

# Ryga Festival Society



## RYGA ARTS FESTIVAL 2020 Short Play Competition

**You are invited to write a short play that will be eligible for one of several prizes, and for a public presentation at the Ryga Arts Festival to be held on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm, either through an online platform or public-health-approved venue.**

### THE RULES

**Eligibility:** Residence in the Okanagan-Similkameen District.

**Categories:** You may compete in one of two categories:

Adult: 18 years up or Youth: under 18

**Prizes** will be given in each category:

1st prize \$150, 2nd prize \$100; third prize \$50.

Winning entries and some runners-up will also be given a public reading during the Ryga Arts Festival.

**Judges:** Three independent judges, whose names will be published when the results are announced mid-July, 2020, will adjudicate the plays. Their decision is final.

**Submission deadline: Friday, July 10th, 2020.**

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Plays must have parts for **2-4 actors**; require minimal sets or props, and simple lighting. Playing time must be a **maximum of ten minutes**.

To get you started, you can choose to be inspired by these two 'writing prompts': the theme, "Boldness" or include the phrase, "THAT'S WHAT THEY MEANT" in your dialogue, or choose your own prompt to begin your play.

**HOW TO SUBMIT: Copies may be emailed as a PDF to the Ryga Arts Festival**

**Email: rygafest@gmail.com**

### RYGA FESTIVAL SOCIETY

c/o Summerland Community Arts Council  
9525 Wharton Street - Box 1217  
Summerland BC V0H 1Z0

www.rygafest.ca  
250.494.8533

@rygafest - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

**At the time of this release, due to the current health crisis, no hard copies will be accepted. Please write your script on letter-sized (8.5 X 11) paper. Scripts should be maximum ten pages, not including the title page or the cast list.**

**The script must have a separate cover sheet with the title of the play and the name of the author. Author's name, with contact details, only appears on cover sheet. Name of play appears on first page of the play. Pages are to be numbered.**

**Play must be unpublished, unproduced, and the original property of the author.**

**Each playwright may submit only one ten-minute play to the contest. Co-written plays are acceptable, although there is a maximum of two co-writers per script. In the event that a co-written script is a winner, the cash prize will be divided equally between the co-writers.**

**The Ryga Arts Festival is not liable for any accidents that may occur as a result of the contest, or travel to the event. The Ryga Arts Festival is unable to provide funds for travel, meals, or accommodations to the winning playwrights to attend the performance of their work, but they will receive free tickets to the event.**

**The jury's decision will be made public and winners will be notified July 31st, 2020.**

**For further information please e-mail the Ryga Arts Festival: [rygafest@gmail.com](mailto:rygafest@gmail.com)**

### **Some Tips for Writers**

- Keep the stage in mind. Write in the present tense. Dramatic writing is all about what's happening in the here and now, not somewhere else at some other time.
- Try to avoid writing short TV scripts with numerous little scenes or sequences.
- Consider setting the play in one location.
- Focus on the conflict early in the action, develop it, complicate it, and resolve it by the end (perhaps even surprisingly).
- Give your characters goals, needs, and action lines. Push them into taking action that will influence the outcome of the story.
- Rewrite your play. Many playwrights have often said, "We don't write plays, we rewrite them." Keep at it until you think that your play will move the audience in the way you want it to move them.
- There is no restriction in terms of the style of the play. It could be a comedy, a satire, a farce, or a hard-hitting emotional drama. We do suggest, however, that you write about what you know, what you believe, what excites you, or what you feel deeply interested in.

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