



2009 PLAYWRIGHT DISCOVERY

Submission Rules and Procedures

The *VSA arts* Playwright Discovery Program invites middle and high school students to take a closer look at the world around them, examine how disability affects their lives and the lives of others, and express their views through the art of playwriting. Playwrights may write from their own experience or about an experience in the life of another person or fictional character. Young playwrights with and without disabilities are encouraged to submit a script. Entries may be the work of an individual student or collaboration by a group or class of students.

The selected script(s) will be professionally staged or produced at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. A distinguished jury of award-winning theater professionals selects the script(s), and award recipient(s) receive \$2,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. to view their work as it appears onstage.

Submission Rules

1. Authors must be U.S. Citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.
2. Authors must be students in grades 6 – 12 (or equivalent).
3. All entries must be one-act plays of less than 40 pages in length.
4. Entries must be original, unproduced, and unpublished at the time of submission. Plays with previous readings or workshops are acceptable, as long as they were not produced for a paying audience and have not been publicly reviewed.
5. Co-authorships are permissible, but all authors must fulfill eligibility requirements as stated below and each author must submit an application.
6. Authors may submit only one script, whether under his or her name, a pseudonym, or as a co-author.
7. Entries must be submitted with a completed, signed application and received by *VSA arts* no later than April 15, 2009.
8. As the administrator of this program, *VSA arts* has the following rights which may be exercised at its sole discretion:
 - a. To declare any entry ineligible if it is not in compliance with the submission rules and procedures;
 - b. To reproduce as many copies of an entry as are necessary for distribution among the judges; and
 - c. To use the author's name and title of any entry receiving an award for publicity about the 2009 *VSA arts* Playwright Discovery Program.
9. Award recipients shall, at all times, in connection with publications, production, publicity, programs, posters, and advertisements about the play, designate that the play is an "Award Recipient of the 2009 *VSA arts* Playwright Discovery Program."
10. Entries shall be free from copyright restrictions relating to this program, and the author shall hold *VSA arts*, its officers, and directors free and harmless from all copyright claims. If an entry includes any material that is copyrighted, the author shall provide proof of written permission to include the copyrighted material in the script.
11. Any student with or without a disability is eligible to submit an entry. Previous award recipients are not eligible. However, previous applicants may submit a new script in subsequent years.

12. VSA *arts* serves K-12 students as well as adults with disabilities. VSA *arts* reserves the right not to adjudicate any individual work(s) deemed inappropriate for our mission and/or our audience. Playwrights should not submit scripts that contain religious or political themes, inappropriate language, and/or excessive nudity.
13. Scripts must somehow address the subject of disability. A disability is defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual. (An impairment is a physiological disorder affecting one or more of a number of body systems, or a mental or psychological disorder.) The disability may be visible (e.g., a character who is blind or uses a wheelchair) or hidden (e.g., a character with a learning or developmental disability). Please visit our web site, www.vsarts.org, for more information on disabilities.
14. The selected playwright will:
 - Have their play professionally produced at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
 - Receive \$2,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. to see his/her play performed

Submission Procedures

1. Submit **two** copies of your script with a completed application form. Submissions will not be returned.
2. Personally sign the application. If an author is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must also sign the application.
3. Your script must be typed, following the standard play manuscript format. Clear photocopies or letter-quality computer printouts are acceptable.
4. Staple or clip your entry in the upper left-hand corner and include the following on the cover sheet: title of play, cast list, and number of scenes.
5. **Do not show your name, address, or any identifying information on any page or cover of your entry.**

With a removable paper clip, attach a sheet containing the title of your play, your name, address, phone number, and any other information. You may enter the copyright date or registration on the title page of the script. (To preserve anonymity, all entries are identified by numbers for judging.)
6. All applicants that include an email address on page one of the application form will receive an email confirming receipt of their script.
7. Be sure to put the correct amount of postage on the envelope. ***Entries must be received by April 15, 2009.***
8. VSA *arts* is not responsible for loss or damage to entries.

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