

Scirocco DRAMA

Manitoba High School
Playwriting Competition

*Presented by the Manitoba
Association of Playwrights*

We Want Your Plays Again!

The 17th Annual Scirocco Drama Manitoba High School Playwriting Contest!

We're looking for your plays! The Manitoba Association of Playwrights and Scirocco Drama are holding a search for high school students writing plays for the seventeenth year to follow up the great success of last year's sixteenth contest. It's simple: write a short play of about fifteen or twenty minutes, with a minimum of three characters, and send it to the MAP. A panel of theatre professionals will read them and select five.

Students will work with a dramaturge to rewrite scripts as necessary. The plays will be rehearsed in the spring and then produced in late May at the Tom Hendry

Theatre (Warehouse Theatre) with votes from the audience taken each night to decide on the winners! The votes will be tallied and the winners announced on the second night of the two evenings presentation

Plays may be sent by regular mail or plays can be emailed to mbplay@mymts.net. If you want the play returned, please include a self addressed stamped envelope. The entries must be postmarked no later **January 13, 2017**. Those selected will be notified no later than January 27, 2017. Due to volume, only those selected will be notified.

THE RULES (read and follow carefully):

- 1) Plays must be 15–20 minutes in length. This means **10–15 pages** printed in a 12 pt font on 8 1/2 x 11 paper (and please make sure to number your pages). Dialogue must be spaced so that there is an empty line left after each character finishes speaking and before the next one starts (see example dialogue on the next page). Plays that are more than 15 pages, or are not formatted correctly, will not be chosen.
- 2) Plays must have a **minimum of three** characters, and a **maximum of eight** characters.
- 3) Keep in mind the limitations of what is possible to do on stage. Do not include car chases, explosions, people jumping out of airplanes, etc. If your play requires these sorts of things it will likely NOT be chosen.
- 4) You may enter the contest as many times as you wish, but each play can only be submitted once. Do not send us a play that we read and rejected last year. Write a new play and send us that one.
- 5) Playwrights must be available for two workshops (2 – 4 hours long) on weekends in March and April.
- 6) Playwrights must be able to attend at least one of the two performances of their play in June, 2017.
- 7) The cover page of the play **MUST** include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (which you check regularly) name of school and a teacher contact.
- 8) Playwrights must be students attending a high school in Manitoba.

There will be three prizes and two honourable mentions based on the vote by audience. Prizes are: The Cora McKenzie Award for First Place: \$200, 2nd place: \$175, 3rd place: \$150; there will be gift certificates for the two honourable mentions. Thanks to the McKenzie Family for making the awards possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Manitoba Association of Playwrights, 503-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3
Rory Runnells, Artistic Director, 942-8941; fax: 942-1555
email: mbplay@mymts.net • www.mbplays.ca

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SAMPLE DIALOGUE (Use This Format When Typing Your Script):

(DIANE enters the room carrying a bag of groceries. She unpacks them and puts them away as she talks to BILL, who is sitting at the table and drinking a glass of milk.)

DIANE: Hello, Bill.

BILL: Hello, Diane.

DIANE: How are you?

BILL: Okay. I just found out that my play did not get chosen for the Manitoba High School Playwriting Contest.

DIANE: How come?

BILL: It was twenty eight pages long. And I didn't leave any space between the different characters' lines, so the dialogue got all scrunched together and was hard to read. And the play was forty five minutes long instead of fifteen to twenty.

DIANE: That's too bad.

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