

Blue Ink Award

for playwriting



Winner of American Theatre Wing's prestigious National Theatre Company Award, American Blues Theater is a premier arts organization with an intimate environment that patrons, artists, and all Chicagoans call home.

American Blues Theater explores the American identity through the plays it produces and communities it serves.

ABOUT THE BLUE INK AWARD FOR PLAYWRITING

The nationally-renowned Blue Ink Award was created in 2010 to support new work. Since inception, we've named 12 Award winners, 112 finalists, and 171 semi-finalists. Nearly \$10,000 in cash and prizes was distributed to playwrights in 2022.

Previous winners include Mardee Bennett's *The Reapers on Woodbrook Avenue* (2022), Yussef El Guindi's *Refugee Rhapsody* (2021), Andrea Stolowitz' *Recent Unsettling Events* (2020), Benjamin Benne's *ALMA* (2019), Inda Craig-Galván's *Welcome to Matteson!* (2018), Idris Goodwin's *Hype Man* (2017), Nathan Alan Davis's *The Wind and the Breeze* (2016), and Jamie Pachino's *Other Than Honorable* (2015).

Each year, American Blues Theater accepts worldwide submissions of original, unpublished full-length plays. The winning play will be selected by Artistic Director Gwendolyn Whiteside and the theater's award-winning Ensemble.

The playwright receives a monetary prize of \$2,500. Cash prizes are awarded to finalists and semi-finalists too. All proceeds of the administrative fee are distributed for playwrights' cash prizes.

Submissions will be accepted by American Blues Theater from July 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022 at 11:59pm CT. Playwrights may only submit one (1) manuscript each year for consideration, and plays must be submitted digitally as a PDF or Word Document via the submission form at AmericanBluesTheater.com.

Please see the next page for full competition rules and guidelines.

BLUE INK AWARD SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please follow these guidelines in preparing your manuscript:

1. There is a \$5 administration fee.
2. This contest is restricted to plays written predominantly in English. Worldwide submissions are accepted.
3. Submissions must be original, unpublished full-length plays written in English. Adaptations are accepted with proof of rights held unless source text is in public domain. Translations, musicals, and children's plays are not accepted.
4. Playwrights may submit only one (1) manuscript per year.
5. Plays that have been professionally produced or published are not eligible. Plays that have had a workshop, reading, or non-professional production will be considered.
6. Plays may not be under option or scheduled for professional production or publication at the time of submission.
7. American Blues Theater reserves the Right-of-First-Refusal to produce the world premiere of the winning manuscript for one (1) year beginning on date of the public announcement of the winner.
8. Plays must be submitted digitally as a PDF or Word Document via the submission form at AmericanBluesTheater.com. Fees may also be submitted digitally.
9. If you choose to pay by check, send the \$5 administrative fee to: American Blues Theater, 4809 N Ravenswood Ave, Suite 221, Chicago, IL 60640.
10. Questions should be sent to ElyseD@AmericanBluesTheater.com.

Submissions for the 2023 competition must be submitted no earlier than July 1, 2022 and no later than August 31, 2022 at 11:59pm CT.

American Blues Theater reserves the right to reject any manuscript for any reason.

American Blues Theater reserves the right to not choose a winner for any given year of the competition and reserves the right to determine the ineligibility of a winner, in keeping with the spirit of the competition, and based upon the accomplishments of the author.



AMERICAN
BLUES
THEATER

July 1, 2022

Submissions open.

August 31, 2022

Submission deadline.

January - March 2023

The Blue Ink Winner, Finalists,
and Semi-Finalists are notified.

Summer 2023

The Blue Ink Playwriting Festival.