



PLAY SLAM!

HANDBOOK & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (F.A.Q.'s)

Welcome to **Play Slam!**, a 10-minute play competition for local middle and high school students. This **Handbook** will introduce you to Play Slam!, the Playwrights for Change competition, and other questions that writers, educators/administrators, and parents/guardians might have.

Please check out our **Rules and Guidelines**, **Tips**, and **Sample Scripts** as well!

(Year 6) 2023-2024 Theme:
"Caring for Our World"

WHAT IS PLAY SLAM!?

This year marks the fifth year of Playhouse on the Square's annual **Play Slam!** Young Playwrights Competition and Festival. **Play Slam!** is part contest and part celebration of new works by aspiring Mid-South youth writers and theatre artists. All scripts submitted will be adjudicated by a panel of judges that consists of the Play Slam! Coordinator, Playhouse on the Square staff and Associate/Resident company members, along with local writers and directors.

Five (5) finalists and one (1) winner will be chosen to be presented in the Play Slam! Festival from both the Middle and High School Divisions. The finalists will have their script presented as a staged reading with local actors. The winner will have their script staged with minimal props and costumes and performed and directed by local professional actors. The winners of both divisions will also have their scripts submitted to the Playwrights for Change as the Playhouse on the Square representative in this national competition.

WHAT IS THE PLAYWRIGHTS FOR CHANGE PROGRAM?

Playwrights for Change (PFC) is a national 10-minute playwriting competition hosted by The American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE). Formerly known as the Young Playwrights for Change program, PFC has now expanded to include middle school, high school, and adult writers. Through this program, theatres from around the country can each submit **one** script for each division to represent their theatre in this national competition. Scripts are then adjudicated by a panel of professional playwrights and educators. Finalists will receive recognition through AATE with possible distribution via the internet and future publications. One winner from each division will be chosen to perform at AATE's National Conference. Please see below for more information.

Originally co-launched by TYA/USA and AATE, the mission of the PFC is to produce meaningful conversations that will ripple across our nation and provoke change. The goal is to spark conversation and discussion throughout classrooms, schools, and communities.

For more information about PFC, please visit [their website](#).

WHAT IS AATE?

The American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) is a national organization that serves and inspires a growing collective of theatre artists, educators, and scholars committed to transforming young people and communities through the theatre arts. Through its membership, AATE allows artists and educators to create opportunities to network nationally while providing local programs aimed to ignite, promote, share, grow, and celebrate theatre arts for, with, and by youth and their communities.

AATE's vision: "We envision a world where every child has access to drama and theatre; where every city has a theatre for young audiences; where every community has a youth theatre; where every school has a theatre arts curriculum. We envision a time when the full spectrum of the theatre arts becomes a pervasive part of our landscape. We celebrate the courage and creativity of those artists and educators who do this work even as we connect, inspire, and support them in their profession."

For more information about AATE, please visit [their website](#).

WHO CAN SUBMIT A SCRIPT TO PLAY SLAM!?

We accept scripts for our Middle School Division (6th-8th Grade) and High School Division (9th-12th Grade). While there are plans to incorporate Play Slam! opportunities for other elementary students and adults in the future, we are only accepting work by middle and high school students at this time.

Students must be residents of the Mid-South area. Students can be enrolled in any local public, private, parochial, Montessori, charter, home school or other additional educational schools or groups in the Greater Memphis and Tri-State area.

HOW DO I SUBMIT A SCRIPT TO PLAY SLAM!?

Scripts can be submitted online or via mail. The submission period will be open from January 1 to January 15, 2024 at midnight. Mailed submissions must be postmarked ON or BEFORE January 15, 2024. Scripts submitted after this date will not be considered.

In addition to your script, please submit an application with a parent/guardian signature. This application can be found on our [Play Slam! webpage](#).

If a teacher or school group would like to submit multiple students to Play Slam!, you can include their applications and scripts in the same envelope but please clearly organize and label each submission following formatting guidelines.

If you are mailing in a submission, please mail to the following:

Playhouse on the Square
Attn: Play Slam!
66 S. Cooper St.
Memphis, TN 38104

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE IN PLAY SLAM!?

It is absolutely **FREE** to submit and attend the Play Slam! Competition and Festival. The only expense you might have is printing and mailing a copy of your script.

WHAT KIND OF SCRIPTS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO PLAY SLAM!?

We are looking for all types of plays. They can be funny, serious, silly, bizarre, magical, historical, current, futuristic, realistic, completely imaginary stories and more! As long as you keep this year's theme in mind, all kinds of stories might find their way onto the stage! You are only limited by your imagination. We want to see your creativity on the page!

Please check the [Play Slam! Rules and Guidelines](#) for specific restrictions and needs when submitting a play.

WHAT DOES PLAY SLAM! OFFER TO STUDENT WRITERS?

Play Slam! offers students who are interested in writing and have a passion for theatre to hear and see their work on stage in front of a live audience. While Play Slam! is a competition, it is also a celebration of work written by local youth. Finalists will have the opportunity to meet other local youth writers while working with actors and directors in the performance of their script. The winners will have the opportunity to see their work staged and will have their script submitted to the Playwrights for Change national competition.

WHAT ARE THE RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A SCRIPT

For a complete list of rules and guidelines, please check out the [Play Slam! Rules and Guidelines](#) on our website.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?

In addition to having your play staged during the Play Slam!, the winner of both divisions will also have their script submitted to the Playwrights for Change competition representing both Playhouse on the Square and Memphis nationally.

One (1) play submitted to the National Competition will be presented in a staged reading by professional actors and a professional director at the AATE National Conference.

CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME TIPS FOR WRITING A SCRIPT?

Yes we can! Please check out our **Play Slam! Tip Guide** for helpful writing tips and brainstorming suggestions.

IS THERE A SAMPLE SCRIPT I CAN PREVIEW?

Yes there is! Please check out our finalists and winners from last year as an example for formatting guidelines. These can be found on the Play Slam! [webpage](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1-13	Play Slam! Submission Period
March 1	Playwrights for Change Submission Deadline
March 6	Play Slam! Finalists/Winners announced
April 6	Writer's Workshop
May 25-26	Play Slam! Young Playwrights Festival @ The Evergreen Theatre
July TBD	AATE's National Conference in TBA

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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