

American Association of Community Theatre
AACT NewPlayFest 2026 | Producing Theatre Contract

This agreement is between _____
("Producer"), and the American Association of Community Theatre ("AACT").

Producer understands, agrees, and consents to participate in the AACT NewPlayFest program as a Producing Theatre as follows:

1. Rank the plays that reach the final round, indicating the Producer's top four (4) choices for a production at the Producer's theatre. Producer will receive access to the scripts by January 1, 2025. Producers' rankings are to be received by AACT by February 1, 2025. AACT will endeavor to assign Producer one of its top three (3) choices, but Producer understands no two theatres will be assigned the same play ("Play"). AACT's decision on assignments is final.
2. Produce the assigned Play on the theatre's main stage with full production values—appropriate sets, costumes, lighting, sound, props—to realize the script as professionally as possible. A full production includes auditions, casting, rehearsals, and performances of the Play with audiences in attendance.
3. Perform the Play in its main stage season between June 2025 and December 2026. Notify AACT and the Playwright of performance days/month/year by May 1, 2025, or 90 days prior to the world premiere.
4. Present a minimum of three (3) performances of Play and pay a royalty of \$75 per performance to the Playwright, via a check made payable to the Playwright.
5. In collaboration with an AACT selected dramaturg ("Dramaturg"), communicate with the Playwright prior to and during the production process. Host a workshop of the script with the Playwright, the Dramaturg, Director and Cast of the production. The workshop will last three days and should include a fully-blocked runthrough, scheduled approximately three or more weeks before the opening performance. Provide housing and transportation (within reasonable costs) to the workshop for the Playwright. (AACT will cover the cost of the Dramaturg.)
6. Warrant the Producer will make no changes, alterations, and/or omissions to the Play, unless written consent of the Playwright is obtained. All such changes shall become sole and exclusive property of the Playwright.
7. Bring in the Playwright for the opening performance and related festivities, providing housing and transportation.
8. Provide complimentary tickets and other hospitality for the opening performance and festivities for AACT staff and representatives of the AACT NewPlayFest program partners: Dramatic Publishing, and the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation.
9. Give the Playwright authorship credit in programs, and in advertisements of the Play. Advertise the production as part of AACT NewPlayFest by including the AACT logo, and the name "American Association of Community Theatre" (which may be part of the logo). Credit AACT NewPlayFest in all programs and promotions, including online, print, and other media.
10. Include pages in the Play's program specifically designated for copy and graphics about AACT, AACT NewPlayFest, and the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Foundation. This information will be provided to the Producer by AACT.
11. Assist AACT in publicizing AACT NewPlayFest nationally, including providing AACT with performance dates, photos, and other information as requested in a timely manner.
12. Determine and be responsible for funding the Production budget, including admission fees, quality production values, marketing/promotion, opening festivities, workshop costs, and Playwright travel and lodging for both the workshop and opening night. The Ayre Theatre Foundation will award the Producer \$4000 on opening night of the world premiere of the Play.
13. Arrange for the public awarding of the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation check either prior to or immediately following opening night performance.
14. Maintain AACT membership and nonprofit status while participating in the current cycle of AACT NewPlayFest.
15. The Producer shall not:
 - a. Post any text or video portion of the Play on any website, except for still production photos, without the express written consent of the Playwright.
 - b. Copy and/or distribute a recorded version of the Play, or any part of it, digitally or by any other medium, whether for payment or for free, without the express written consent of the Playwright. This includes

offering archival copies of the recorded version to members of the production team, cast, producing organization, and/or media.

16. Producer understands AACT is not responsible for the quality or the artistic decisions of the Producer, and releases AACT, its officers, executives, employees, and board from any liability therefore.
17. Producer understands it has no subsidiary rights to the Play (i.e. no rights to future earnings of the Playwright from the Play).

AACT agrees to:

1. Conduct national NewPlayFest contest, including script solicitation, use of qualified and diverse reviewers, tabulation of scores, and announcement of the selection of producing theatres and winning scripts/playwrights.
2. Negotiate participation and support of AACT NewPlayFest Program Partners: Dramatic Publishing Company and the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation.
3. Execute contracts with producing theatres and winning playwrights.
4. Contract with the Playwright(s) for the AACT NewPlayFest production to be the world premiere and for the Producer to receive "original production" credit in any future published scripts.
5. Facilitate workshopping of the script by providing a qualified dramaturg to guide theatres and playwrights through the process.
6. Compile and publish a calendar of AACT NewPlayFest productions.
7. Provide national promotion via websites, e-promos, social media, and news releases.
8. Provide news release templates and guidance/assistance (as needed) for local promotion.
9. Send one or more national AACT representatives to the opening festivities to add credibility and prestige to the occasion. This representative will be available to meet with producing theatre management, staff and patrons, and will participate in media opportunities as needed.
10. Promote sale of the AACT NewPlayFest anthology containing the winning scripts.

This agreement is validated by the authorized signature of the parties hereto:

Producer's Signature (President/Executive Director)

Date

Printed Name

Position in Producing Theatre

Producer's Email Address

Producer's Primary Phone Number

Quiana Clark-Roland, Executive Director

Date

Email Address

Phone