

# Blue Ink Award

for playwriting



Winner of the National Theatre Company Award from American Theatre Wing, American Blues Theater is a non-profit arts organization that produces high-quality productions with a focus on stories that are relevant, timeless, courageous, and inclusive to the American spirit.

## 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 14 Award winners, 148 finalists, and 233 semi-finalists. Nearly \$10,000 in cash and prizes was distributed to playwrights in 2024.

Previous winners include Ken Urban's *The Conquered* (2024), Kristoffer Diaz's *Things With Friends* (2023), Mardee Bennett's *The Reapers on Woodbrook Avenue* (2022), Yussef El Guindi's *Refugee Rhapsody* (2021), Andrea Stolowitz's *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Each year, American Blues Theater accepts worldwide submissions of original, unpublished full-length plays.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 Executive Artistic Director Gwendolyn Whiteside and the theater's award-winning Ensemble.

The playwright receives a monetary prize of \$3,000. 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 August 1, 2024 to August 31, 2024 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](http://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. All fees are distributed for cash prizes.
2. This contest is restricted to plays written predominantly in English. Worldwide submissions are accepted.
3. Submissions must be original, unpublished full-length plays. 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 award announcement.
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](http://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, 5627 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60659.
10. Questions should be sent to [ElyseD@AmericanBluesTheater.com](mailto:ElyseD@AmericanBluesTheater.com).

**Submissions for the 2025 competition must be submitted no earlier than August 1, 2024 and no later than August 31, 2024 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

**August 1, 2024**

Submissions open.

**August 31, 2024**

Submission deadline.

**March 2025**

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

**Summer 2025**

The 2025 Blue Ink Festival.