10X10
Short Play Festival

10x10 Submission Guidelines 2027

Magnus Theatre invites both novice and experienced writers from Northwestern Ontario to submit their 10-minute plays to the 10x10 Short Play Festival.

If you are looking to submit a play for this year's festival, please read the guidelines laid out below carefully. Any questions can be submitted to 10x10@magnustheatre.com

Requirements

Plays are ten minutes in length with minimal use of props, lights, sound, and set. Each play can have up to five actors.

Playwrights are allowed to submit up to two (2) scripts for consideration. Requirements for submission are the same for both scripts.

Selection Process

A panel of experienced theatre professionals will read all eligible plays and from those choose ten plays they feel are the strongest. All scripts will be read blind (anonymously).

All submitted plays that meet the eligibility criteria will receive written feedback.

The playwrights of the ten selected plays will have an opportunity to develop their work once selected through a process of peer review and dramaturgical meetings.

The spirit of 10x10 is collaboration, as such playwrights are not permitted to direct their own plays but are encouraged to work with their director to achieve a fully realized performance on stage. How involved you are in the rehearsal process is up to you!

PLAYS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 19th, 2027 (11:59 PM)

Production Parameters

While writing your script, it is important to remember that there are limited options available to you when it comes to staging. This is designed to ensure that the focus is on character and story rather than elaborate sets or costumes**.**

Most of these decisions will come down to the choice of director but when writing please be aware you are limited to:

SET & PROPS

- 4 chairs, 1 small table, and 4 large wood boxes
- One (1) larger 'Set Piece'. This should be realistic and above all an important aid in the telling and depiction of your story. It should also be within the abilities of the director and/or their cast to create as they will be responsible for its creation and travel to and from the theatre. Further guidance on this piece of set can be provided upon request.
- Costumes and small, handheld, props.

SOUND, LIGHTING & PROJECTIONS

- There can be one (1) instance of a recorded sound effect or piece of music.
- If you require further sound effects, then they will have to be made organically by members of the cast.
- The use of one (1) 'special light' i.e., gobos, coloured gels, flashing police light effect. This should be realistic and within the scope of what we have at the theatre. Further guidance about what is available can be provided upon request.
- Other lighting cues are limited to simple fades and blackouts.
- One instance of a projection to be used in the performance. This can be for a particular moment, or continuous throughout the performance.

<u>Submitting Your Play</u>

To be eligible, a script must meet these criteria:

- Maximum of 5 ACTORS
- 7 Page maximum – this helps keep the plays to 10 minutes or less (your script may not be accepted if read time is over 10 minutes)
- Times New Roman font, size 12

- Pages should be numbered, starting with the first page of the script (this does not include title page and character list
- Identifying information should be kept to the cover page and submission form ONLY.
- Collaborative scripts may be submitted but both playwrights must agree to take part in developmental opportunities and should be noted on the submission form.

Your submission package must include:

- Completed 10x10 Submission Form.
- A single digital (PDF) file of your script, character list and brief, 30-word, teaser about your script.
- The character list should show characters names, age or age range, gender and any other specific information that may be necessary for casting (i.e., accents)
- A title page which includes title, playwrights name and the date of submission (this should be a separate file)
- Scripts should be submitted in PDF format.

Please note: If your play submission is not selected as one of the top 10 plays you may apply to direct if you wish.

Play Development

If your play is selected for the 2027 10x10 Festival, then you must reply to the selection notice within 24 hours.

Once your play has been selected and you have confirmed your participation then you will have an eleven-week revision period to make any changes to your script before rehearsals begin.

Selected playwrights must be available to participate at the following dates and times:

- Confirm Selection and Announcement of Top 10 – March 2027
- Dramaturgy Meetings – April 2027
- Roundtable Readings – April 10th, 2027 @ 10AM – 12PM
- Final Script Due – April 25th, 2027

- Production Kickoff – April 26th, 2027 @ 7:30PM
- 10x10 Festival Performances – June 4th, 2027 @ 7:30PM and June 5th, 20267@ 2PM & 7:30PM

Once successful playwrights and directors have been announced it is important that you make time to consult with your assigned director. This can happen at any time from announcement to Production Kickoff. Once rehearsals are underway the responsibility lies with the director, and they may contact you at their discretion.

All successful playwrights will receive 1 (one) complimentary ticket for the opening night gala on June 4th.