

ELECTRIC CITY PLAYHOUSE ONE ACT COMPETITION

ELIGIBILITY:

Short plays that are no longer than 50 pages and have a max run time of 60 minutes.

Writers may submit only 1 play, including plays they have co-authored.

Script submissions will be accepted in digital format sent to mnickles@msasc.org or a hard copy delivered to Electric City Playhouse, 514 N. Murray Avenue, Anderson, SC.

Plays must be written in English (non-English words or phrases within the context of the play are allowed).

Plays must be typed, and in no less than 10-point type, in conjunction with formatting listed below. Note that cover pages or additional cast size pages are not required and will not be counted against the 50 page limit.

Poetry and short story readings will not be accepted.

Festival submissions will be open from Monday, December 10 to Monday, January 7. No submissions will be accepted after 11:59pm EST on January 7, 2019.

Electric City Playhouse, in its sole and absolute discretion, shall select a play to be produced in their ECP plus, Life Stages. Production of selected play shall be at the sole cost and expense of Electric City, and no royalties or other payments are or will be owed by Electric City Playhouse.

Subject matter needs to deal with some sort of 'Stage of Life'. Preferably this would include situations applicable to but not limited to young adults. This could be a dramatic or comedic look at issues faced by individuals at different ages or generations, from aches and pains of growing up to young couple/parent situations to middle age issues.

FORMATTING GUIDE

These guidelines are designed for Microsoft Word or a similar word processing program.

Cover Page

Your play should have standard one-inch margins. If your submission is bound, you should allow an extra .5 inches on the left margin to make sure no text is cut off.

The cover page should contain all the essential information. This includes Title, Subtitle, Byline, Mailing address, Phone number, Email, and Copyright notice (if applicable). By providing all of this on the first page of your script, you make it easier for us to process your submission and contact you. The title and by-line should be centered, approximately half-way down the page. Contact information should go in the bottom right corner. Copyright information can go in the bottom left.

If you wish to have your play returned to you, please include a SASE of appropriate size and postage. If you do NOT wish to have your play returned, please provide a letter-size SASE for our response.

Standard Format

The text of the play should be in standard play format, which looks professional, makes reading easy, and provides our readers with an estimation of run-time. If you are using screenwriting software, please note that its default settings are not necessarily standard play format.

Basics. All text should be single-spaced, in a readable font, such as 12 point Times New Roman. When separating characters' lines or longer stage directions, double space. We prefer continuous pagination (not resetting at the start of a scene). The title page should never be numbered. Page one should be the first page of the play. Ideally, the Acts and Scenes will also be included in the pagination. For example, if there is text for Act II, Scene 1 on page 51 of your script, it would read as follows:

II – 1 – 51

Cast and Setting. After your cover page, there should be a brief cast of characters, as well as time and place notes. Character names, ages, genders, and any short but important physical characteristics belong here. If doubling is possible, it should be mentioned here, as well.

Acts and Scenes. Each new act and/or scene should be started on a new page and be center justified. The act should be written in ALL CAPS and roman numerals, while the scenes should be in capital and small letters, a double space below and underscored, as follows:

ACT II

Scene 6

You should include a description of the setting and activity at the beginning of each scene. These can be simply designated by the terms "Setting" and "At Rise." An act or scene should be noted, with "Blackout," "Curtain," etc. The end of the play should also be noted.

Dialogue and Direction. When a character is speaking, his or her name should be either centered or set 3.5" from the Left Edge of the Paper in ALL CAPS. If continuing a character's speech from a previous page, insert (Cont.) after the name on the same line. Any other brief direction (one-word) can also go on this line in parentheses. Longer directions belong on the following line in parentheses, three indents in.

JOHN (laughing)

Text would go here. Emphasis may be indicated by *italics* or underlining.

OR

JOHN

(Tosses keys across room while laughing)

If you have longer directions, move to the next line and use three indents.

(JANE walks across room to pick up keys. She shakes some dust from them and unlocks the door.)

Then continue dialogue after one space. Note that characters' names in directions are in ALL CAPS. Stage directions may either go to the right bound of the page or stop at three indents from the right. They should always begin three indents from the left.

Simultaneous dialogue should be placed side-by-side, spaced to start and end at the same place on the page. Trailing off should be indicated with ellipsis (...) whereas being cut off should be indicated with a dash.

An example of a properly formatted cover page and a play in standard play formatting is included below.

TITLE

Sub-Title and/or Genre Description
by Your Name

Your Name
Your Address
Phone
Email

**A copyright would be placed
here if there was one.**

Cast of Characters

JOHN DOE:

45 years old, a university professor.

JENNIFER DOE:

42 years old, a caterer, John's wife.

JANE DOE:

20 years old, a student, John and Jane's daughter.

Place

The Doe Home in Maplewood, New Jersey

Time

Late Fall

ACT I
Scene 1

Setting: This is where you describe what is present on the stage, such as furniture, doors, shape of the space, etc.

At Rise: This is where you describe the action taking place when the lights are brought up on the stage, such as: John is discovered sitting in a chair. Jane is looking out the window.

JOHN (patiently.)

XX.

JANE

XX.

(Enter JENNIFER, left.)

JENNIFER

XX XXXXX.

JANE

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

JENNIFER

XX...

JOHN

XX XXXXX.

JANE

XX
XX.

JOHN

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX!

(Exit JOHN, left.)

JANE

XXXXXXXXXX.

JENNIFER

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

JANE

(Looking at letter in JENNIFER's hand.)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

JENNIFER

XXXXXXXXXXXX.

JANE

XXXXXXXXXX.

(Looking off right.)

XX.

JANE

XXXXXXXXXX.

JENNIFER

XXXXXXXXXX.

(They run off.)

CURTAIN