

**3rd Annual
Playhouse West-Philadelphia
25 DAY FILM PROJECT**

NARRATIVE SHORT SUBJECT

Competition Dates: August 31 – September 24, 2021

INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRODUCTION TEAMS



PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY.

1. THERE WILL BE THREE REQUIRED SCRIPT / STORY ELEMENTS

- Each film will have to incorporate THREE required elements - one Story element, one Acting element, and one Cinematic element – organically (hopefully not arbitrarily) into the action of the story.
- ***THESE ELEMENTS WILL BE GIVEN OUT VIA EMAIL THE MORNING OF AUGUST 31, along with Final Instructions.***
- You may begin forming and registering production teams, forming story ideas and doing the production and script preparation work now, possibly even begin writing scripts. Just make sure you're flexible. Remember you will have to be able to incorporate the other given story elements.

2. TEAMS & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- **REGISTER PRODUCTION TEAMS: By August 31, 2021, please fill out the 25 Day Film Project Registration form and pay \$7 Registration Fee on our website.**
- When registering, you will be asked the Production Company or Team Name, and the full name of at least one producer/director (the main PW contact/head of the team).
- **REQUIRED: A Playhouse West student, current or former, must be the main producer, the lead actors, and at least a co-writer.** You may use non-PW members to complete the cast and production crew.

3. SHORT FILM REQUIREMENTS

- **REQUIRED RUNNING TIME:** a minimum of one (1:00) minute to a maximum of six minutes (6:00) in total running time, including all credits.
- Credits may not take up more than 25 seconds of the film's total running time.
- The final end credit title for all completed films must state the following:

**This film was originally made as part of the
Playhouse West - Philadelphia 25 Day Film Project
August 31 – September 24, 2021**

Failure to add this end credit will result in disqualification and no public screening.

4. TURNING IN THE COMPLETED FILM

- Each Production Team must submit an **MP4 file** of the completed film via the below Dropbox link by **11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2021.** Projects should be exported at H.264, 1920x1080, with the highest video and sound quality and codec settings. *Please adhere to this!*
- **DROPBOX LINK:** <https://www.dropbox.com/request/2WFZ4fw18QyNUuZ219D>.
- Please **preview your exported film entry for errors** in it's entirety before submitting it.

USEFUL TIPS

- Regarding story and subject matter... We want simple, short subject narrative stories. Keep the story simple. Introduce one main crisis, climax and resolution, or one main conflict that can be introduced and resolved within 5-6 minutes.
- Have a clear theme or premise – know what you want say.
- Probable construction for the short film might look like this...
 - 1st Minute/page: Introduce the Crisis, Reveal Main Characters
 - Get to the Inciting Incident as soon as possible, or have it occur as the film fades in.
 - Think about how you can show things, or reveal cinematically or pictorially, rather than just say things through dialogue. “An ounce of behavior is worth a pound of words.”
 - Minutes/pages 2, 3 & 4: Continuous Obstacles and Rising Conflict
 - Minute/page 5: Climax & Resolution
- You have 25 days and nights to make a short film. Manage your time wisely. Break down the filmmaking process into four sections. A realistic schedule or timeline of the process may look something like this:
 1. Outlining & Writing the Script (first 5 – 10 days)
 2. Pre-Production (including casting & rehearsing, again, the first 5-10 days)
 3. Principle Photography (shooting the film, middle 5 days, maybe less)
 4. Post Production (final 10 days)
- Because this is a film challenge with deadlines, writing the script and pre-production will most likely overlap. Try to set up a schedule, with dates, for when you want to have these milestones accomplished. Prepare well. Over-prepare!
- You are also receiving these instructions in advance, and may even have time to begin creating the outline and script before the challenge start date. It is advised to create a detailed, scene-by-scene outline of the script before you sit down to write the screenplay, so you know the story is constructed well. Remember, every story is a series of chain of cause and effect moments, thematically wedded together in such a way, where the end is inevitable from the beginning. The outline can help you with this.
- When it comes to writing... write what you know about and understand. Write what you have a strong feeling about. The more personal the story is to you the better.
- We hope that you can involve as many Playhouse West members, as well as others, in the production of your film as you can. But work under this motto when interviewing people and deciding to take anyone onto your team: *“Either you're in, or you're in the way.”* No one is doing you any favors. Getting involved with film projects is always a learning experience. You want people who are excited to help you accomplish your goals and tell your story. So, yes, either someone is all in, willing to pitch in where and when needed, or they will be in the way.

Finally, if you are current student of Playhouse West-Philadelphia, do your absolute best to not miss any classes during the process of this film challenge. Your first commitment is to class and to your classmates. Please schedule the work on this challenge, including the shooting of the film, around your class time.

Have fun!