



# Watermelon *One-Act Festival*

The mission of Watermelon, Inc. is to support the local theatre arts and to provide a nurturing environment for the development of original works written by both students and adults. The Watermelon One-Act Festival (WOAF) is a wonderful opportunity to showcase an original one-act play in a competitive environment and to receive instructional feedback that will help to further develop the play for future productions.

## FESTIVAL RULES

### 1. Entry Requirements

- a. A playwright may enter up to three original and unpublished plays.
- b. A completed entry form and play in MSWord format must be emailed to the indicated address by February 14<sup>th</sup> (early entries encouraged). A separate entry form must be included for each play.
- c. If the entry representative is not the playwright, a signed letter from the playwright giving permission for the play to be performed in WOAF must be included.
- d. There is no fee for submitting a play for festival consideration. However, if the play is selected for competition, there is a nonrefundable participation fee of \$100.00. Fees are used to help defray the expenses of the festival.

### 2. Festival Overview

- a. WOAF typically occurs on the first weekend of June and is hosted by a local theater.
- b. One 60-minute technical rehearsal will be conducted for each play on Friday of festival weekend (several technical rehearsals may occur on Thursday evening).
- c. Up to four sessions of plays will be performed and judged on Saturday. Critiques will occur at the end of each session and all directors and actors must be present for adjudication. Playwrights are strongly encouraged to attend adjudication of their play.
- d. The audience will have an opportunity to submit their favorite play to the WOAF Coordinator at the end of each Saturday session. The WOAF Coordinator will determine audience results independently of the judge (i.e., judges will not have access to these data). Audience pick data from Saturday sessions are used to include a play in the finals if a play received a high proportion of audience votes but was not selected by the judges as a finalist. In such an event, the WOAF Coordinator has the authority to add the play to the Final Event as a “Wild Finalist”
- e. The top three to five plays will be announced late Saturday night on the Watermelon website. These finalists will perform again on the Sunday Final Event and Awards Ceremony, which typically begins at 2 pm.
- f. After the final performance on Sunday, the audience will submit their “Audience Choice” to the WOAF Coordinator, who will tally the results for the Audience Choice award.
- g. Food and beverages will be served after the final performance on Sunday as the judges meet to determine the festival winners.
- h. Cash awards will be given for Best Script, Production/Director, Audience Choice, Ensemble, and four Performance Awards. The award for Best Script will be determined BEFORE the adjudicators see the productions and will not be known until the award is announced.

## Watermelon One-Act Festival Rules

### 3. Production Requirements

- a. All technical rehearsal and performance times will be determined by the WOAF Coordinator after plays are selected.
- b. Each Production Representative is responsible for producing their own show. Watermelon is NOT producing the play, merely presenting the finished product, which may be performed a total of two times.
- c. Total run time must not exceed 45 minutes, including set up and strike.
- d. Performance times will be monitored. Failure to adhere to the maximum running times stated above will result in a penalty point.
- e. Space is limited and all props and cast must fit within a 10 x 10 foot square space.
- f. A stage manager must be present for each play and will give the “Start” and “End” cues to the time keeper at the beginning of the set up and end of the strike periods, which begin and end in a 10 x 10 foot square space. Failure to clear the stage of all items (including liquids) during strike will result in a penalty point.
- g. Running time will begin at start of set up (in the box) and end at the completion of strike and after everyone is back in the 10-foot box. After set up go to places for the start of the play and after curtain call strike the play into the box.
- h. Plays should have minimal technical requirements. Keep light and sound cues to a minimum and props simple as there is only 60 minutes to spike the set and complete a cue-to-cue technical rehearsal. There will be a general light plot with specials that everyone involved in the festival may use. Sound in .wav or .mp3 format must be played from laptop. There is no technical award.

### 4. Adjudication Panel

- a. There will be three to four judges on the Adjudication Panel. The panel will be comprised of Artistic Directors, Technical Directors, Producers, faculty from local schools and colleges, Playwrights, or a guest invited by WOAF (e.g., a representative from Samuel French or Dramatist Play Services).
- b. Judges are given the scripts weeks before the festival and each provides scores for writing quality, originality, plot/story quality, character development, and technical ease to the WOAF Coordinator who tallies the scores for the script award, which is not announced to anyone until the awards ceremony.
- c. Judges will be given standard adjudication sheets where overall direction and acting elements are ranked. Character development, the actor’s voice and body work, how well the production supports the script, staging, etc. are some of the individual criteria that will be scored.
- d. Judges are not allowed to talk about the scripts or performances or communicate to each other about these until after the finalists are selected.

### 5. Other Requirements

- a. Plays will be selected by end of February/first week of March. Selected plays will be posted on the website by March 10. The \$100.00 participation fee must be received by March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- b. A phone conference will be scheduled several weeks afterwards among all production representatives, the WOAF Coordinator, and the WOAF Technical Director. This phone conference provides an opportunity to review information and answer questions. A conference call phone number will be distributed via email prior to the meeting.
- c. A technical package with additional information and requirements (e.g., lighting/sound requirements, cues) will be distributed to all production representatives via email and is typically due several weeks before technical rehearsal.