



2025 FLORIDA FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Founded in 2002, The Winter Park Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, professional musical theatre dedicated to building community and enhancing the quality of life for Central Florida residents and visitors through professional musical theatre experiences that are accessible, inclusive, uplifting and inspiring. The theatre has 123 seats and provides an intimate, up-close-and-personal experience.

The Playhouse launched the Florida Festival of New Musicals in 2017 to foster the development of new musicals and support the artistic growth of writers and composers. It is the only new musical festival in Florida and has an excellent reputation as a high-quality event. The four-day event features 18 one-hour professional readings of six brand new musicals from around the world.

A. Eligibility:

1. The musical must be a new work that has never had a fully staged/mounted production and is not licensed through any licensing house.
2. The musical's entire script and score must be ready to submit for evaluation. Due to the time constraints of the Festival, the first act (one hour or less) of the show will be presented.
3. The musical must have a demo that represents the musical style of the show.
4. The musical must have full underlying rights clearance for any pre-existing material used in the script and score.

B. Application:

1. **There are no application fees or other fees involved.**
2. The application must be submitted no later than September 13, 2024.
3. Send materials and application to festival@winterparkplayhouse.org with "FFNM Application/<Title of Show>" in the subject line.
4. All submissions must include the following components to be considered:
 - Marketing/Press Info Form.
 - Complete character breakdowns including specific vocal ranges.
 - Numbered pages.
 - Unattributed author's note, if applicable.
 - Link to script/score in PDF format.
 - Link to music demos.
 - Demo track numbers written in the script that correspond to the appropriate track to be played when reading.

- Demo recordings should be in mp3 or wav format (a link to Soundcloud or other hosting service is okay but not preferred), include track listings, and demonstrate an accurate current representation of the music and lyrics as presented in the script and score, highlighting the scope and depth of the score, in a **quality recording with clear vocals and accompaniment**. This doesn't have to be a fully produced professional demo - it can be the composer at the piano (or with a guitar) as long as it demonstrates the style and feel of the music as writers wish it to sound. The closer the demo resembles the score, the better as it is a HIGHLY useful tool for Music Directors to send to the cast prior to rehearsals to help them become familiar with the music.

C. Proof of Rights:

1. Submit a letter from the creators that the musical is original, is not licensed and has not been independently produced.
2. If the new musical contains any copyrighted material, submit a signed letter from the authors and underlying rights representatives stating the rights have been secured.
3. If there is material that is now in the public domain, submit a letter stating when the material entered the public domain.

D. Requirements for Final Six Selected Musicals:

1. Provide a final script & score of the 1st Act (one hour or less) of the musical integrated into one book ([see example](#)). No significant alterations to the script or score can be made at this point. All pages must be numbered consecutively, and all stage directions, dialogue and underscoring included. If dialogue occurs during a song or underscore, it must be fully written in the score. ***Note: A one-hour reading typically equates to a 60-page integrated script and score.**
2. Provide a properly formatted full Piano-Vocal score with measure numbers and metronome markings for reference. Please double-check improper enharmonic spellings, odd tempo markings, odd beaming, awkward fingerings for pianists, etc. The clearer the score, the stronger the reading since there will be one piano and 15 hours of rehearsals for each musical.
3. Provide access to the score in Finale/ Sibelius/ Dorico or XML files **if possible**. Although not required, it is VERY useful for the Music Directors.
4. Provide a detailed breakdown of which role(s) can be doubled during the reading if the musical features more than ten characters. Due to space and budget limitations, no more than ten actors will perform in each reading.
5. Provide bios and photos of each member of the Writing Team to utilize in press and show programs.

E. Royalties:

1. **The Playhouse will pay a total royalty fee of \$150 (\$50 per reading) for each musical featured in the festival.** Checks will be written to one designated member of the Writing Team and distributed the week of the festival.

F. Travel & Housing:

1. Attendance at the festival is not required but is recommended as it is extremely beneficial for one or more members of the Writing Team to observe the audience reaction and engage in open dialogue with audiences, writers and artists. **To assist with travel costs, one \$350 travel stipend will be provided to each Writing Team traveling more than 50 miles to participate in the festival.**
2. The Playhouse is not able to provide housing but there are local hotel partners that offer discounted rates during the festival.

G. Creative Team & Casting:

1. The Playhouse will provide the Creative Team (Directors, Music Directors & Stage Managers) for each musical. They are all highly qualified professionals with extensive theatrical backgrounds who live and work in Central Florida. The Playhouse will send the Creative Team's resumes and contact information to the Writing Team to facilitate open and ongoing communication throughout the festival process.
2. The Playhouse will conduct and film the annual general auditions as well as accept video submissions for the festival. Links to the audition videos will be shared with Writing Teams who may provide casting input to the Creative Team. Because there is limited time to cast the six festival shows and many factors that affect final casting decisions (actor availability, scheduling conflicts, etc.), the Writing Team's casting choices cannot be guaranteed.

H. Rehearsals:

1. Each musical will have fifteen hours of rehearsal (three 5-hour rehearsals) over a three-week period. Writing Teams will be permitted to attend the rehearsals to observe and answer questions. Due to extremely limited rehearsal time, no significant changes to the script or score may be made.
2. There will be one 2 ½ hour tech rehearsal the week of the festival which is strictly for the Technical Team and not a full rehearsal.
3. Any feedback The Writing Team wishes to convey should be communicated to the Stage Manager following each rehearsal.
4. If the reading is running longer than one hour, the Creative Team will consult with the Writing Team to make necessary adjustments/cuts.

I. Contact Info:

festival@winterparkplayhouse.org

www.winterparkplayhouse.org

711 Orange Avenue, Suite B & C Winter Park, FL 32789

The Winter Park Playhouse is a registered 501 (c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and a professional theatre proudly affiliated with Actors' Equity Association and The National Alliance for Musical Theatre.