

Ebell Play Prize: Eligibility

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Who Is Eligible?

- The contest is open to FEMALE RESIDENTS of CALIFORNIA only.
- Ebell of Los Angeles members may submit to the competition.
- Ebell of Los Angeles members may not serve as readers or judges.
- Ebell Board Members may not submit nor serve as readers or judges.
- Employees of the Ebell may not submit nor serve as readers or judges.
- Members of the Ebell Playwright Prize Advisory Board may not submit to the competition.

What Is Eligible?

Please read the rules carefully. Your fee is non-refundable.

1. Play must be full length and in English.
2. Play cannot exceed 95 pages. Chosen play must be cut to 85 pages for the author to accept the Prize and staged reading at the gala. See below.
3. Play must follow standard playwriting format and use 12 pt. Courier font.
4. Play must not have been previously published in print, online or in any public forum.
5. Play must not have received or be scheduled for a professional production before March 6, 2017. **STOP! If your play has received our definition of a Professional Production, it is *not* eligible. Please read our definition below before submitting.** Submission fees are non refundable.
6. Play must not have received an option for development with any theater company or organization prior to March 5, 2017.
7. Play may be submitted concurrently to other competitions unless:
 - a. If money from the other competition secures the rights to the play, then it is not eligible.
 - b. If any other contest requires the winner to sign an option or any professional agreement, the play is *not eligible*.
 - c. If the play wins another competition or is presented to the public prior to March 5, 2017, the play is *not eligible*. If this, please inform us immediately.
 - d. Playwright may continue to market and promote her play without regard to their status in the Ebell contest, unless one of the above occurs. **If it does, please inform us immediately.**

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8. Collaboration: Play must be the original work of two equal collaborators.
 - a. A collaboration is NOT:
 - If X creates the story and Y writes the play, the work is not eligible.
 - If X creates the story and X & Y write the stage play, it is not eligible.
 - If X writes a novel and Y (or X & Y) write a play based on the novel, the work is not eligible.
 - b. One collaborator may complete the application. Once the play is submitted, Partner must verify collaboration. Verification may be submitted after the entry deadline, but the entry will not be processed until verification is complete.
9. Musicals, screenplays, children's plays, translations are not eligible.
10. Adaptations of any published or performed work, as defined above, are not eligible. The intent of the Contest is to identify new playwrights and new works.

JUDGING

Judges Panel and Advisory Board

The Ebell Playwright Prize's judges are women actors and directors who have distinguished themselves in their theatrical community. The Advisory Board is comprised of women theater-industry professionals representing a wide spectrum of interests and perspectives. Advisory Board members do not vote; their primary purpose is to provide insight and further the Prize's core mission of encouraging and celebrating California women playwrights.

Process

- Each correctly-submitted play is assigned a number and its title page placed in a safe. Our readers and judges *never* see the title or author of the play. This guarantees anonymity and objectivity in evaluation.
- All plays are read at least twice in the first round.
- Our first-round readers are men and women working in theater, theater education, development and/or production. They may receive a modest fee to cover their costs and expenses.
- Between five and ten finalists will be selected based on readers' scores and evaluations.
- An all-women panel judges the finalist plays and selects the winner.
- To ensure there is no conflict of interest, Ebell club members, employees, and Ebell Board of Directors *cannot* serve as readers or judges.

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THE READING

The prize-winning play and playwright will be honored with a staged reading and supper at The Ebell of Los Angeles. The Chair of the Ebell Playwriting Contest will choose a director; casting will be at the sole discretion of the director. The presentation will follow the format of a staged reading: actors seated with scripts in hand. Supper follows the reading, to which the prize winner receives four complimentary tickets. (Reading is free).

About Page-length Limit

While plays produced in legitimate theater may run longer than 90 pages/minutes, for the purpose of the Prize, we cannot stage a reading of a play that exceeds 85 pages. The Ebell has been producing staged readings for several years; the ideal play does not exceed 85 pages. We can consider plays up to 95 pages maximum. However, if your play is chosen for the Prize, you will have to cut to 85 pages in order to accept the prize and for us to stage the reading for the gala.

Note current theater trends: Production costs have skyrocketed. Theater producers are looking for shorter plays with smaller production costs. While we want the playwright to write the story in her heart, we encourage her to develop the savvy to work within the constraints of current theater.

Definition of a Professional Production

One might not consider an Equity-waiver or off-Broadway production as 'professional' — the Guild may have little or no involvement, and the cast and crew do not make living wages. However, the Prize's goal is to find undiscovered talent: we want the privilege of being the first to showcase the work and the playwright. So, *for purposes of the Prize*, we define "professional" if any of the following are true:

- tickets were sold to the public
- actors (Equity and/or non-Equity) performed without script in hand
- the play was reviewed

If the above is true of your play, *it is not eligible*. If the above *becomes* true between the time of your submission and the selection of winners, it becomes ineligible. (Please inform us immediately if this happens.)

Conversely, if your play had exposure during development (staged reading, workshop performance, backer's audition), it *might* be eligible. Please [contact us](#) to clarify its eligibility. If your play falls into a gray area and you're not sure, please [contact us](#).

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The Fine Print

The Ebell of Los Angeles reserves the rights to the first presentation of the winning play, but that play shall remain the sole property of its author.

The Contest reserves the right to reject any manuscript for any reason.

In the event that no submitted material is deemed worthy, The Ebell of Los Angeles reserves the right to not award a prize for that year.

The Ebell of Los Angeles reserves the right to present the first staged reading of the winning play, but that play shall remain the sole property of its author.

The Ebell of Los Angeles is a 501(c)(3) California non-profit organization. Monetary donations to the Playwright Prize are fully tax deductible.