ATHÉ Award for Excellence in Playwriting

The Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHÉ) is pleased to announce the fourth year of the ATHÉ Award for Excellence in Playwriting. The award honors a new play marked by sophisticated and nuanced storytelling, with the potential to make a major artistic impact on contemporary theatre.

Plays must have been written during the two years preceding the upcoming national conference (August 2018) by playwrights engaged with an institution of higher education (be it student, faculty, artist in residence, guest artist, etc.) during that time period. Only full-length plays, in Samuel French Playwriting Format, may be nominated for this award. Self-nominations and nominations from ATHÉ members are permitted. Only one play may be submitted per playwright in any given year. The plays can be produced or unproduced, but must be unpublished.

Qualifying plays should be submitted to email: aepsubmissions@gmail.com. No submission fees are required. The winning playwright is expected to attend the ATHE Conference and participate in a development workshop and staged reading of the play. The conference takes place August 1-5, 2018 in Boston, MA. The playwright will receive conference registration, four nights in the conference hotel, $500 towards travel expenses (reimbursement), and a one-year membership in the Dramatists Guild. Additionally, the winner will receive a plaque at the annual ATHE Awards Celebration and attend a reception.

Submission Guidelines

- Electronic submissions are required. Word, PDF, and Rich Text formats preferred.
- Samuel French script formatting required.
- Submission will be limited to the first 150 received.
- Although we do permit the submission of musicals, the limitations of staff and resources will make it difficult for us to workshop such material.
- We do not accept screenplays.
- Your play must not include material that you do not have permission to use.
- Your play must not be previously published.
- Previous production of your script is allowed.
- Do not submit a play that is incomplete, unfinished, or a rough draft. Send us the entire completed play.
- The ATHE Award for Excellence in Playwriting committee has no problem with you submitting your play to other competitions simultaneously.
- Plays must be full-length. The rule of thumb is that plays under an hour are not full length.
- The screening for the award will be done by blind reading. Therefore we require that names and contact information only appear on a separate cover page. The readers for the award will not receive the cover page.
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Please include:

- A Cover sheet with the name of the play, your name as you expect to see it on publicity material, and contact information.
- A brief synopsis of the play
- A rough casting breakdown (3M, 4W)
- Brief descriptions of the characters.
- Pertinent production notes.

Please submit here: aepsubmissions@gmail.com For further information contact Charlene Donaghy at aepsubmissions@gmail.com or cdonaghy@unomaha.edu.

Deadline: November 12, 2017.