period it takes place in.
- *How long the play runs. Sometimes 10 pages can go for twenty minutes other times only five.
- *A list of characters.
- *Is it based on anything? A book, a song, a movie? Will there be copyright issues?
- *Has the play been produced else where, and for how long. If we're specifically looking for original shows sometimes this might provide a conflict of interest, especially if it's been produced in the Los Angeles area before. We strive to create a voice unique to Theatre Unleashed.
- *A resume and bio of the writer, a website.

*How you think your show fits our Mission Statement and will test our artistic boundaries, could create something remarkable for theatre, might help us understand your vision, and also force you to consider if it does fit our mission statement or not.

How to submit an unwritten original play

A proposal should consist of these things.

*A list of the characters.

*A 3-5 page treatment of your story from beginning to end. Be clear. Don't leave us with a cliff hanger to get us interested in reading the show...we want to know the ending. This should qualify the tone, theme, genre, etc for us.

*The themes you wish to pursue with the story, and how the characters will help portray these themes.

*How the play will fulfill our mission statement and test our company artistically. Will you take advantage of other forms of media, etc.?

*The first 10 pages of the show or a sampling of the show so we can understand the tone of the piece and dialogue.

*Meeting required benchmark dates for drafts.

*If the show doesn't feel fleshed out enough after all of this, you have more work to do.

For a proposal to be considered for a season you must be a member writer or an Artist in Residence. Be prepared for your show to go through strenuous work-shopping and rewrites. We expect your A-game!

How to become a Company Writer

The goal of Theatre Unleashed is to produce the shows in house writers write, once they have gone through the steps involved. If you wish to write sketch comedy, we will put up a sketch comedy show. The benefit of being a member is that you have a place to present your finished work.

To become a Company Writer this is what you need to do:

- *Submit a resume and biography of your background. Include where your shows have been produced, have you won any awards, your education, etc.
- *Submit a completed one act and a completed full length play. Make sure it's your best work because it's going to go through the reading committee and be discussed.
- *Company Writers must pay dues and take part in work calls.
- *A discussion with the Artistic Director to discuss what you can and want to add to the Theatre Unleashed experience.
- *You must be okay with writing for members within the company. This is a benefit.

Benefits of becoming a Company Writer:

- *Your shows will have the opportunity be work-shopped by our talented group of actors and put through labs for a nicely finished product.
- *Work-shopping is when a play is chosen based on a pitch, synopsis or submission for production as a Main Stage show, a Fringe show, part of a series of one acts, or any level of production and rewrites are needed.
 - Actors will be picked through an audition process or as needed to filled the required rolls. Depending on availability and length of time for necessary rewrites the actors can change.
 - Over the course of a decided period or until the script is considered ready by the Artistic Director and the reading committee the script will have several staged readings of consecutive rewrites, culminating in a reading including people from outside the company to participate as an audience for their reaction (the audience reaction does not necessarily dictate the plays readiness.)
 - The readings will be moderated by someone from the company or an Artist in Residence to help guide the discussion between company members and provide additional thoughts and comments.
- *Your shows will have precedence over shows submitted from outside of the company.

*You will be able to submit proposals for shows to be considered for production in future seasons.

Remember, you're joining a community and we're looking for a fresh and original voice not afraid to test the boundaries of storytelling, keep this in mind.

Bench Mark Dates:

If we decide to place your proposal on our season over a finished show there will be a series of dates that the writer must meet (i.e. accomplishment of first draft, second draft, etc.). If these dates are met and the show is in working order by the final decided date, it goes up without a hitch. If these dates are not met we will follow through on a second choice for the original work, and unless there were extenuating circumstances or you've spoken to the Artistic Director your status as an in house writer able to submit proposals may be barred for a period of time.

How to become an Artist in Residence (Writer)

If you wish to work with Theatre Unleashed on the artistic level of a Company Writer, but don't want to be a full fledged company member, you may be considered for the honor of Artist in Residence. This is what we look at when considering your Artist in Residence status. All Artists in Residence members will be chosen by the Artistic Director.

- *Are you a published or professional playwright?
- *Your body of work must be of a quality that exceeds anything within the company.
- *Do you want to work with and write for the members of Theatre Unleashed in exploring theatre specific to Los Angeles audiences?
- *You must have a discussion with Artistic Director about how you want to benefit Theatre Unleashed, its over-all artistic vision and the importance of theatre in Los Angeles.
- *You must be willing to be a part of our development and lab process as a special guest or moderator.