

7th Annual  
Playhouse West-Philadelphia  
25 DAY FILM PROJECT

**Theme: New Beginnings**

**Competition Dates: September 6 – October 1, 2022**

**INITIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRODUCTION TEAMS**



PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY.

The theme or subject for this year's films is: *New Beginnings*. We are looking for stories centered around a person or people who are either starting out, starting over, branching out to something new, reaching out, doing or trying something new or for the first time, rehabilitating a relationship, undoing or overcoming the past, getting a new lease on life, or something in this vein. Of course, we love personal stories! We are big believers in the idea that the more personal the stories are to the filmmakers, the better they will be. The films may be of any genre, but only narrative films, no documentaries.

1. **THERE WILL BE THREE REQUIRED ELEMENTS IN THE FINAL INSTRUCTOINS – Given on Friday, September 6th.** These required elements must be organically incorporated into the film.

2. **PROJECT ENTRY & SHORT FILM REQUIREMENTS**

- **All producers, writers and lead actors must be current or former members of Playhouse West.** This includes current or former members of the branches in Los Angeles, Dallas and Brooklyn.
- Directors, supporting cast roles, and any other production crew members may be filled by non-Playhouse West participants.
- **Register a Production Team and Pay \$5 Registration Fee by Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.** Go to our website at: <https://www.playhousewest.com/25-day-film-project>
- **On Friday, September 6, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.,** there will be a Zoom meeting where **Final Instructions** will be explained. Someone from the production team must be present at this meeting. The main contact person will receive an invitation to this meeting on Thursday, September 5, and may share the invitation with anyone else on their production team so they may join the meeting.
- **REQUIRED RUNNING TIME: a minimum of two (2:00) minutes to a maximum of ten (10:00) minutes 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**This film was originally made as part of the  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 6 – October 1, 2024**

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 Tuesday, October 1, 2024.** Projects should be exported at H.264, 1920x1080, with the highest video and sound quality and codec settings. *Please adhere to this!*
- **DROPBOX LINK: [25 DAY FILM PROJECT 2024 SUBMISSIONS.](#)**
- 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 2-10 minutes. *Our best advice is no more than a 5 page script.*
- Have a clear theme or premise – know what you want say.
- Probable construction for the short film might look like this...
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3-5 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 a current student of Playhouse West, **do your absolute best to schedule the work on this challenge, including the shooting of the film, around your class times.** Your first commitment is to class and to your classmates.

Have fun!