

Simply Staged – Qualifying Rules

## **Curtain Players Theatre is looking for new plays by Central Ohio playwrights!**

We plan to present one weekend of original plays in a readers' theatre format in January 2025, to constitute our Simply Staged presentations for this season.

### ***Qualifying playwrights:***

All playwrights must meet *ONE* of the following two qualifications:

a) Have worked with or *volunteered for Curtain Players* in the past

**OR**

b) currently *reside in Central Ohio*

("Central Ohio" is defined to mean Franklin County and contiguous counties.)

### ***Qualifying plays:***

- ***New***: Plays may not have been published and may not be under option for publication or professional presentation and, preferably, have never been presented anywhere before.
- ***Book***: We're seeking original book (i.e. non-musical) plays. We prefer full-length plays (80-120 minutes running time), but will consider one-acts.
- ***Stageable***: Even though we will be presenting them only in a readers' theatre format, plays should be suitable for full staging in a community theatre with modest means and accoutrements. This means, for example:
  - Cast size no fewer than 2 and no more than 12 (although more *characters* are permitted if doubling is intended by the playwright)
  - No use of actual flames, fireworks, or overly elaborate special effects
  - No excessively elaborate set requirements.

### ***Submission procedures:***

- All submissions must be received by Curtain Players by 11:59 pm, Saturday November 16, 2024.
- Only one play is accepted per playwright.
- **Cover page**: All submissions should include a cover page for each script copy with
  - The play's title
  - A synopsis of the play and cast requirements
  - Author's name
  - Author's contact information – address, email address, phone numbers.
- **Script format**:
  - To avoid any appearance of bias on the part of the selection committee, the script itself should be "blind" – i.e. must *not* include any information tending to identify the author.
  - The first page of the script should repeat the synopsis and cast requirements as submitted on the cover page but, to reiterate, must be blind.

- The complete play should not exceed 30,000 words, which is likely to be well over 120 minutes of playing time.

***Where to submit your script:***

- Electronic submissions: the file for the blind script should be saved in PDF; the cover page should be a *separate* PDF file. Send both files to [simply\\_staged@curtainplayers.org](mailto:simply_staged@curtainplayers.org) and include “Simply Staged” in the subject line.

***Evaluation Process***

The selection committee will read each play submitted. All playwrights will be notified whether or not their play was selected. Target date for selection is Saturday, December 7, 2024.

***Staging the play:***

- The program is entitled “Simply Staged” for a reason; the staging should be simple.
- Curtain Players Theatre will provide:
  - the playing space
  - rehearsal space (for a couple of rehearsals)
  - a very basic wash for stage lighting
  - announcement about the production on our website.
- We will pay for minor expenses such as printing or copying the script for the actors.
- Curtain Players will admit the audience on a “pay what you will” basis. Monies received will go to Curtain Players for theater maintenance.
- Note: The selected playwrights will work with Curtain Players’ Simply Staged producer on all aspects of the production, but the playwright will be ultimately responsible for finding directors and performers.
- Neither Curtain Players nor the playwright will provide payment or other compensation to the playwright, director, or actors involved.
- The author retains all rights to future use of the play.

***Important Dates:***

- Saturday November 16, 2024 – deadline for submission
- Saturday December 7, 2024 – selections made
- Sunday December 8, 2024 – selections announced
- Thursday January 2 – Saturday January 4, 2025 – Simply Staged performances