

Judging Guidelines

ENTER. STAGE. WRITE

- **STRUCTURE** Does the writer demonstrate an understanding of structure? Does the structure contribute to the narrative and style? Does it have an overall narrative arc? Do you have a beginning middle and end? Can the script stand alone as a mini-play?
- **CHARACTERS** Are the characters distinctive and well-drawn? Do they have their own clear objectives beyond serving the plot? Do they draw us into their world?
- **LANGUAGE** Is the language compelling and assured? Does it leap off the page? Is the dialogue appropriate to each character, as well as contributing to the overall style?
- **STORY** Is the story captivating? Is it predictable or does it keep us intrigued until the very end? Does the plot express well the overall theme and message of the play?
- **SETTING** Does the play have a strong sense of place? Do the characters fully inhabit their world? Does it mirror or contribute to the overall meaning of the play?
- **ORIGINALITY & STYLE** Does the play have a distinctive, fresh style? Does it have a clear authorial voice? Does it introduce us to or give us a new way of seeing the world? Excessive misspelling, poor grammar and unclear formatting may also be taken into account
- **ATTENTION.** We are in the age of attention currency can the script keep the audience engage for 10 minutes from beginning to end.