

10x10 Play Submission Guidelines 2020

We invite novice and experienced writers from Northwestern Ontario to submit their 10-minute plays for the Seventh Annual 10x10 Play Showcase.

Submitting a play is simple, but there are some important things to keep in mind for your play to be eligible.

Plays are ten minutes in length with a minimum use of props, lights, sound and sets. Each play can have up to four actors.

Writers may submit only *one* play to 10x10.

A panel of three established members of our local theatre community will read the eligible plays and choose ten plays they feel are the strongest and will best represent an exciting evening of theatre. The scripts will be read blind (anonymously).

All submitted plays that meet the eligibility criteria may receive written feedback at the playwright's request. [SEE Submission Form]

The authors of the ten selected plays will be expected to further develop their work. Playwrights will meet with 10x10 to agree on a development plan that may include readings and working with a dramaturge.

Writers may not direct their own work but instead will be able to focus on collaborating as a playwright with other theatre practitioners in the development process.

PLAY MUST BE RECEIVED BY SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2020
(11:59 PM)

Some tips on writing a ten-minute play:

- There is no restriction of subject matter, but plays will be chosen based on the potential for further development. So get inspired and write about what fascinates or moves you!
- **If you choose to write about a traditionally marginalized group, you must include a position statement [SEE Position Statement]**
- A 10-minute play is a dramatic form in its own right, with a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Your script should be an original work that has not been previously produced by 10x10.

POSITION STATEMENT

We are committed to our blind submission process: the jury evaluates scripts without knowing the identity of the playwright. However, in order to judge fairly and with sensitivity, sometimes the jury needs to know whether or not a playwright is speaking from a lived experience of oppression, discrimination, or marginalization. **If your script centers on characters or issues identified with a traditionally marginalized group of people, please provide a brief “position statement” which describes your approach to the material, what you are attempting, and why.** Without identifying yourself, help the jury to understand how you are uniquely equipped to tell this story.

PRODUCTION PARAMETERS

SET & PROPS

While writing your script, please keep in mind the **limited staging requirements**. Many of the decisions regarding props and set pieces will be the responsibility of the director; however, if the action of your play requires objects, please keep in mind:

- Available set pieces are limited to 4 chairs, 1 small table, and 3 large wood boxes (they can be stood on, placed together to make a bench/platform).
- We encourage the use of costumes and necessary hand props. Some hand props and costumes can be provided/sourced by 10x10.
- When you are devising hand props, please keep in mind that backstage space is limited.

SOUND & LIGHTS

- There can be no recorded sound effects or music. Any sounds will have to be created live by members of the cast. Light cues are limited to simple fades and blackouts.
- Lighting cues within the script should be kept simple and limited to only a fade or black out, as no special effects will be provided.

SUBMITTING YOUR PLAY

To be eligible, a script must meet these criteria:

- **Maximum of 4 ACTORS**
- **7 page maximum** in order to keep plays to 10 minutes or less **(Please note: if your script's read time is over 10 minutes, it may not be accepted.)**
- Margins: 1 inch L/R and 0.5 inches top/bottom.
- Times New Roman font size 12.
- Pages should be numbered starting with the first page of the script (not the character list)
- Do NOT include identifying information on the script itself, only on the submission form and cover page. The scripts will be read blind.

A sample of the script format may be viewed by downloading the 10x10 Script Format Sample PDF file.

****Please attach your character list and teaser to your script. Also submit a separate file which includes a title page, character list, teaser, and complete script.**

The **SUBMISSION PACKAGE** must include:

- Completed **10x10 Play Submission Form**.
- A **digital file** of your script, character list, and teaser. **NO identifying information should be on the script itself.**
- The character list shows character name(s), age or age range, gender and any other specifics necessary for casting (e.g. accents). Please be as specific as possible in describing your characters, as this will be helpful for casting actors.

- The teaser should be a brief (30 words or less) blurb for promotional purposes. Make it clear and catchy! Don't give away the ending. (SEE sample script)
- A **title page** which includes title, playwright's name and date. Please attach this to your script in a separate file.

Digital files should be PDF if humanly possible. If you are unable to convert, we will accept Microsoft Word files. Please check for conversion errors before submitting. The script format must appear as described above.

Artists may apply to direct /OR/ submit a play to 10x10, but not both.

COLLABORATIVE SCRIPTS

10x10 will accept scripts created by more than one playwright, as long as each playwright completes a submission form and agrees to participate in all development activities.

PLAY DEVELOPMENT

****If your play is selected for the 10x10 Play Showcase, you must reply to your selection notice within 24 hours.**

***NEW THIS YEAR: There will be an extended revision period of five weeks for selected playwrights to revise their work before rehearsals begin.**

Showcase playwrights must be available to participate in all the following development activities:

(Please refer to our website Timeline for the latest updates.)

- February 7: Confirm selection notice
- February 8: Announcement of selected plays
- February 10 to 14: Consult with dramaturge
- February 14 or 15: Roundtable Reading
- February 16 to April 1: Consult with director
- February 29: Staging Workshop
- March 21: Final rewrite due
- April 6: Production Kickoff (table reading with cast & director)
- May 8 & 9: Showcase Production
- May 23: Showcase Review Meeting