

DOBAMA THEATRE'S MISSION

To premiere the best contemporary plays by established and emerging playwrights. Through its educational programming, Dobama Theatre nurtures the development of theatre artists and builds new audiences for the arts while provoking an examination of our contemporary world.

HISTORY OF MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS' PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

The Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting festival, the first event of its kind in the country, inspires the creation of plays by area first through twelfth graders. Created in 1977, the Festival pays homage to co-founder Marilyn Bianchi and encourages and rewards the creative expression of hundreds of Cuyahoga County students. During her final five years, Marilyn did the work she loved most: reaching out to help Cleveland children find their own lives and discover their worth. Each thing Marilyn touched became a vibrant statement of life, and the echo of her laughter shapes this festival.

INFO	MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS' PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL	DOBAMA YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS COMPETITION
APPLICANT AGE	GRADES 1-12 <i>Grades 6-12 are automatically entered into DYPC</i>	grade 6 thru college undergraduate
PLAY REQUIREMENT	GRADES 1-5: 3-10 minutes GRADES 6-8: 7-15 minutes GRADES 9-12: 10-30 minutes	10-30 minutes
APPLICATION DEADLINE	March 1, 2012	March 1, 2012
PERFORMANCE DATES	June 2 or 3, 2012	June 7-10, 2012
AWARDS	Play performed in staged reading by professional actors; bound copy of script; cake reception after performance; photos from reading	\$250 prize; Play professionally produced; re-writes with professional artists; bound copy of script; photos from production

DOBAMA THEATRE

At the Heights Library
2340 Lee Road
Cleveland Hts, OH 44118

For more information,
visit our website at dobama.org

216.932.3396

DOBAMA THEATRE



MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS' PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS COMPETITION

MARILYN BIANCHI KIDS' PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL (MBKPF)

WHAT SHOULD THE PLAYS BE ABOUT?

Plays can be about anything you want them to be about as long as YOU are the one who writes it! Your play must be original, and you must write it on your own. Please don't adapt other books or plays, or use a plot you saw in a movie or on television. The play may be of any genre (comedy, drama, mystery, fantasy). Remember some ingredients that can make a good play: interesting characters, relationships, situations, surprise ending, plays that have a larger meaning, funny lines, etc. Adults can offer advice such as "This play doesn't have an ending" or "I don't understand what's happening here" but they should not help with the story line, characters, or dialogue.

HOW LONG SHOULD THE PLAYS BE?

- For grades 1-5: 3 to 10 minutes
- For grades 6-8: 7 to 15 minutes
- For grades 9-12: 10 to 30 minutes

WHEN DO I SEND MY SCRIPT IN?

Send your script in at any time, but the deadline is March 1, 2012

WHO CAN ENTER?

Anyone in grades 1 thru 12, who lives in Cuyahoga County, can submit a play. You can attend private or public school, or be home-schooled. Students in grades 6 and up will automatically also be entered in the Dobama Young Playwrights Competition (see DYPC details).

HOW DO I PREPARE MY PLAY FOR ENTRY?

Send in your typed play (handwritten plays will not be accepted; adults may help younger students type their play). Complete and sign the application form and send it in with your play. Please make sure that each page of the play is numbered and also contains the name of the play. Your name and age should ONLY be listed on the title page of your play. Do not include your name on any other page of the play. If you would like to receive feedback on your play with judges' comments, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Plays will not be returned. Make sure you also save the electronic version of your play that can be emailed if your play is selected as a winner in Dobama Young Playwrights events.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SEND MY SCRIPT?

Each play is read and evaluated. Winners are chosen in each grade category for MBKPF and DYPC. If you are a winner, you will be notified by May 1, 2012.

AWARDS

Winners:

- Will have their play performed in staged reading by professional actors
- Receive a bound copy of the script
- Receive photos from the reading
- Will enjoy a Cake reception after performance

WHAT IS A STAGED READING?

For the MBKPF, the staged readings will have been rehearsed by trained actors (many of whom are professional) who will read from your script and perform the action in the play. While these readings will not be full productions, there will be some props, lights, and costumes, and most importantly, the audience will get to experience your story!

QUESTIONS? Email us at: youngplaywrights@dobama.org

DOBAMA YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS COMPETITION (DYPC)

MISSION

To identify, cultivate, promote, and motivate young playwrights in the pre-professional phase of their careers through the process of working with theatre professionals and through the experience of seeing their words come to life on stage in a professional production.

HOW TO APPLY

You should email or send a hard copy of your typed play and completed application by March 1, 2012. Double check that you have fully completed and signed the application form before sending it in with your play (this includes the play synopsis). Please make sure that each page of the play is numbered and also contains the name of the play. Your name and age should ONLY be listed on the title page of your play. Do not include your name on any other page of the play. Your play should have a title page and list of characters.

Students in grades 6 and up will automatically also be entered in the Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival (see MBKPF details).

Send a typed copy of your play with the application form to:

Dobama Young Playwrights
c/o Dobama Theatre
2340 Lee Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

-or-
email us at:
youngplaywrights@dobama.org

ABOUT YOUR PLAY

Plays should be at least 10 minutes in length and no longer than 30 minutes. Your play must be original, and you must write it on your own. Please don't adapt other books or plays, or use a plot you saw in a movie or on television. The play may be of any genre: comedy, drama, mystery, fantasy. Advisors (i.e: teachers, parents) can offer advice such as "This play doesn't have an ending" or "I don't understand what's happening here" but they should not help with the story line, characters, or dialogue.

SELECTION PROCESS

Finalists will be selected and contacted via phone for an interview. After those phone interviews, winners are chosen and those playwrights will meet (or via phone/ Skype if necessary for winners in college) with professional playwrights from Dobama's Playwrights' Gym to discuss their play and re-work their pieces. There will be at least one winner from each of three grade categories: 6-9, 10-12, and college. There is no set number of total winners, but enough plays will be selected for a 70-120 minute performance. Once a working draft of each play is completed, production will begin for DYPC performances featuring professional designers, actors, and directors.

AWARDS

Winners:

- Receive a \$250 prize
- Get their play professionally produced at Dobama Theatre
- Work with professional playwrights to revise their play
- Get their work publicized in the Cleveland area
- Receive photos from the production
- Receive a bound copy of their play.

QUESTIONS?

Email us at: youngplaywrights@dobama.org

