

**Resources for High School Playwrights.** Compiled by Joey Madia and Sandy Asher

*Thanks to our many colleagues who submitted information to make this guide possible. We will update annually. Please send suggestions, corrections, etc. to Joey Madia, [joey@newmystics.com](mailto:joey@newmystics.com).*

**NOTE:** For listings with an asterisk (\*), send a SASE with a request for complete guidelines to the program director at the address listed.

### **PLAYWRITING CONTESTS and SUBMISSIONS—NATIONAL**

**Arlington Children's Theater Young Playwrights**, <http://act.arlington.ma.us/PWContest/>  
Open to children 18 years old or younger (as of the deadline)

**Baker's Plays High School Playwriting Contest 2005**, <http://www.bakersplays.com> (click on "Submissions"). Open to HS students.

**Blank Theatre Co. Nationwide Young Playwrights Festival**, <http://www.youngplaywrights.com>

**\*Child's Play Touring Theater**, Material by writers aged 5-13, to be adapted by theater. 2650 W. Welden, Suite 201, Chicago, IL 60647, c/o Victor Podagrosi, Artistic Director.

**Fledgling Films**, <http://www.kingdomcounty.com/summer.html>, Teen/pre-teen written plays and screenplays, to be produced as short films at the Fledgling Films Summer Institute.

**\*Inner City Cultural Center 1993 Act II Short Play Competition**  
(Request Youth Division rules). 1303 S. New Hampshire Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90006, c/o C. Bernard Jackson, Executive Director.

**Lebanon Community Theater's Playwriting Contest** (Lebanon, PA)  
<http://www.lct.cc/PlayWriteContest.htm>, Open to U.S. residents of all ages and experience.

**TADA! Youth Theater**, <http://www.tadatheater.com/teens/Default.asp>  
Contest for playwrights 19 and under

**Theatrefolk**, [www.theatrefolk.com](http://www.theatrefolk.com), Open publication policy. Submission guidelines online.

**VSA Arts Playwright Discovery Program**, <http://www.vsarts.org/x572.xml>, Playwright Discovery Award.  
Guidelines: <http://www.vsarts.org/documents/programs/pwd/pwdtchrguide.pdf>.  
Also annual student award and teacher's award. 12-18 years old; plays dealing with disabilities.

**\*Warehouse Theatre Company One-Act Competition**  
High school or college; works for or about women. P.O. Box 2077, Stephens College, Columbia, MO 65215, c/o Becky Jaynes, Artistic Director.

**\*Young Playwrights Festival**, Under 19 years old. The Foundation of the Dramatists Guild, 234 W. 44th Street, New York, NY 10036, c/o Nancy Quinn, Producing Director.

**Young Playwrights, Inc. Festival National Playwriting Competition**,  
<http://www.youngplaywrights.org/nationalcontest.htm>, 18 years old or younger (as of deadline).

**Young Playwrights Theatre, Inc.**, <http://www.youngplaywrightstheatre.org>

### **PLAYWRITING CONTESTS—MULTI-STATE**

**Clauder Competition**, <http://www.portlandstage.com>, For residents/students of New England

**Horizon Theatre (Atlanta, GA), New South Festival** <http://www.horizontheatre.com/playworks.htm>, High school playwrights from Southeastern States.

**Midwest High School Playwriting Competition**, <http://www.indstate.edu/theatre/mhspc/Guidelines.htm>  
Must be a HS student in IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, or WI

**SETC High School Play Contest**, <http://www.setc.org/scholarship/secondary.asp>  
Must be a HS student in AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA or WV

**PLAYWRITING CONTESTS—Open to state residents only.**

**ALABAMA**

**Alabama Shakespeare Festival Young Playwrights**, <http://asfeducation.com>

**CALIFORNIA**

**California Young Playwrights Contest**, <http://www.playwrightsproject.com>.

**San Francisco Young Playwrights Foundation**, <http://www.sfyouthplaywrights.org>

**CONNECTICUT**

**\*Young Connecticut Playwright's Festival**

Contact: Bruce Post, Executive Director. E-mail: [brucepost@yahoo.com](mailto:brucepost@yahoo.com)

**DELAWARE**

**Delaware Theatre Company's Young Playwrights Festival**, <http://www.delawaretheatre.org>

**FLORIDA**

**Florida Stage Young Playwrights Festival**, [http://www.floridastage.org/young\\_play.shtml](http://www.floridastage.org/young_play.shtml)  
Palm Beach County students in grades K-12.

