

5th Annual  
Playhouse West-Philadelphia  
25 DAY FILM PROJECT

Competition Dates: Sept 9 – October 3, 2022

INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRODUCTION TEAMS

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY.



The **Thematic Element** for this year's film project is **“Courage”**. We are looking for stories that thematically dramatize some form of courage. This does not necessarily mean the story must be about a courageous, brave or heroic act. The story could dramatize false courage, stupid courage, misplaced courage, etc. And of course, we believe that the best stories are rooted in things that are very personal. Look at your own lives and see where some form of courage has played a role in certain events in your life. Whatever the inspiration is, the more personal the better.  
Final requirements will be revealed on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Register your production team by September 8, 2022.

**TO REGISTER A PRODUCTION TEAM & PAY \$7 REGISTRATION FEE:**  
<https://www.playhousewest.com/25-day-film-project>

Or PAY FEE by using the QR code



1. **There are 3 Parts to this Film Project.**

- PRODUCTION, September 3 through October 9, 2022
- TURN IN/UPLOAD COMPLETED FILM, by midnight of October 9, 2022
- SCREENINGS, Saturday, October 22, 2022.

2. **SHORT FILM REQUIREMENTS**

- Lead actors, primary producer and writer must be a Playhouse member, current or alumni.
- **REQUIRED RUNNING TIME:** a minimum of one (1:00) minute to a maximum of ten minutes (10:00) in total running time, including all credits.
- Credits may not take up more than 30 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**This film was originally made as part of the  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  
September 9 – October 3, 2022**

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 Monday, October 3, 2021**.
- Projects should be exported at **H.264, 1920x1080 aspect ratio**, with the highest video and sound quality and codec settings. *Please adhere to this!*
- **DROPBOX LINK:** <https://www.dropbox.com/request/A2Iwbxaw6o9IAbNOtpve>.
- 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 in under 10 minutes.
- Have a clear theme or premise – know what you want say.
- Probable construction for the short film might look like this...
  - Introduce the Main Crisis, Reveal Main Characters in first minute/page or two.
  - Get us emotionally invested about a character and their conflict as soon as possible.
  - 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.”
- 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!