



PREMIERE STAGES

2010 Premiere Play Festival

About the Festival

Premiere Stages is committed to supporting emerging playwrights by developing and producing new plays. We provide playwrights with an **encouraging and focused environment** in which they can develop their work through discussions, rehearsals, sit-down readings, staged readings, and fully-produced Equity productions.

At Premiere Stages, we pride ourselves on a uniquely accelerated process, in which plays we find particularly promising are developed and fully produced within a year of submission. In many professional theatres the time span between meeting a writer, staging a reading and producing the play can be years. At Premiere Stages, immediately following the Spring Readings, two plays enter an intensive development phase. Playwrights work with a director, dramaturg, and design team to develop the play for a staged workshop or full production only a few months later. **When we find a writer we believe in, our play festival process allows Premiere Stages to fully commit the time, talent, and resources necessary to share their work with a broad regional audience.**

Premiere Stages' productions offer playwrights the chance to see their work fully realized on stage. We hope, however, that the plays developed at Premiere will go on to subsequent productions throughout the country. Because of this, **playwrights whose scripts we produce retain the coveted "World Premiere" brand on their plays.** Premiere Stages also strives to facilitate relationships between playwrights and other theatre professionals who we think will respond to their work.

Submission to the Premiere Play Festival is open to playwrights living in the greater metropolitan area (New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania) and there is no fee to enter. All plays submitted to the festival are evaluated by a professional panel of theatre producers, dramaturgs, playwrights, scholars and publishers.

A cash prize will be awarded to three of the participating playwrights. The play selected for full production will be awarded \$2000; the play selected for the June Staged Reading will be awarded \$750, and a runner-up will be awarded \$500. **The winner of the Festival is guaranteed a slot in the upcoming main stage season.**

Premiere Stages will accept full scripts from literary agents or theatre professionals familiar with our work. All other writers must submit an 8-page script sample and synopsis. **Please review full submission requirements and guidelines below.**



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Submission Guidelines

- Plays **must** be full-length and have a cast size of no more than eight.
- Plays submitted **must** be unpublished and must be works that have not been previously produced (readings, workshops, showcases are okay).
- Plays **must** be written by playwrights who were born or reside in the greater metropolitan area (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania).
- Playwrights of color are highly encouraged to submit their work.
- Preferred plays will have at least one character that can be played by a college-age actor.
- Preferred submissions will explore or address contemporary issues.
- If you would like the script/synopsis returned, please include a SASE
- DEADLINE for postmark of scripts/synopses is January 15, 2010.

Plays and synopses will be evaluated by a panel of arts professionals. The panel will submit their recommendations to the producing artistic director and resident dramaturg.

Playwrights (non-agent submissions)

Playwrights submitting without an agent **must** include:

- A brief synopsis of the play (no more than half a page).
- A character breakdown.
- A history of the play's development (if any).
- The playwright's professional bio or resume
- A script sample from the play (no more than 8 pages).

The panel will request full scripts from synopses of interest. Playwrights who are asked to submit full scripts, including those not selected for expanded development, will receive an evaluation of the submitted play from the panel upon request.

Agent submissions

Full scripts will be accepted from legitimate literary agencies and by professional recommendation.



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The schedule for the Premiere Play Festival is as follows:

- September, 2009: *Premiere Stages begins accepting submissions*
- Through Jan. 15, 2010: *Deadline for submission to festival*
- March 1: *Scripts are reduced to three finalists*
- Mid-March: *Readings of three plays*
- March 21: *Festival winner and runner-up are selected for expanded development*
- March to July: *Development of scripts continues*
- June, 2010: *week-long staged Reading of Runner-up*
- July or September, 2010: *Full Production of Festival Winner*

Send all submissions to:

John Wooten, Producing Artistic Director
Premiere Stages at Kean University
1000 Morris Avenue
Hutchinson Hall, 2nd Floor
Union, NJ 07083

For more information about the Premiere Play Festival, please visit our website
at www.kean.edu/premierestages