

# Old Miner Children's Playwriting Contest 2019

HOSTED BY THE THEATRE FOR YOUTH AND EDUCATION (TYE) CENTER  
AT UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE NOORDA CENTER)

The TYE Center at Utah Valley University is hosting the fourth annual Old Miner's Children's Playwriting Contest. The contest has two divisions (a) the "National Division" for a playwright currently living in the United States and (b) the "Utah College Division" for a playwright currently enrolled at a Utah college or university.

The sponsor of the contest has a special interest in plays about real children. As an incentive, the sponsor is offering an additional \$500 "Strike It Rich Prize" to be awarded to one of the winning plays, or split between the two winning plays, if the scripts are based on the lives of actual, individual children.

The winning national playwright will receive a five-day residency culminating in a staged reading of the script, scheduled for April 5-9, 2019. The award includes airfare, housing, and per diem plus a \$1000 cash prize. All submitting playwrights may opt to receive written critiques of their plays. Finalists may opt to receive design responses and/or oral responses from UVU theatre students. As part of the residency experience, the winning national playwright will serve as a mentor to the Utah college winning playwright.

The winning Utah college playwright will see a staged reading of his/her script with up to eight hours of workshopping and rehearsal during the April 5-9 timeframe. The award includes a \$250 cash prize and lodging during the residency, if the winning playwright is from outside of Utah County, but not transportation. The winning Utah college playwright will participate in the development of the winning national playwright's play. Both playwrights will receive mentoring and support from a director and/or dramaturg throughout the process.

The Old Miner's Children's Playwriting Contest is named after Tom Norris. Tom was born Jan. 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 life's ambition: to make a million dollars. He did so, many 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 the children. He never received a college education, but 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."

The Old Miner's Children's Playwriting Contest is funded through the generous support of the Tom and Mary Norris Foundation and facilitated by the TYE Center at Utah Valley University.

# Old Miner Children's Playwriting Contest 2019

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Scripts must be appropriate for performance for or by children, 12 years or younger.
2. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically to [tyecenter@uvu.edu](mailto:tyecenter@uvu.edu) as a Word or pdf email attachment.
3. The playwright's name must not appear in the manuscript to ensure a blind reading.
4. All manuscripts must include a cast list and a brief (one page) synopsis. The synopsis should include a list of any unusual effects or technical requirements.
5. Each submitting playwright must also send a completed entry form as a separate email attachment.
6. Each playwright may submit only one play for consideration. The play must be the work of only one playwright.
7. The reading time of the script is limited to 75 minutes, though the script may be longer.
8. The script must be able to be read by an ensemble of no more than 6 actors.
9. Supporting materials (reviews, publicity, etc.) should not accompany the submission.
10. All submissions will be acknowledged by email.
11. A student enrolled in a Utah college or university may submit his or her play to the national division OR the Utah college division but not to both.
12. The script must be unpublished with no more than one fully staged production and must be open to further development. Multiple prior staged readings are allowable.
13. Scripts must be received electronically by **11:59p (MST) Tuesday, January 15, 2019**. All submissions must be sent by email. Late submissions will not be accepted.
14. Winners will be notified by February 15, 2019.
15. Submissions not adhering to the official guidelines will be deemed ineligible.
16. The national contest is open to playwrights currently living in the United States.
17. The Utah college contest is open to playwrights enrolled in a college or university in the state of Utah during winter or spring semester 2019. The following colleges and universities are eligible: Utah State University, Weber State University, University of Utah, Westminster College, Salt Lake Community College, Utah Valley University, Brigham Young University, USU Eastern, Snow College, Southern Utah University, Dixie State University.
18. Playwrights whose work is being considered as a finalist in either contest will be asked to submit a brief statement about the play's writing and development to date and the playwright's goals if it received the development experience.
19. Adaptations of published novels and picture books **under copyright** are not eligible. Adaptations of historical materials, journals, and **public domain material including novels and stories** are acceptable.
20. Musicals will be accepted with the following provisos: (a) the playwright must include a CD minus track with the script (b) the residency will develop the script & not the music. Mail CD's to TYE Center, Utah Valley University,  
800 West University Parkway MS 234, Orem, UT 84058.
21. Playwrights are encouraged to submit plays that are based on the lives of real children, historical or contemporary. Only plays that meet this criterion are eligible for some or all of the additional "Strike It Rich Prize" money.
22. The decision of the selection committee is final.