

Un-Scripted

THEATER COMPANY

San Francisco's Un-Scripted Theater Company is once again embarking on a production that, ironically, has us looking for scripts! Our next project, *Act One, Scene Two*, is a reprisal of 2011's highly successful production, and features playwrights in collaboration with our improvisational theater company. For every performance, we will feature one playwright, and the first scene of a play in any genre (comedy, tragedy, drama, tragicomedy, absurdist, postmodern existentialist feminism, etc.) that hasn't been completed yet. We'll interview them onstage, perform a cold reading of that first scene (Act One, Scene One), and then continue the play to its end -- only now we're improvising -- from Act One, Scene Two.

There are some excellent benefits to working with Un-Scripted on this project. To begin with, you'll have a unique way of workshopping new material and seeing your ideas come to life. You'll get to interact with a diverse community of playwrights, and join the ranks of such notable writers as David Malki and Ryan North (*Machine of Death*), Lauren Yee (*Ching Chong Chinaman*), and Tim Bauer (*Zombie Town*). You'll also get to bring 2 guests for free to the show where your work is performed, and come to any show for free (subject to ticket availability)!

Here's How It Works:

Write us an opening scene, 5-9 pages in length. Those 5-9 pages can be the ENTIRE first scene, part of the scene, just the start of it, or can be made up of multiple short scenes. For the show, we will perform a cold staged reading of those first 5-9 pages and then improvise the rest of the full-length play (which for us means 90-120 minutes, with an intermission). The catch is, we don't want to improvise it the way we would have written it; we want to improvise it the way you would have written it if you'd had time (or if we had commissioned you to write the whole thing). In order to honor your style, and give both the actors and the audience some context about you, your work, and about the piece itself, we want to interview you onstage before the show (or in advance if you absolutely cannot be there) to find out about why you write plays, what your other plays are about, what makes you and your plays tick.

Cast/Characters:

The size of the cast is up to you and your script; we have up to 8 improvisors that we can have present on your night: currently 4 male and 4 female. If your script calls for more performers, we can double cast. If it calls for less, some of us will watch! In the past we have had scripts that contained as few as 3 characters and as many as 12.

Rehearsals:

As it's improvised, there won't be any rehearsals specifically for your piece, so you don't need to worry about attending them. We do rehearse our shows a great deal, but it's more like practicing for a sporting event: we practice skills instead of planning outcomes. In performance, we'll give a truly cold reading; the first time anyone in the cast will read your piece will be just before the performance itself, as the audience is filtering into the theater, or maybe a little before. You just need to show up for the world premiere!

Production:

While we perform our shows without elaborate set-pieces, costumes, or props, we'd like you to conceive of the piece as you normally would, as a script to be performed by a theater company.

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Things can be left open, or you can feel free to specify a style, genre, setting, etc. We can suggest or endow those things in other ways. The only limit is the audience's imagination.

Other Special Notes:

1. If your piece happens to revolve around one particular important object (prop/costume piece), please make that clear in the script, or bring to the show that specific object for us to work with.
2. We can have a musician present; if you'd like your piece to be a musical, you can specify that, and even write lyrics in the first 5-9 pages that our actors will make into an improvised song.

Submissions:

Please send the following to melissa@un-scripted.com with "Submission: Act 1. Scene 2" in the subject line:

- Full name, phone number, and email address
- A brief bio (written in the 3rd person – this will be included in the program if you are selected) and a brief production history of your work, including when and where some of your work has been performed/published. The bio and production history may be included in the body of your email.
- Attach your submission (5-9 pages), in any digital format: PDF, Word Doc, etc.
- A character breakdown with brief character descriptions. Include any characters that may not appear in the first scene but could be important to the plot, even if their name/gender is "Unknown" (this can be included in the submission document and doesn't impact your page count).

*****Crucial Dates & Information*****

- *The deadline for submissions is **February 6, 2012 at 11:59PM**. Playwrights will be contacted about their submissions on February 20. The show opens April 12, 2012 (dress rehearsals on April 10-11).*
- We will be recording each show, and providing a copy on DVD to each of the playwrights selected. Un-Scripted views the performance as an "advanced workshop" of your submission. You retain all rights to the opening scene, and we retain the rights to the recording of your play's performance that night. You may choose to use or modify all, some or none of the Un-Scripted material from the performance should you continue to develop the piece as long as you credit Un-Scripted in the final script.
- Please direct any additional questions to: info@un-scripted.com