

Maine Playwrights Festival



April 23 to May 3, 2020
The Studio Theater at Portland Stage
Portland, ME

CALL FOR SCRIPTS

The Maine Playwrights Festival is now in its 19th year of nurturing the development of new scripts by Maine writers. The festival is centered on developing and honing short plays, from submission through staged readings, rewrites, and culminating in a series of public performances. The productions will feature collaborations between Maine-based directors, actors, dramaturgs, and designers during a focused rehearsal period in March and April 2020.

The 2020 Festival will be comprised of two weekends of **fully staged performances of short plays** (8-30 minutes in length). Each selected script will be performed on every show night during the festival. The plays will be performed at the Studio Theater at Portland Stage (25 Forest Avenue) in Portland, April 23 to May 3, 2020.

Playwrights may each submit one script, 8-30 minutes in length, for consideration in the 2020 Festival.

Playwrights whose scripts are chosen to be part of the festival will have extensive opportunities to revise their plays over a series of meetings with Acorn's artistic staff and with the 2020 professional Playwright-in-residence. Playwrights will also take part in public work-in-progress readings with the other selected writers, and will be an integral part of their play's rehearsal process working with the director, dramaturg, and actors. Several playwrights whose work is not selected for inclusion in the full festival will be recognized as semi-finalists: invited to develop their plays through a by-invitation-only rewriting workshop with the Playwright-in-residence and have them shared in an evening of dramatic readings held at the start of the festival week.

All short plays performed in the festival will be fully staged with set, lighting, costumes, and sound. All playwrights whose work is selected to be part of the Maine Playwrights Festival will receive extensive exposure for their piece through Acorn's marketing of the festival, and will retain full rights for future performance of scripts.

Please refer to our website (www.acorn-productions.org) for more information on the Maine Playwrights Festival as well as a production history of plays developed.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

- 1) Scripts must be written by playwrights whose primary residence is in Maine;
- 2) All plays submitted must be written in one-act, with a running time of between 8 and 30 minutes.
- 3) **ENTRIES MUST BE E-MAILED (OR POSTMARKED) BY NOVEMBER 26, 2019. The festival's preferred method of submission is to e-mail a .PDF document.**
- 4) All script submissions MUST include a cover sheet as a separate file – plays submitted without a cover sheet will not be read. Please include this cover sheet as a separate attachment when e-mailing your script submission;
- 5) If submitting in hardcopy, DO NOT staple your cover sheet to your play;
- 6) PLEASE ENSURE YOUR NAME APPEARS NOWHERE IN THE .PDF DOCUMENT OF YOUR SUBMISSION OR THE BOUND SCRIPT. Your name should ONLY appear in this application and on the cover sheet (not on the title page of the script). Place the title of your play and the page number at the top and/or bottom of each page of your script. Please contact us at mpf@acorn-productions.org with any formatting questions;
- 7) Ensure that the title of the play is clearly indicated on each page of the document;
- 8) Plays entered for consideration in previous years will not be accepted;
- 9) Consider production elements appropriate to a festival production. Preference will be given to plays that have only one scene and no excessive technical requirements;
- 10) Preference will be given to plays without music and that are primarily aimed at adult audiences;
- 11) Scripts must not have received a professional production prior to submission to the festival (submitted scripts may, however, have received staged readings and/or workshop productions). If your script receives a production between submission & acceptance into the festival, please notify us. For any questions about script eligibility, please contact us at mpf@acorn-productions.org;
- 12) Hardcopy submissions must be typed and held together with something other than a paper clip. If your script falls apart in our hands, we will not read it;
- 13) Hardcopy script submissions mailed to us will not be returned;

Please e-mail a .PDF of your script and a .PDF of your cover sheet (preferred method) to us at mpf@acorn-productions.org. We will confirm receipt of your script by return e-mail within one week of receiving it.

You may also mail your script, with its completed cover sheet to:

Acorn Productions, P.O. Box 4644, Portland, ME 04112

We anticipate making decisions about script selections by mid-January, 2020.

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 (if submitting by e-mail you may type your name on the signature line as your digital signature). 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 questions about this form, please e-mail Maine Playwrights Festival at mpf@acorn-productions.org.

1. Play title:

2. Approximate running time (MAXIMUM): _____

(NOTE: plays with running times under 8 minutes or over 30 minutes will not be accepted for consideration)

3. Contact Information:

Name of playwright: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

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

This is 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 engages the audience?

5. Brief description of your work so far and goals for development

Please describe in the space below the development of the submitted script. We are interested in the original inspiration for the work, what’s happened since the first draft, and your goals and desired outcome from a rehearsal process and production, should your work be selected. (If it is more convenient, or you need more space than the below, you may attach this information on no more than 1 typed page)

6. Please also attach a writing resume or CV.

7. 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 (you may type you your full name as an electronic signature).

By my signature below, I acknowledge:

- If my play is selected, I give the Maine Playwrights Festival the right to produce my script for no more than nine 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 Maine Playwrights Festival.

_____ Date: _____
Signature of playwright

Name of playwright in block letters