



FNPF Spring 2021 Info Sheet

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

- University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies is pleased to announce a call for submissions for our second main stage Fearless New Play Festival (FNPF). The competition is open only to TDPS students or alumni.
- TDPS's Fearless New Play Festival is a three-week incubator to support the collaborative development of new plays, culminating in a final weekend of readings.
 - The festival kicks off with a panel discussion with local theatre professionals to give participants guidelines and inspiration for how to collaborate on new play development.
 - Selected playwrights then spend the next few weeks investigating, rewriting, and rehearsing their plays with a director, dramaturg and actors.
 - For the final weekend, we will be joined by a Keynote Playwright of national renown who will share their own new play-in-development. All selected playwrights will have a public (script-in-hand, music stand) reading of the new draft of their play, followed by a moderated feedback session.
- The 2019 Fearless New Play Festival included 10-minute plays by students and alumni, with Keynote Playwright Sheila Callaghan. The 2021 Festival will accept the submission of plays anywhere between 8-30 pages in length, with a Keynote Playwright TBA.
- FNPF 2021 will kick off on February 7, and the final festival weekend will be March 4-6, 2021.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- The competition is open only to UMD TDPS students or alumni. If you have a co-writer, they also must be a UMD TDPS students or alumni.
- This festival is for works in development, so we are looking for playwrights who will take advantage of the opportunity to dig in, rewrite and reinvestigate their play with collaborators. If you feel your play is finished or you feel what you really need is a full production, this is not the opportunity for you.



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- You must be available for the kick off panel on February 7, periodic rehearsals from February 7-March 3 (to be scheduled based on availability), and the final festival weekend March 4-6.
 - If you live out of town, we would be happy to make accommodations (including Skyping you into rehearsals) *if* you can guarantee that you will be there for the entirety of the final festival weekend.
- You will be assigned a dramaturg and director who are working professionals, from a pool that includes current TDPS alumni, graduate students and faculty. You will be assigned a cast from our TDPS undergraduate acting pool.
- This competition is open to scripts that are 8-30 pages, or a selection from a longer work that is 8-30 pages. If this is a selection of a work that is longer than 30 pages, please do not submit the full script, only the selection.
- Maximum cast size is 3 actors. This is due to the complicated jigsaw puzzle of casting and rehearsing many plays within one three-week period.
- We are unable to offer any financial compensation for any collaborators working on the Festival.
- If you have previously submitted to the Fearless New Play Festival, we encourage you to submit a different new work this year. However, we will accept the same play if you have made major revisions.
- Your script should include a title page and should use standard play formatting. For guidance, you can see this article, with a template included: <https://pwcenter.org/playwriting-toolkit/how-format-your-script>
- All submissions **are DUE APRIL 20, 2020**
- Any questions? Please email Festival Director and TDPS playwriting professor Jennifer Barclay at jbarclay@umd.edu.