

SCRIPT WRITERS–HOUSTON

2026 Annual 10×10 Play Festival

SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Ten-minute plays. Big ideas. Houston voices.

Script Writers–Houston invites playwrights from Houston and within a 100-mile radius to submit original 8–10 minute plays for our annual 10×10 Play Festival—ten short works, fully produced for the stage.

★ WHY SUBMIT?

- Your play will be read, evaluated, and considered for full production
- **Written feedback** provided for every submission by published playwrights and industry professionals.
- **Selected plays** will be produced in the **2026 Festival**
- Minimal tech. Maximum storytelling.

📌 KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Original, unpublished plays
- 2–4 actors (no monologues)
- Simple staging & minimal tech
- Standard play format (10 pages max)

🕒 **FINAL DEADLINE** **MARCH 22, 2026**

(No late submissions accepted)

💰 SUBMISSION FEE

- SWH Members: up to 3 scripts FREE
- Non-Members: \$10 per script (up to 3)

To submit payment



Scan QR Code = PayPal Donation Link

When submitting payment, Please Note:

“2026 10×10 Play Submission” + Playwright Name & Title



✉️ HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PLAY

EMAIL ONLY: scriptwriters.houston@gmail.com

Subject Line: SWH 2026 10×10 Entry

✦ FINALISTS ANNOUNCED **April 28, 2026**

SCRIPT WRITERS–HOUSTON

Championing bold voices. Building better plays. Producing Houston stories.

See full SWH 2026 10x10 Submission Rules and Guidelines Below

Rules & Guidelines for Script Writers–Houston (SWH) 10x10 Play Festivals Script Submission

1. Playwright must live in Houston or within a 100-mile radius of Houston.
2. Scripts must be original new works. An informal reading is strongly suggested before submission.
3. Scripts must be 8-10 minutes in performance length using the standard 1 minute per page format. Significantly under or over length will be excluded from judging.
4. Scripts must be producible with the use of minimal technical requirements, set and props.
5. Scripts must contain 2-4 actors. Actors can portray more than one character. (Monologues or 1-person plays are not accepted).
6. Scripts must be complete and not part of a larger piece.
7. Scripts must be unpublished and not used in another festival or major theatrical event.
8. Paid SWH members (\$35 annually) are allowed to submit up to three (3) scripts free. Non paid members may submit up to three (3) scripts at \$10 (non-refundable) per script. Only one submission will be produced.
9. By submission, playwrights agree to allow their works to be produced by SWH.
10. Winning playwrights will have their play produced in the 2026 10x10 festival.
11. Script evaluators' decisions are final.
12. Each script submitted will receive a written evaluation from at least one of the evaluators.
13. SWH may make a recording of the event for publicity and archival purposes but it will not be sold.
14. Questions should be sent to scriptwriters.houston@gmail.com

Submission Format for Ten-Minute Play

EMAIL ONLY to scriptwriters.houston@gmail.com with the subject: **SWH 2026 10x10 Entry**

1. Playwright's Name, Address, Phone Number, email, title and copyright information of the play should be in the body of the email only.

No identifying information should be **inside the script, ON THE COVER, or on the header or footer**, except the title of the script. Your submission will be sent to the evaluators and must be blind copies.

2. The submission must be in PDF or Word format. Do not send any links to access your document. These cannot and will not be accessed.
3. Page number and the title should be in the footnote on each page of the script. **Do not include the playwright's name ANYWHERE in the script, including the cover.**
4. Include the following statement in the **body of the email.**

"I have read and understand the submission rules, guidelines, and deadline. I accept the terms of submitting my work to the Script Writers–Houston 2026 10x10 Festival. I also give permission to Script Writers–Houston to make a recording of my stage play as produced by Script Writers–Houston, and I grant to Script Writers–Houston license to use that recording to promote Script Writers–Houston, by way of public/electronic media, including but not limited to YouTube, Facebook, email attachment, or by way of a television, film, or radio broadcast or podcast. [INSERT WRITERS NAME HERE]"

5. Please submit your play in **standard playwriting format** – (Samuel French / Dramatists Play Service style) with consistent formatting throughout (12-point font, 1-inch margins, clear dialogue and stage directions, character names in ALL caps, dialogue beginning beneath character name, etc.) Scripts should be no longer than 10 pages. Scripts that are not formatted properly will not be accepted.

Core Evaluation Criteria for a 10–Minute Play

1. Concept & Premise

- Is the central idea clear and compelling?
- Does the play have a strong point of view or question?
- Is the premise appropriate for the 10-minute format (focused, not overstuffed)?

Key question: Why this play? Why now?

2. Structure & Use of Time

- Does the play have a clear beginning, middle, and end?
- Is there a discernible turning point or shift?
- Does the play feel complete within 10 minutes?

Key question: Does it earn its ending?

3. Character & Relationships

- Are the characters distinct and purposeful?
- Do we understand what each character wants?
- Is there tension, conflict, or emotional movement between characters?

Key question: Do these people need to be in the room together?

4. Dialogue

- Is the dialogue active, specific, and theatrical?
- Does it reveal character or advance the story?
- Does it avoid unnecessary exposition?

Key question: Could this only work on stage?

5. Theatricality & Stage Readiness

- Is the play producible with modest resources?
- Does it invite strong performance, staging, or audience engagement?
- Does it “pop” theatrically, not just on the page?

Key question: Would I want to watch this live?

6. Originality & Voice

- Does the playwright’s voice feel distinct?
- Is the play doing something fresh—formally, thematically, or tonally?
- Even if familiar, does it feel personal or specific?

Key question: Do I recognize the writer behind the work?

7. Emotional or Intellectual Impact

- Does the play leave an impression?
- Does it provoke thought, laughter, discomfort, or recognition?
- Does it linger after the final line?

Key question: What stays with me?

Every submission will receive an evaluation critique from a credentialed evaluator.

Finalists will be notified of acceptance by email on or before April 28, 2026.

Once all ten finalists have been contacted, the complete finalist list will be emailed to all submitting playwrights.

The finalists will then be announced via the Script Writers–Houston email distribution list and social media the following day.