

Dubuque Fine Arts Players

National One-Act Playwriting Contest

The Dubuque Fine Arts Players (DFAP), in existence since 1977, invites submissions of original manuscripts for its annual **National One-Act Playwriting Contest**. The top three winning playwrights will be awarded cash prizes of \$600, \$300, and \$200. In addition, the winning plays may be staged in full production, if they can be produced in Dubuque.

Concentrate on character, relationships, and a good story. Large casts, multiple sets and scenes, and prop-heavy shows are strongly discouraged, but not prohibited.

The DFAP is a non-profit organization relying solely on volunteers to read, evaluate, and produce the plays. All monies from donations, entry fees, and ticket sales go towards productions, prizes, and expenses of the organization.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Each play submitted must be accompanied by:
 - a. One completed entry form
 - b. An entry fee of \$20 per play submitted online (\$15 if mailed)
(One check may be written to cover all the plays you submit, but must total \$20 per play, or \$40 for 2 plays, etc.)
 - c. Two copies (each in a separate folder) of each play submitted if mailed.
2. Send an SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) to receive evaluations and suggestions from our readers. If you want your plays returned as well, send a SASE with enough postage. It may be simpler (and about the same cost) to keep a copy of your play, to be recopied if you need it later, and send us only a regular size SASE for results of the contest and evaluations of your play.
3. Entries must be original, unproduced one-acts of no more than 35 pages (or 40 minutes running time). No children's plays, musicals, or adaptations of works not in the public domain (unless the playwright has written permission from the original author for the adaptation) will be accepted.
4. Each copy of each entry should be in a protective folder (cheap paper folders with pockets or fasteners are fine). The playwright's name, address, etc., should not appear anywhere on the script or folder. Plays will be number coded for the purposes of evaluation.
5. Please include a one-paragraph synopsis of the play and/or your reasons for writing it.
6. Entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, to be entered in this year's contest.
7. During the contest, no inquiries about the status of a play will be answered. If an SASE or postcard is sent with the play/or plays, we will return it to acknowledge receipt of your manuscripts. Results of the play contest, as well as evaluation sheets filled out by our readers on your play, should reach you sometime in June.
8. The DFAP shall have first rights to produce the winning entries, as well as the right to use photographic and video materials made during production of the winning plays, for the promotion of future contests without the payment of royalties or licensing fees, so long as direct profits are not made from said photos or videos.
9. An individual may enter more than one script and win more than one prize in one year. Previous winners are encouraged to submit again.
10. The DFAP reserves the right to turn down any entry for not following these guidelines.
11. **Important Criteria in our Evaluation of Plays:**

Plot: Does the play tell an interesting, well-developed story? Do events lead to a plausible, satisfying climax? Is the reason for the conflict clear?

Characters: Are they real, engaging and worth the audience's time? Do they grow or change in believable ways?

Theme: Is it universal? Does it motivate or involve all the characters?

Style: Does the style of the play fit the ideas you want to get across? Is it built around a gimmick and nothing else? Does it work? (Our audiences rarely appreciate explicit sex and/or excessive use of profanity without just cause.)

Economy of Production: Is the cast workable (2-5 cast members)? How many scenes (one preferred) or sets (one preferred)? How long will it run (less than 40 minutes)?

Address All Entries and Correspondence to:

DFAP Contest

PO Box 1160

Dubuque, IA 52004-1160

Email: contact@dbqoneacts.org