

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 January 2026, 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. Both full-length plays (80-120 minutes running time) and one-acts (15-60 minutes) will be considered.
- ***Stageable***: Even though we will be presenting them only in a "simply staged" format, plays should be suitable for full staging in a community theatre with modest means and accoutrements. This means, for example:
 - Cast size between 2 and 12, inclusive (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, October 1, 2025.
- 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 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, October 18.

Staging the play:

- The program is entitled "Simply Staged" for a reason; the staging should be simple, and readers theatre is acceptable as well.
- Curtain Players Theatre will provide:
 - the playing space
 - rehearsal space (for a couple of rehearsals) during tech week
 - a very basic wash for stage lighting
 - sound system (no copyrighted material [music or sound effects] are permitted)
 - light and sound board operators
 - announcement about the production on our website and social media accounts.
- 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 a director, and work with the director to cast the performers. The producer can assist as necessary to provide names of possible 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:

- **October 1, 2025** – deadline for submission
- **October 18, 2025** – selections made
- **October 25, 2025** – selections announced
- Friday January 2 – Sunday January 4, 2026 – planned *Simply Staged* performances.

Possibilities include:

- Friday evening
- Saturday evening
- Sunday matinee