**Gorilla Theatre, Young Dramatists Project**,

[http://www.gorilla-theatre.com/ydp\\_2005\\_guidelines.html](http://www.gorilla-theatre.com/ydp_2005_guidelines.html)

Middle- or high-school students residing in Hillsborough or Pinellas County.

**ILLINOIS**

**\*Chicago Young Playwrights Festival**

Chicago residents, 8th grade through age 19. Pegasus Players, 1145 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640, c/o Arlene Crewdson, Artistic Director.

**INDIANA**

**Indiana Repertory Theatre, Young Playwrights in Process (YPiP) Contest**,

<http://www.indianarep.com/>. High School and Junior High School playwrights. Winners have 30 minute plays produced for the Youth Fringe Festival, <http://www.indyfringe.org/>

**KANSAS**

**Inge Festival**, <http://www.ingefestival.org>

Sponsors a "Playwrights-in-the-Schools" program in rural schools in Southeast Kansas.

**MARYLAND**

**CenterStage Young Playwrights Festival**, <http://64.207.170.153/page.php?pageID=69>

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**Massachusetts Young Playwrights Project**, <http://www.bu.edu/bpt/youngplaywrights/index.html>

Offers workshops and a Festival.

### **MICHIGAN**

**The Annual Young Playwrights Festival, sponsored by Wharton Center for Performing Arts and Michigan State University Theatre Dept.**, <http://www.whartoncenter.com/education/>, HS students. Six one-acts selected as finalists to be performed at Wharton Center by MSU Theatre Dept. students.

### **NEBRASKA**

**Omaha Theater Company Teen Theater**, <http://www.rosetheater.org/>  
Produces a festival for teen theater scripts written by Omaha area teens

### **NEW JERSEY**

**\*Hudson County Young Playwrights Festival**, Waterfront Ensemble Play Development, P.O. Box 1454, Hoboken, NJ 07030-1302, c/o Laura Quisenberry, Acting Artistic Director.

**\*Madison Young Playwrights Festival**, (4-12 grade). Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey, 33 Green Village Road, Madison, NJ 07940, c/o John Pietrowski, Artistic Director.

**Princeton University**, <http://www.princeton.edu/~visarts/tenminply.htm>, A 10 minute play contest for HS juniors.

### **NEW YORK**

**Syracuse Stage**, [http://www.syracusestage.org/education\\_ypf.html](http://www.syracusestage.org/education_ypf.html)  
HS students in Central New York State.

**WRITE A PLAY! NYC**, the New York City School Playwriting Contest,  
<http://www.youngplaywrights.org/NYCcontest.htm>  
Open to NYC students. Plays judged in 3 categories: elementary, middle, and high school.

### **OHIO**

**Dobama Theatre's Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival**, <http://www.dobama.org/mbf-main.html>,  
Students ages 6 to 18 in Cuyahoga County.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**City Theatre (Pittsburgh) Young Playwrights Festival**,  
<http://www.citytheatrecompany.org/education/yp/contest.html>  
Residents of Western Pennsylvania between the 7th and 12th grades.

**Philadelphia Young Playwrights Contest/Festival**, <http://www.phillyyoungplaywrights.org/index.html>

### **VIRGINIA**

**New Voices for the Theater**, <http://www.newvoicesva.org/>. A Virginia statewide playwriting competition for HS students. Winning playwrights spend 2 weeks with a professional playwright taking classes and rewriting their plays. Winning plays are staged at the Festival of New Works.

### **TEXAS**

**Houston's Young Playwrights Exchange**  
<http://www.arts.state.tx.us/rosters/aieresource/orgs.asp?id=alt>, Houston teens 13-19 years old.

### **VERMONT**

**Vermont Young Playwrights Project**, <http://www.vtstage.org>, Grades 6-8/9-12. Playwrights lead 2-3 day workshops. One script from each school selected for staged, rehearsed reading at festival at UVM.

### **VIRGINIA**

**Virginia (Wayside Theatre's Young Playwright's Festival**,  
<http://www.waysidetheatre.org/Education/youngplaywrights.htm>, HS students in the Shenendoah Valley area.

### **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**Arena Stage Playwrights Project**, <http://www.arenastage.org/education/playwrightsproject/>  
Open to middle and high school students across the Greater DC area.

