

DRAMATURG JOB DESCRIPTION

AACT NEWPLAYFEST 2024

AACT will select a dramaturg as a part of the process of bringing a NewPlayFest play to the stage. For this purpose, the **dramaturg is a literary editor who liaises with authors and edits texts**. Additionally, the dramaturg facilitates clear communication between the producing theatre and the playwright.

SCRIPT SELECTION

Once the top twelve plays are selected by the third tier of readers and before the six producing theatres select from that list, all plays will be sent to the dramaturg for review. This will allow the dramaturg time to begin considering edits prior to the final selection process.

- The dramaturg will not communicate with playwrights until their plays have been selected for production.
- If producing companies wish assistance choosing a play, we can extend them that advice. If requested, the dramaturg may consult with producing companies to advise their selection of a play.

SCRIPT EDITING

Once the six plays have been selected, the dramaturg will initiate conversations with the playwright regarding editing. At this phase in the process, the producing theatre will be advised of any changes, but will not weigh in.

- The guiding principle in editing a script is **the playwright has the final word**.
- The dramaturg may make suggestions regarding grammar, possible cuts and offer options for other adjustments that tighten the story or assist with ease of production.
- The dramaturg will not rewrite any portion of the script.
 - All editing in this phase will be complete three weeks prior to auditions for the play.

WORKSHOP

Three weeks prior to opening, the producing theatre agrees to host a workshop of the play, fully blocked. This workshop will be at least three days, although a longer time may be arranged. The dramaturg and playwright will attend.

During the workshop:

- The producing theatre's director and actors may discuss with the author:
 - o Design issues affected by the construction of the play (i.e. no time for a costume change, overwhelming scene shifts, etc.).
 - o Dialogue not easily managed (i.e. either a tongue-twister or line that does not sound conversational).
 - o Plot inconsistencies.
 - o Character questions.
- The author may communicate with the producing company's director and actors:
 - o Concerns regarding any design element the producing company will use that does not match the play's intention.
 - o Misinterpretation of character.

o Line adjustments made after hearing the flow of the play.

During the workshop:

- Rewrites may be requested by the company; however, the final decision is up to the playwright.
- Rewrites may be offered by the playwright; however, not the addition of new scenes or new characters unless all parties agree.
- All rewrites must be accommodated by the producing company. • Producing companies agree to attempt to realize the author's suggestions but need not extend their budget, increase rehearsal time, or recast.

AACT NewPlayFest 2024 Dramaturg Information

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