



## **THE 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VSA PLAYWRIGHT DISCOVERY COMPETITION** **2013 Submission Process and Rules**

The VSA Playwright Discovery Competition invites middle and high school students to take a closer look at the world around them, examine how disability affects their lives and the lives of others, and express their views through the art of scriptwriting. Students may write from their own experience and observations, or create fictional characters and settings. Scripts can be comedies, dramas, or even musicals—be creative! Young writers with and without disabilities are encouraged to submit a script. Entries may be the work of an individual student or a collaboration by a group of students. The competition has two divisions: grades 6-8 (or equivalent) and grades 9-12 (or equivalent). A distinguished jury of theater professionals selects one winner from each division.

The Division 1 (Grades 6-8, or equivalent) winner will receive \$375 for his/her school and have the winning script published in the 2013 VSA Playwright Discovery Program booklet. The Division 2 (Grades 9-12, or equivalent) winner will receive a \$750 scholarship, \$375 for his/her school, and have the winning script published in the 2013 VSA Playwright Discovery Program booklet.

### **Submission Process**

Applications will be accepted online through the [VSA PDP Application Portal on ArtsApp](#).

The online application accepts the following format types:

- Audio (.mp3, .mp4, .m4a)
- Video (.asf, .avi, .flv, .mov, .m4v, .mp4, .mpg, .mvp, .swf, .wmv). When uploading video, please use a broadband connection (plugin your computer, not just wifi) for a faster upload.
- Documents (.doc, .pdf, .xls)

Total portfolio size needs to be under 6 GB, with a maximum file size of 1.2 GB. Please upload each piece as its own file.

We will receive your files the day that you submit them, and you will receive verification of your submission. For technical support with your ArtsApp submission, please contact [support@artsapp.com](mailto:support@artsapp.com).

If there are any questions about this process, to request application materials in a different format, or if the registration fee is a barrier to entry, please contact the Kennedy Center at 202-416-8898 or [vsainfo@kennedy-center.org](mailto:vsainfo@kennedy-center.org). **Entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time June 1, 2013.**

### **Submission Rules**

1. Authors must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.
2. Any student with or without a disability is eligible to submit an entry. Previous applicants and previous competition winners are eligible to submit a new script in subsequent years.
3. Co-authorships of up to five students are permissible, but all authors must fulfill eligibility requirements as stated herein. The application must include information for all authors.
4. Authors of Division 1 submissions must be students in grades 6–8 (or equivalent). Authors of Division 2 submissions must be students in grades 9-12 (or equivalent).
5. All scripts must incorporate the subject of disability. A disability is defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual. An impairment is a physiological disorder affecting one or more of a number of body systems, or a mental or psychological disorder. The disability may be visible (e.g., a

character who is blind or uses a wheelchair) or invisible (e.g., a character with a learning or developmental disability). Scripts that do not address disability will be declared ineligible.

6. All entries must be one-act scripts of fewer than 40 pages in length.
7. Acceptable entries include traditional theater, film, or TV scripts, non-linear scripts, scripts that don't rely on spoken language, and/or scripts that emphasize the use of multimedia, non-traditional technologies/techniques, puppetry and audience participation. Entries will be accepted preferably in traditional text format, but may also be submitted as video or audio files.
8. Entries must be original, unproduced, and unpublished at the time of submission. Scripts with previous readings or workshops are acceptable, as long as they were not produced for a paying audience and have not been publicly reviewed.
9. Authors may submit only one script, whether under his or her name, a pseudonym, or as a co-author.
10. If an entry includes any material that is copyrighted (including but not limited to, poetry, music and/or lyrics, characters originally created by others in any medium, and/or stories based on real people and/or other people's lives) the author shall provide proof of written permission to include the copyrighted material in the script.
11. Text entries must follow standard stage or screen play format (an example of a stage play manuscript can be found in our [Resource Guide for Teachers](#)). For applicants submitting a non-traditional script, video or audio files of a non-professional performance of the play must also be included.
12. The first page of all script submissions must be a cover sheet, which includes the following information: title of play, cast list, and number of scenes. **Do not show your name, address, or any identifying information on the cover or any page of your entry.** (To preserve anonymity, all entries are identified by numbers for judging.)
13. **Application materials must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific time June 1, 2013 for consideration.**
14. The Kennedy Center has the following rights, which may be exercised at its sole discretion:
  - a. To not adjudicate any individual work deemed inappropriate for our mission and/or our audience;
  - b. To declare any entry ineligible if it is not in compliance with the submission rules and procedures;
  - c. To reproduce as many copies of an entry as are necessary for distribution among the judges.

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For more information, please contact us!

VSA Playwright Discovery Program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

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[www.kennedy-center.org/PDP](http://www.kennedy-center.org/PDP)

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