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

**The WV Thespian Festival Playwriting Competition**,  
<http://www.wvculture.org/agency/press/2006thespian.html>, 2 divisions: grades 9-10 and 11-12.

### **WISCONSIN**

**Metro Milwaukee Young Playwrights Competition**, <http://milwaukeerenaissance.com>

### **AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Arts Recognition and Talent Search, National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts**,  
<http://www.artsawards.org>, Scholarship opportunities in theatre, film, and video.

**Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**, <http://www.scholastic.com/artandwritingawards/>  
National writing competition for grades 6-12.

### **DIRECTORIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

**American Alliance for Theatre and Education**, <http://www.aate.com/>

**The Burry Man Writers Center**, [www.burryman.com/](http://www.burryman.com/), A worldwide community of writers.

*Dramatists Guild Resource Directory*, <http://www.dramaguild.com/>

**The Playwrights Center**, <http://www.pwcenter.org/>

### **WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES**

#### **\*Arts Partners Playwriting Workshops**

Junior/senior high, Kansas City area. offered by The Coterie, 2450 Grand Avenue, Suite 144, Kansas City, MO 64108, c/o Jeff Church, Artistic Director.

**The Coterie Theatre**, Kansas City, MO, <http://www.thecoterie.com>, Classes/young playwrights' festival.

**McCarter Theatre**, [http://www.mccarter.org/get\\_involved/education/YouthInk/youthink-index.htm](http://www.mccarter.org/get_involved/education/YouthInk/youthink-index.htm)  
Playwriting program for area high schools.

#### **Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre, 2008 - Young Playwright's Congress**,

<http://www.metroensemble.org/>

A National Playwrighting Program for Youth. Working in partnership with regional colleges and universities, and teachers across the nation, MET will work to identify promising young writers 15-18 years of age. Selected youth will come to the Kansas City area for one week of study with master playwrights, create original plays, and present them, casting professional actors.

#### **\*The Playwrights Project**

Playwriting residencies and workshops in Southern CA schools. P.O. Box 2063, San Diego, CA 92112-2068, c/o Deborah Salzer, Executive Officer.

**\*Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre Programs Training Unit for Young People** (ages 14-23). 141 W. 94th Street, New York, NY 10025, c/o Gloria Zelaya, Director.

#### **Summerwrite—Creative Writing Day Camps & Workshops for Children & Teens**,

[http://www.wab.org/workshops/2003\\_summerwrite/week7.shtml](http://www.wab.org/workshops/2003_summerwrite/week7.shtml)

**WRITE A PLAY! NYC, Young Playwrights Inc,** <http://www.youngplaywrights.org/Workshops.htm>, Offers several levels of workshops.

### **BOOKS ON PLAYWRITING/SCENE COLLECTIONS**

*The Book of Dialogue: How to Write Effective Conversation in Fiction, Screenplays, Drama, and Poetry* by Lewis Turco

*Character Development and Storytelling for Games* by Lee Sheldon

*Classroom Scenes and Monologues*, compiled and edited by Kent R. Brown

*How to Write Plays, Monologues, or Skits from Life Stories, Social Issues, or Current Events* by Anne Hart

*The Playwright's Guidebook: An Insightful Primer on the Art of Dramatic Writing* by Stuart Spencer

*The Playwright's Process* by Buzz McCloughin

*Playwriting in Process* by Michael Wright

*Scenes and Monologues for Young Actors*, compiled and edited by Kent R. Brown

*Screenplay* by Syd Field

*Scriptwork: A Director's Approach to New Play Development* by David Kahn & Donna Breed

*Writing Your Own Plays: Creating, Adapting and Improvising* by Carol Korty

*The Young Writers Guide to Getting Published* by Kathy Henderson

### **WEBSITES/MAGAZINES**

*The Apprentice Writer*, <http://www.susque.edu/writers> (click on Writers' Institute)

*The Claremont Review*, <http://www.theclaremontreview.ca>, Short plays accepted for publication.

*Cyberteens Zeen*, <http://www.cyberteens.com>

Jon Dorf, playwright/instructor, <http://www.jondorf.com/youngplaywrights.html>, There are many resources available through this website.

*Dramatics Magazine*, <http://www.edta.org>

*High School Writer*, Junior High and HS editions. Contact: Emily Benes, Editor, Writer Publications, P.O. Box 718, Grand Rapids, MN 55477-0718

*Merlyn's Pen*, <http://www.merlynspen.org>, Short plays accepted for publication.

