About Liberty Live
Premiere Stages, the professional theatre in residence at Kean University, is committed to supporting emerging playwrights through the development and production of new plays. Under the umbrella of the Premiere Stages Play Festival, Premiere produces a biannual commissioning program for New Jersey playwrights entitled Liberty Live. Liberty Live is a unique partnership with the Liberty Hall Museum (www.kean.edu/libertyhall) that features a production of a new play that celebrates New Jersey history. Tours of the Museum, interactive displays, workshops for children, and talk-backs with local historians are also included as part of the final project.

Aspiring and established playwrights are invited to submit proposals for new one-act plays 45 to 60 minutes in length to Premiere Stages. Playwrights must be current residents of New Jersey. The commissioned writer will be awarded $1000, and the script will be developed in 2016-17 and professionally produced in October 2018 at Kean University’s Liberty Hall Museum. Premiere seeks proposals for plays that explore events of historical significance and celebrate New Jersey’s rich and diverse history.

Premiere Stages accepts proposals that explore any inspired play about New Jersey history. However, the selection panel is particularly interested in plays that explore subjects that did not happen in or around the following towns (which were the subjects of previous Liberty Live commissions):

- Princeton, NJ
- Westfield, NJ
- Elizabeth, NJ

A shortlist of the submitted proposals will be selected as finalists and playwrights will be interviewed. Proposals are due by September 19, 2016. The winning proposal will be selected by October 31, 2016, and that playwright will be commissioned to write a play based on the submitted proposal. Upon completion of the first draft, the playwright will receive a $1000 award. The winning play will be developed from October 2016 through November 2017, and three staged readings will be held in November 2017 at Premiere Stages. Community leaders, historians, school administrators, and patrons will be invited to attend the readings to provide feedback and solidify partnership opportunities. From November 2017 through October 2018, Premiere Stages will work with the playwright to continue to develop the play. Premiere Stages will also forge collaborations and partnerships with organizations and groups statewide. The project will culminate with a fully produced Equity production at Premiere Stages in October 2018.

Liberty Live is or has been funded by The Westfield Foundation, The New Jersey Historical Commission, The Union County HEART Grant, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts / Department of State, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.
Requested Materials
All interested playwrights must submit the following:

- 1 to 3 page project proposal (see Guidelines below)
- 10 page writing sample from a completed play. Note: The panel reserves the right to request the full script and/or additional writing samples from other plays.
- Current playwriting bio

Proposal Guidelines

- Proposed scripts should be family-friendly.
- Proposals should include a synopsis that details the basic plot, characters, scene breakdown and the significance of the event that inspired the proposal. Writers are encouraged to include information on why they perceive themselves to be a good fit for Liberty Live.
- Proposed scripts should be conceptualized to have a running time between 45 and 60 minutes.
- Proposals should be no longer than 3 pages.
- Proposed scripts must have a cast size of no more than five actors. No other casting restrictions apply; characters may be of any age, gender, or race. Premiere Stages serves a wide audience and is interested in celebrating the rich diversity that makes New Jersey great.
- Any play on a topic of New Jersey history will be considered; however, Premiere Stages is most interested in proposals that are not set in and around the settings of previous Liberty Live commissions (Princeton, Westfield, and Elizabeth, NJ).
- Proposals must be written by a playwright who is a current resident of the state of New Jersey. Premiere Stages is committed to supporting a diverse group of writers; playwrights of all backgrounds, ages, and experience levels are encouraged to apply.
- DEADLINE for proposals is September 19, 2016.

A panel of arts professionals will evaluate script proposals. The panel will submit their recommendations to the producing artistic director and Premiere Stages staff.
Liberty Live 2017-2018 Schedule:

- June 1, 2016: Premiere will begin accepting proposals from playwrights.
- September 19, 2016: Deadline for proposal submission.
- October 1, 2017: Reading draft of commissioned play is due.
- November 2017: Three (rehearsed) staged readings presented at Premiere Stages.
- December 2017 – August 2018: Continued script development
- October 2018: Full production of winning play

Send all submissions as PDF documents to:

pfsSubmit@kean.edu

For more information about Liberty Live, please visit our website at:

www.kean.edu/premierestages/liberty.php

For any questions regarding the submission guidelines please email us at:

pfsSubmit@kean.edu or call 908-737-4092