



DRAMAFEST

2022 GUIDELINES

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR STAGEDOOR MANOR STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE STAGE AND BEING PUBLISHED

COME CELEBRATE 15 YEARS OF DRAMAFEST THIS SUMMER!

WHAT IS DRAMAFEST?

In 1981, Stephen Sondheim founded an organization called Young Playwrights Inc. His goal was to discover and nurture young writing talent for the stage. Stagedoor Manor created DRAMAFEST in conjunction with Young Playwrights Inc., and is excited to offer our students an opportunity to PRODUCE AND PUBLISH their original work!

Stagedoor Manor DRAMAFEST is a playwriting competition within the Stagedoor community, open to ALL ages on an equal basis, and is a new competition EACH session throughout the summer. DRAMAFEST concludes with a one-day event, each session, during which 5 original 10-minute scripts are performed for a full student audience in the beautiful Oasis Theater and invited industry guests. The 5 winners from all three sessions will have their work (with photos from each production) published in an anthology.

The 5 scripts are jury-chosen from entries received and read before the student arrives. Winners will be notified one week prior to arriving at Stagedoor so that they may begin work with the Dramaturg and begin the editing process. Once student playwrights arrive for the session, they will spend the next 10 days working with a Dramaturg and Stage Manager(s) to mount and direct their own shows. Winning DRAMAFEST will NOT affect primary shows. **Note: Dramafest does replace two class periods in the student's schedule - every day during 3rd period. This also includes any actors that are cast in the shows.*

We encourage ALL interested students to take advantage of this unique and amazing opportunity. So come and celebrate 15 Years of Dramafest with us this summer. We've got some wonderful surprises in store!

On the following pages you will find the following:

- Dramfest Guidelines, Rules & General Info
- Standards of Selection Checklist & Advice - *to help keep track during your writing process*
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Script Submission Form - *to be included when submitting your script*

**ANY QUESTIONS OR TO SUBMIT YOUR SCRIPT PLEASE EMAIL:
DRAMAFEST@STAGEDOORMANOR.COM**

DEADLINES TO EMAIL SCRIPTS BASED ON SESSION		
SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
BY JUNE 1, 2022	BY JUNE 22, 2022	BY JULY 13, 2022

DRAMAFEST GUIDELINES, RULES & INFO

The goal of DRAMAFEST is to give young writers the opportunity to experience the thrill of seeing their work come to life on stage. Student performers will share in the excitement and all will benefit from the challenge of creating a finished product in a limited time frame. The Dramaturg is there to guide them and facilitate the process. The competition is open to all ages with a new competition each session.

1. Material must be the original work of the author, previously unpublished. No collaborations, adaptations, screenplays, or musicals will be considered.
2. The play must run (produced) NO LONGER than 10 minutes and have NO MORE than 5 characters. Less than 10 minutes, less than 5 characters is ok.
3. Subject matter and language must be suitable for all ages of audience. Final five choices will be made by the Dramaturg, a jury selected prior to each session AND the administration.
4. You may submit as many scripts as you like, but only ONE may be a winner. Those students who are staying more than one session, and are NOT winners in their first session can have their submitted scripts considered for the following session.
5. Authors may not perform in their own productions as they are directing it. You will be working independently to direct your show, but supervised by a Dramaturg and Stage Manager(s). The Dramaturg will guide you and make suggestions along the way regarding the staging. If you do not feel confident in directing your own piece, we will assign a member of the artistic team to direct the piece for you. Please mark your answer on the *Script Submission Form*. Your choice will NOT effect your chances. If you are not directing, you will still be required to attend all rehearsals to help with the process. Rehearsals will take place during the third period class of each day, so you will be giving up one class period every day if your show is selected. Your actors will also be required to give up some class time.
6. Please complete the entire *Script Submission Form* with a copy of your script. This form is required as it will help us get an idea of your play, the character traits/descriptions, how many characters you will need, casting information and more. You will find a fillable PDF form at the end of this pocket that you can fill in and submit with your script. You will need to fill one out for EACH script that you submit.
7. Scripts MUST be emailed NO LATER than the deadline dates listed on the first page of this packet. ALL scripts MUST be emailed. Scripts should be a WORD (PC) Document OR a PAGES (Mac) Document. Please do NOT email PDF's as they will need to be converted and could cause problems during the editing process.
8. THE NAME OF THE AUTHOR SHOULD NOT APPEAR ON THE TITLE PAGE OF THE SCRIPT! Only the title will be used to identify the material for the final 5 selections. Your name MUST be included on the *Script Submission Form*.

