



## Scirocco Drama Manitoba High School Playwriting Program

Presented by the Manitoba Association of Playwrights (MAP)  
in partnership with the Manitoba Theatre for Young People Theatre School

# We Want Your Plays!

The Manitoba Association of Playwrights is once again searching for high school students who are interested in writing for the theatre. It's simple; write a short play, and send it to MAP. A panel of theatre professionals will select the successful applicants for this **free** program. And then the fun begins!

Each playwright will work with a professional dramaturg (a playwright's best friend and help mate) in a safe and supportive environment to develop their plays. The playwrights will have the opportunity to hear their plays read by acting students, to help guide their re-writes, and there will be a final presentation where the playwrights can share their work with friends and family. We are delighted that the development workshop and the final presentation will once again be supported by the **Manitoba Theatre for Young People Theatre School!**

This is an excellent opportunity to experience a professionally guided play development process, to work with actors, and to see your story come to life.

Plays can be sent by email to [mbplayoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:mbplayoutreach@gmail.com). The deadline for entries is **Friday, January 9th, 2026**. The selected program participants will be notified by mid-to late February, 2026. Due to the number of anticipated applications, only those selected for the program will be notified.

Happy writing!

**Application Deadline - Friday, January 9th, 2026**  
**Please see the next page for the competition rules & guidelines ...**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Manitoba Association of Playwrights, 503-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3  
Brian Drader, Artistic Manager  
email: [mbplayoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:mbplayoutreach@gmail.com) • [www.mbplays.ca](http://www.mbplays.ca)

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### **APPLICATION GUIDELINES (read and follow carefully!):**

- 1) Plays must be between 10 and 30 minutes in length. As a general guide, a properly formatted script is usually 1 & 1/2 to 2 minutes a page, 12 pt font, 8 1/2 x 11 paper. Please note that monologues take a lot of stage time! A full page monologue can be as much as 4 or 5 minutes long. **It's a good idea to read your play out loud and time it to get a sense of how long it is.** Plays that are too long cannot be accommodated in the program.

Please number your pages.

Please see the example dialogue on the next page for proper formatting.

- 2) Plays must have a minimum of two characters, and a maximum of six characters.
- 3) Keep in mind that these are plays intended for the stage. Anything can be done in theatre, but you're best to avoid events and action in your play that would work better in film (car chases, explosions, etc.), and concentrate on the people in your story, and what they want.
- 4) Playwrights who have entered this competition in prior years are welcome to enter again. But please don't send us a play that was entered before. Write something new!
- 5) The cover page of your play **MUST include** your name, address, telephone number, email address, name of your school, and a teacher contact.
- 6) Playwrights must be students attending a high school in Manitoba.
- 7) Please be aware that the selected applicants should anticipate devoting considerable extracurricular time to the development process between February and June of 2026. It'll be fun, and worth it, but it requires your investment in the process.

**Please see the next page for a sample of script formatting ...**

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## SAMPLE DIALOGUE *(Use this format when typing your script):*

*(DIANE enters the school cafeteria and sees BILL sitting alone at one of the tables, looking depressed.)*

DIANE: Bill?

BILL: Hey Diane.

DIANE: What's wrong?

BILL: I just found out that I wasn't chosen for the Manitoba High School Playwriting Program.

DIANE: Ah Bill, I'm sorry to hear that. Do you know why?

BILL: Yeah, I think so. I went back and checked the entry guidelines, and my play was 45 pages and when I read it out loud, which I should have done before I entered it I guess, it was over an hour long. And the plays are supposed to be between 10 and 30 minutes. So ... yeah, I guess I get it.

DIANE: Do you still like the story you wrote?

BILL: For sure!

DIANE: You should keep working on it then. And maybe write something new and try again next year.

BILL: Yeah, I'm going to do that. And I'll read the guidelines more carefully next time.

DIANE: Live and learn ...

*(Lights fade to black)*

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