*Midlink Magazine*, <http://www.cs.ucf.edu/~Midlink>

*Teen Ink*, <http://magazine-directory.com/Teen-Ink.htm>

*Writer's Digest*, <http://www.writersdigest.com/>

*The Writer's Market*, [http://www.writersmarket.com/index\\_ns.asp](http://www.writersmarket.com/index_ns.asp)

## **A SAMPLING OF PLAYS WRITTEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Awakening Galatia* by John Newman—Pygmalion, a young sculptor, falls in love with Galatia, his statue of a perfect woman. Venus and the 7 Muses lead Pygmalion on a journey, bringing the sculpture to life and rendering the sculptor capable of genuine affection. (Contact: John Newman, [john.newman@slc.k12.ut.us](mailto:john.newman@slc.k12.ut.us))

*Joan of Ark 5* by Sandra Fenichel Asher—teenagers JOAN and MARGARET face the all-powerful leader PETRA and issues of security, knowledge, faith, and technology affecting us right now in this futuristic retelling of the Joan of Arc story. (Contact: Sandy Asher, [sandyasher@earthlink.net](mailto:sandyasher@earthlink.net))

*Sarah* by Max Bush—About a girl who is a cutter, who has visions (Contact: Dramatic Publishing)

*Kara in Black* by Max Bush—About two sisters, one of whom signs up to fight in Iraq and the other who joins a peace movement (Contact: Dramatic Publishing)

*100 Monkeys in Pursuit of an Elusive Butterfly* by Barry Kornhauser-- written in collaboration with Fulton Youtheatre. A butterfly garden at a school for troubled adolescents becomes the site of a hate crime involving anti-Arab sentiment and homophobia. (Contact: Barry Kornhauser, [bkornhauser@thefulton.org](mailto:bkornhauser@thefulton.org))

*Other Doors* by Suzan L. Zeder—A year after the separation of Jeff's parents, the divorce becomes final. Jeff, his parents, and his Grandmother have survived the break-up. Now they must be on with the business of living their lives. (Contact: Anchorage Press)

*Pieces* by Barry Kornhauser—written in collaboration with Fulton Youtheatre, with additional material from "Voices From The Future: Children Speak Out About Violence In America." (Contact: Barry Kornhauser, [bkornhauser@thefulton.org](mailto:bkornhauser@thefulton.org))

*Puzzles* by John Newman—Harper, who has lost his father, bonds with his grandfather, who has suffered a stroke and "lost his alphabet." (Contact: John Newman, [john.newman@slc.k12.ut.us](mailto:john.newman@slc.k12.ut.us))

*Secrets* by Joanna Halpert Kraus—They always planned to tell Lisa she was adopted. Maybe when she was six. Maybe when she was more emotionally mature. Suddenly the 13 year old gets a phone call out of the blue: "Hello, I'm your mother." (Contact: New Plays, Inc.)

*10 X 10*, ed. by Jeff Gottesfeld. 10 playwrights, all writing for teens (Contact: Dramatic Publishing)

*Thinkin' it Over* by Joey Madia—about three high school couples and their experiences with premarital sex and its possible consequences. (Contact: Joey Madia, [joey@newmystics.com](mailto:joey@newmystics.com))

*T-Money and Wolf* by Ric Averill and Kevin Willmott—about bad choices made by a young black street gang member and a young German boy - one gets involved in drugs, the other in the Nazi Hitler Youth. (Contact: Dramatic Publishing)

*To Life: Growing up Jewish in America*, by Sandra Fenichel Asher—teen campers explore the past, present, and future of Jewish life in America; commissioned by Omaha Theater Company for their youth theater troupe and based on stories gathered around the country. (Contact: Sandy Asher, [sandyasher@earthlink.net](mailto:sandyasher@earthlink.net))

*Wrestling Season* by Laurie Brooks—deals with rumor and relationship as though it were all a wrestling match (Contact: Dramatic Publishing)

Other excellent plays for HS students are available in AATE's *Directory of Award-winning Plays* (<http://www.aate.com/AwardPlays.htm>) and *New Plays by Member Playwrights*

(<http://www.aate.com/newplays.htm>)--both list many publishers--and the USA Plays for Kids website (<http://usaplays4kids.drury.edu>).