Ten-Minute plays are meant to be performed with bare minimal production detail. If your script requires a specific costume(s) or prop(s) for production, be prepared to have it sent from home or bring it with you. DRAMAFEST is performed "in the round" in the Oasis Theater. Sets will consist of cubes, tables, and little else. Lights will have minimal changes as well. Maximum of 5 lights cues. If you have specific sound cues you need, please bring those digital files with you to camp as well. Casting of shows will be done with the help of the Stagedoor casting team...please do not pre-cast your show with friends! They may find their schedule prevents them from participation.

Please be sure of all the rules above and deadlines listed on the first page.

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STANDARDS OF SELECTION CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist as all entries will be read with the following criteria in mind:

- PLOT: Is the story structured? Developed? Does action build? Is there a beginning, a middle, and a resolution?
- CHARACTERS: Are they defined? Do they grow and change? Do they have needs or goals that propel the action of the play? Do they have relationships within the story?
- DIALOGUE: Is it consistent to the individual characters? Bring them to life?
- CONFLICT: Does it drive the play? Challenge the characters? Create tension and give purpose to the plot?
- DRAMATIC PREMISE AND ORIGINALITY: Is there a core theme to the play? Did the playwright deliver his message? Is the approach fresh? The style original?
- REMEMBER, a script needs a story with a purpose: A Beginning, Middle, and a Resolution. Have you written all those elements?
- DID YOU COMPLETE THE SCRIPT SUBMISSION FORM?

SOME WRITING ADVICE

Characters need Objectives. We want to meet people we find interesting and challenging. We may relate to them, or find them totally foreign, but we want to discover what makes them tick. We want to experience a growth, change, or revelation with them.

There is a difference between a story and a skit. A skit usually takes a situation, or group of people, we all recognize and makes it bigger than life in a humorous way. Think *Saturday Night Live*. We already know the situation and are affirming our knowledge by sharing the laugh. Write a story, not a skit.

There is a difference between telling a story and exposing a conflict. Have you ever been an audience to one of those endless arguments between people who are on opposite sides? There will be no winner or loser...just an airing of their points of view? Conflict is essential to a story, but if there is no change or resolution to the conflict, we soon lose interest.

If you are going to tell a story of pain and loss, then you must also tell the story of how your characters coped with the pain and loss; how they survived, persevered, or changed. What influenced their journey or how did the journey affect others? Where did they start? Where are they going? Most important, why should WE care? What message are you wanting to send?

BEST ADVICE: Know the ending BEFORE you write the beginning. Think your work through first, and spend some time drafting your ideas before sitting down to write. Spend time with your characters and question their motives, test their relationships, discover their goals.

NUMBER: _____



DRAMAFEST ~ 2022

SCRIPT SUBMISSION FORM



This is a *Fillable PDF* form. You can just type your answers in. After completing the form, Choose *Save As* and name the file: *last name_first name_script name*. Be sure you're saving it as a PDF. Also, verify that all the info you entered has been saved. Once you're ready, email this form along with your script (Word Doc or Pages Doc accepted) to dramafest@stagedoormanor.com
You must fill one out for each script being submitted.

You may also download extra copies of this form by [CLICKING HERE](#):

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____ AGE: _____

YEARS AT STAGEDOOR: _____ SESSION: _____ EMAIL: _____

ARE YOU SUBMITTING FOR MORE THAN ONE SESSION?: _____

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DIRECTING YOUR OWN SHOW IF IT'S CHOSEN: _____

NAME OF SHOW: _____ # OF CHARACTERS: _____

What is the theme of your show? _____

Provide a brief description of what your show is about in the space below:

Please include a brief description of each of your characters. *You may include physical aspects that are important to the story, but focus less on the physical (tall, blonde, short) and more on relevant emotional characteristics (quirky sense-of humor; moody; quick with a smile; intense) and relationships (Bob's younger sister; older than Jennifer; Sarah's reluctant boyfriend, etc.).* **You are welcome to attach the character descriptions to the front of your script if you need more room.**

Do you foresee any special requirements for your show? (*Costumes, props, sounds, etc.*)