About the Festival

Premiere Stages is committed to supporting emerging and regional playwrights by developing and producing new plays. Since 2005, Premiere Stages’ Play Festival has offered playwrights the opportunity to develop their work in an encouraging, focused environment through discussions, rehearsals, readings, and full Equity productions. Through our Play Festival script competition, Premiere Stages offers four playwrights public Equity readings each year. Following the readings, two plays are selected to enter an intensive development phase, where writers work with a director, dramaturg, and design team to develop the script for a staged workshop or full Equity production only a few months later. Our uniquely accelerated process enables writers to have previously unproduced plays developed and fully produced within one year of submission. When we find a writer we believe in, our Play Festival allows us to fully commit the time, talent and resources necessary to share their work with a broad regional audience.

Play Festival Details

From October 1, 2015 through January 3, 2016, Premiere Stages will accept submissions of unproduced plays (previous readings, workshops, and showcases are acceptable) written by playwrights born or currently residing in the greater metropolitan area (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania). All plays submitted to the festival are evaluated by a professional panel of theatre producers, dramaturgs, playwrights, scholars and publishers. Our panel selects four finalists who will be given public readings with Equity casts in March 2016. Following the March readings, the panel selects the festival winner, who will receive a full Equity production in the Premiere Stages 2016 Mainstage Season and an award of $2000. The runner-up receives a 29-hour staged reading and $750. Our two other finalists will be awarded $500.

We also strive to facilitate relationships between writers and theater professionals who we think will respond to their work, in hopes that plays developed at Premiere will go on to subsequent productions throughout the country. All of the plays we produce retain the coveted “World Premiere” brand on their plays. Additionally, Premiere’s productions are consistently reviewed by the New York Times and scouted by major publishing houses, and multiple Festival plays have been honored by the American Theatre Critics Association. Our 2015 Play Festival winner was also featured in American Theatre Magazine and on NPR’s “All Things Considered.”

About Premiere Stages

Premiere Stages is a professional theater company in residence at Kean University in Union, NJ (30 minutes from New York City and an hour from Philadelphia). Through the Premiere Play Festival, Premiere Stages has developed many new plays that have gone on to have successful productions in New York and regional theaters throughout the country. Some of the writers whose work we have developed include: Dominique Morisseau, Keith Josef Adkins, Rogelio Martinez, Kimber Lee, Lindsey Ferrentino, Guillermo Reyes, Erik Gernand, Kathryn Grant, Willy Holtzman, Tammy Ryan, George Brant, David Caudle, Hal Corley, and Michael Hollinger. Premiere Stages has also produced many critically acclaimed New Jersey Premieres, bringing exciting contemporary plays to our local audiences in Union County. For more information about the Premiere Play Festival, please visit: www.kean.edu/premierestages.

For full submission guidelines, see the following page.
Submission Guidelines

Premiere Stages seeks to support a diverse group of writers. We are particularly interested in scripts that explore or address contemporary issues and tackle topics that challenge and connect with our audience. We encourage writers to view our production history: [http://www.kean.edu/premierestages/past14.php](http://www.kean.edu/premierestages/past14.php) for a better understanding of the type of scripts that we have produced in the past.

Agent/Theatre Professional Submissions

Premiere Stages will accept full scripts from literary agents or theatre professionals with an affiliation to Premiere Stages. All other writers are required to submit a 10-page script sample and synopsis.

- Plays **must** be full-length and have a cast size of **no more than eight**.
- Plays submitted **must** be unpublished and must be works that have not been previously produced (readings, workshops, showcases are okay).
- Plays **must** be written by playwrights who were born or reside in the greater metropolitan area (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania).
- Musical Submissions, adaptations, and solo-shows will not be considered at this time.
- Submissions are limited to one script per playwright.
- Submissions are due by **11:59pm on January 3, 2016. All plays must be submitted electronically, attached as a PDF. Hard copies will not be accepted.**
- Plays and synopses will be evaluated by a panel of arts professionals. The panel will submit their recommendations to the Producing Artistic Director and Literary staff. The panel will request full scripts from synopses of interest.

For any questions regarding the submission guidelines, please email us at **premiere@kean.edu**.

Submissions should be sent via email to: **pfsubmit@kean.edu**.

All materials should be attached as PDF.
2016 Premiere Play Festival Schedule:

October 1, 2015: Premiere Stages begins accepting submissions

January 3, 2016: Deadline for submissions to Festival.

Early March 2016: Four finalists are selected.

March 10-13, 2016: Play Festival readings.

April 2016: Festival winner and runner-up are selected for expanded development.

April-September 2016: Continued script development.

June 17-19, 2016: 29-hour Staged Reading of Runner-up.

September 2016: Full Production of Festival Winner.