Old Miner TYA Playwriting Contest 2027

SPONSORED BY THE THEATRE FOR YOUTH AND EDUCATION (TYE) CENTER AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

WANTED:

A NEW PLAY FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES AND/OR YOUNG ACTORS
$500 CASH PRIZE

SUBMISSION DEADLINE JANUARY 8, 2027

The Theatre for Youth and Education (TYE) Center at Utah Valley University is holding its twelfth annual Old Miner's TYA Playwriting Contest. This year, we will be selecting a play for young audiences and/or actors by a Utah-based playwright who lives within driving distance of UVU's Main Campus in Orem. The selected play will be workshopped by students in the Theatre for Children and Youth course in April 2027. The writer will be required to participate in two on-campus rehearsals and an in-class reading in April. The winning playwright, whose script is selected by UVU students through a blind read, will receive a $500 cash prize.

TIMELINE:

- **Friday, January 8, 2027:** Deadline for script submissions
- **Friday, February 26, 2027:** Winning playwright will be notified
- **April, 2027:** Playwright will participate in two on-campus rehearsals plus an in-class reading, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 15 at 11:30am.

The Old Miner's TYA Playwriting Contest is named for Tom Norris, grandfather of Joan Norris, who funded the contest for the first five years. Tom was born Janaury 2, 1920, in Caliente, Nevada. Growing up during the Depression as the oldest of seven children, Tom was well acquainted with poverty. He had one ambition in life: to make a million dollars. He did so, several times over, in the mines of Battle Mountain, Nevada. Once he accomplished his goal, he realized that working hard to make the money was more fun than having it. Tom never spent much money on himself, but was generous to the community around him, especially to the children. He never received a college education, but he was a voracious reader and passionate learner. He wanted to make sure the children in his community got the best education, were knowledgeable about world events, and learned to think for themselves. Tom was an avid debater and prolific writer of letters to the editor, which he always signed as "The Old Miner."

Old Miner Children's Playwriting Contest 2027
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

WHO MAY SUBMIT:

1. Submitting playwrights must be 18 years or older; younger playwrights are encouraged to participate in AATE's Utah Playwrights for Change contest, facilitated by the TYE Center.
2. UVU faculty, staff, and students are eligible, except for TYE Center full-time staff.
3. Each playwright may submit only one play for consideration.
4. The play must be authored by only one playwright.
5. Previous submissions to Old Miner are eligible provided substantial changes have been made since their prior submission.

CONTENT & FORMAT:

6. Scripts must be appropriate for performance for and/or by young people in kindergarten through 12th grade – no play is expected to appeal to or be appropriate for that full age range.
7. Musicals will NOT be accepted, as we don't have the means to develop and present them.
8. Adaptations of published novels and picture books currently under copyright are NOT eligible. Adaptations of historical materials, journals, and other public domain material, including novels and stories in the public domain, ARE acceptable.
9. The script must be unpublished and must not have had a full production or be committed to a full production. One or more staged readings are allowable, provided that the play is continuing to be revised and refined.

SCRIPT SPECIFICATIONS:

10. The script must be able to be read by an ensemble of no more than 6 actors.
11. The reading time of the script is limited to 60 minutes, though the script itself may be longer.

SUBMISSION OF THE MANUSCRIPT:

12. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically to **tyecenter@uvu.edu** as a Word or pdf email attachment. No Google Docs, please.
13. The playwright's name must NOT appear on the manuscript to ensure a blind reading.
14. **Scripts must include a cast list and a brief synopsis of up to 250 words**.
15. Supporting materials (reviews, publicity, etc.) should not accompany the submission.

SUBMISSION OF THE ENTRY FORM:

16. Complete the official entry form and attach it as a separate file to an email to tyecenter@uvu.edu.
17. If the script is longer than 60 minutes, the entry form should indicate which 60 pages would be rehearsed and presented.
18. All submissions will be acknowledged by email.
19. Scripts must be received electronically by **11:59 p.m. (MST) Friday, January 8, 2027.** All submissions must be sent by email. Late submissions will not be accepted.

TIMETABLE:

20. All submissions will be acknowledged by email.
21. The selected **playwright will be notified by February 26, 2027,** and all entering playwrights will be notified of the winning play and playwright.
22. Playwrights may choose to receive their feedback sheets, if desired, shortly thereafter.
23. Submissions not adhering to the official guidelines will be deemed ineligible.

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

Submissions are encouraged by writers of all identities. The TYE Center is willing to support the recruitment and compensation of community actors from outside of the students in the class if the script requires one or more actors of a specific race or identity not represented by the students in the class.

Questions? Contact the TYE Center via the TYE Center email, tyecenter@uvu.edu

Old Miner Children's Playwriting Contest
2027 ENTRY FORM: Due Jan 8, 2027

PLAYWRIGHT NAME: PLAY TITLE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

BACKUP EMAIL ADDRESS (optional):

CELL/TEXT NUMBER (for emergency contact during the rehearsal process):

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO MEET WITH STUDENTS ON THE UVU MAIN CAMPUS IN OREM FOR TWO ONLINE REHEARSALS AND AN IN-CLASS READING IN APRIL? **Yes No**

APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: _____ minutes

APPROXIMATE TRAVEL DISTANCE FROM HOME TO UVU: _____ miles

IF SCRIPT IS MORE THAN 60 MINUTES, INDICATE WHICH 60 PAGES (IN STANDARD FORMAT) YOU WOULD LIKE READ.

IS THE PLAY UNPUBLISHED AND NOT CURRENTLY COMMITTED FOR PUBLICATION? **Yes No**

HAS THE PLAY BEEN FULLY PRODUCED, OR IS IT COMMITTED FOR FULL PRODUCTION? **Yes No**

HAS THE PLAY HAD PRIOR STAGED READINGS? **Yes No** IF YES, HOW MANY? _____

IF YOUR PLAY IS *NOT* SELECTED:

- DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE WRITTEN FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS? **Yes No**
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE STUDENT DESIGN RESPONSES? **Yes No**

ANY QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS:

PLEASE INCLUDE CAST LIST, AS WELL AS A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF UP TO 250 WORDS:

Please submit play manuscript and entry forms (in MS Word or PDF) to tyecenter@uvu.edu. You may also address any questions to the TYE Center email address.