

**6th Annual
Playhouse West-Philadelphia
25 DAY FILM PROJECT**

Competition Dates: August 26 – September 20, 2023

INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRODUCTION TEAMS

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY.



This year, there is no specific thematic element. *Do not begin to form a story or script in advance!* Wait until **Final requirements will be revealed at 10:15 a.m. on August 26, during a meeting over Zoom.**

Register your production team by August 25, 2023.

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, August 26 through September 20, 2023
- TURN IN/UPLOAD COMPLETED FILM, by midnight of September 20, 2023
- SCREENINGS, Saturday, October 7, 2023.

2. SHORT FILM REQUIREMENTS

- Lead actors, primary producer(s) and writer(s) 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.
- End 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**This film was originally made as part of the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
August 26 – September 20, 2023**

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 Wednesday, September 20, 2023 (Pacific Time)**.
- 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/6N5lxa7n3xqRAN10a99J>.
- 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!
- 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!