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**OTTAWA
LITTLE
THEATRE**

**CALL FOR
ENTRIES**

to the

**83rd NATIONAL
ONE-ACT
PLAYWRITING
COMPETITION**

DEADLINE

December 31, 2023

ottawalittletheatre.com

The Ottawa Little Theatre is now accepting submissions to the
83rd National One-Act Playwriting Competition

PRIZES

First Prize	\$1,000	Ottawa Little Theatre Award
Second Prize	\$750	Dorothy White Award
Third Prize	\$500	Gladys Cameron Watt Award
Sybil Cooke Award for a Play for Children or Young People \$500		

OVERVIEW

- original one-act plays in English, encouraging literacy and dramatic talent in Canada
- plays with a maximum playing time of 45 minutes, and a minimum playing time of 25 minutes
- plays that are previously unproduced OR have been produced no earlier than in the current year
- playwright must reside in Canada and may be a citizen or landed immigrant
- special award for the Best Play for Children or Young People
- entry fee reduced this year to \$25

Entry forms are available at

www.ottawalittletheatre.com/call-for-entries-to-the-national-one-act-playwriting-competition

DEADLINE: December 31, 2023

Winners will be announced in May 2024

All prize-winning entrants must agree to allow the Ottawa Little Theatre to produce their play at the 2024 Eastern Ontario Drama League One-Act Play Festival with no royalty fee.

HISTORY OF THE COMPETITION

The Ottawa Little Theatre One-Act Playwriting Competition is the oldest in Canada. It was first held in 1937 and has been won by a who's who of Canadian literary luminaries. Past winners include prominent playwrights Robertson Davies, John Murrell, Erika Ritter, Catherine Banks and Ken Mitchell.



COMPLETE SUBMISSION REGULATIONS

1. The play must be an original one-act stage play in English with a maximum playing time of forty-five (45) minutes and a minimum playing time of twenty-five (25) minutes (playing time is usually estimated at one minute per typed, double spaced page.) The play must be either previously unproduced OR produced for the first time during the year 2023.
2. A page showing only the title of the play must cover the manuscript. Include a list of characters before the first page of dialogue.
3. Scripts should be formatted properly. There are a number of acceptable formats and writing programs available. An improperly formatted script is difficult to read and may be rejected. If you are unfamiliar with proper formatting, please keep in mind the following guidelines:
 - Text should be double-spaced between speaking parts.
 - Speakers names should be isolated from their dialogue in some manner.
 - Stage directions need to be clearly distinguishable from dialogue by the use of italics or other similar styling.
4. Scripts must be submitted in digital format, either PDF or MS Word. All other document formats will be rejected. Send scripts as email attachments or via file sharing software (e.g. dropbox, google drive, onedrive) to playwriting@ottawalittletheatre.com
5. A printed copy of prize-winning scripts will be placed in the City of Ottawa Archives as part of the Ottawa Little Theatre archive collection. All scripts which do not place in the competition will be destroyed.
6. Each submission must include a completed [Entry Form](#) and entry fee of \$25, payable by Interac e-Transfer or cheque. A submission will not be considered complete until the script, entry form and payment have been received. Entry forms may be downloaded from the Ottawa Little Theatre website: www.ottawalittletheatre.com/call-for-entries-to-the-national-one-act-playwriting-competition.
7. Entrants who are under the age of 18 as of December 31st, 2023, (the competition closing date) are required to submit a signed [Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form](#) along with the entry form.
8. A contestant may submit up to three different plays as separate entries.
9. The appearance of the playwright's name or any other identification mark on the manuscript or within the digital file will disqualify the manuscript. MS Word includes an "Inspect Document" feature that can remove the "Author" and "Last Modified By" properties from the file information.
10. Prize-winning plays in any previous year of the Ottawa Little Theatre's National One-Act Playwriting Competition are not eligible.
11. Musicals or any manuscript where song or dance is the focus of the material will not be eligible for entry.
12. The decision of the adjudicator(s) of the competition is final. The identity of the adjudicator(s) will be withheld until the awards are announced.
13. Playwright must reside in Canada and may be a citizen or landed immigrant.