Tiny Plays for Ireland and America Playwriting Challenge

Part of the 2016-2017 John F. Kennedy Centennial Celebration
Part of IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture
In collaboration with Fishamble: The New Play Company and the Irish Arts Center

What is it?

“Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.” From John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural address, January 20, 1961

As President Kennedy’s 100th birthday approaches on May 29, 2017, the Kennedy Center encourages everyone living in the United States to write an original play of 500 words or less examining his legacy as it lives on in the country today and responding to the call, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

We want stories from across the United States, from people from all walks of life and all backgrounds, from writers young and old, from those who have written many times, to those who have never written a play before.

John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States and America’s first Irish-Catholic president, served in office from January 1961 until his assassination in November 1963, a total of just over 1000 days. His presidency, while shortened due to his untimely death, is notable due to the significant social and political events that occurred including the Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Police Week, the establishment of the Peace Corps, the Space Race, the building of the Berlin Wall, the African-American Civil Rights Movement, and increased U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

Kennedy’s legacy, ultimately, is that he coached our character as citizens of this great country. His presidency remains tied to, and identified with themes of exploration, innovation, creativity, courage, freedom, justice, and service.

This open call for new play submissions is based on the original project Tiny Plays for Ireland hosted in 2011 by Fishamble: The New Play Company in Ireland. The call to action sought tiny plays that explored contemporary life in Ireland. After receiving an astounding number of play submissions from people of all ages from all over Ireland, Fishamble selected 50 tiny plays that were presented in two performances and published in a book.

Submission categories - one play will be selected for performance from each category:
• Middle school (grade 6-8 or equivalents) or ages 11-13
• High school (grade 9-12 or equivalents) or ages 14-17
• Adults ages 18-26
• Adults ages 27-59
• Adults ages 60 and over
• Kennedy Center Family (staff, volunteers, and their immediate family members)

**Submission Criteria**

• All submissions must be 500 words or less, in English, and performable by a cast of no more than 3 actors.
• Playwrights are encouraged to write multi-character dialogue, not a monologue, although monologues will be accepted.
• All submissions should be complete plays which can stand on their own; structurally, each play should have a beginning, middle and end and not be an excerpt from a longer work. Excerpts from a longer work will not be accepted.
• Playwrights must live in the United States.
• Playwrights should submit a headshot that may be used publically, including via social media, regardless of whether their play is selected for performance.
• By submitting a play, playwrights (and/or their parents and/or guardians) agree that the Kennedy Center, Fishamble, the Irish Arts Center, and any sponsors or other supporters of the *Tiny Plays for Ireland and America* project may use the playwright’s name, image and all or a portion of the submitted play to promote the Playwriting Challenge, regardless of whether the play entered is selected for performance.
• Complete official rules can be found below.

**How do I submit a Tiny Play and what are the deadlines?**

All submissions must be received by the Kennedy Center by **February 19, 2016**. Plays may be submitted through the online application or by mailing the paper application and script to:

Kennedy Center  
Education Division  
ATTN: Tiny Plays  
P.O. Box 101510  
Washington, DC 20566

In early **March 2016** the selected playwrights will be contacted by the Kennedy Center to confirm their participation and to provide other information, such as a completed W-9 form, additional photographs, a short biography and possible interview footage, for use by the Kennedy Center as part of the official announcement of the selected playwrights and other informational and promotional uses. Selected playwrights will also receive information about any required edits and other ways that the plays might be strengthened for performance.

On or about **March 18, 2016**, the Kennedy Center will announce the selected plays.
All rewrites and other information must be submitted to the Kennedy Center no later than April 1, 2016.

On May 24 and 25, 2016 there will be a staged reading of all selected plays during the Kennedy Center’s IRELAND 100: Celebrating a Century of Irish Arts and Culture festival. The reading will be performed as part of Fishamble: The New Play Company’s performance, Tiny Plays for Ireland and America.

On May 26, 2016 there will be a staged reading of the plays at the Irish Arts Center in New York as part of Fishamble: The New Play Company’s performance, Tiny Plays for Ireland and America.

Selected playwrights will receive:
- A bound copy of all plays selected for performance
- An honorarium of Five Hundred US Dollars ($500)
- Invitation to attend both performances of Tiny Plays for Ireland and America, and to participate in a post-show Q & A on May 24th and 25th at the Kennedy Center (one pair of tickets per playwright)
  - Playwrights living outside the Washington, DC metro area shall additionally receive travel to and hotel accommodations (one double-occupancy room) in Washington, DC, for the playwright and one guest to attend the performances of Tiny Plays for Ireland and America at the Kennedy Center. For playwrights under 18 years of age, the guest must be a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.
  - An invitation to attend the performance of Tiny Plays for Ireland and America at the Irish Arts Center in New York, NY on May 26th (one pair of tickets per playwright).
  - Playwrights living outside the New York, NY metro area shall additionally receive travel to New York, NY and hotel accommodations (one double-occupancy room) in New York, NY, for the playwright and one guest to attend the performances of Tiny Plays for Ireland and America at the Irish Arts Center. For playwrights under 18 years of age, the guest must be a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult.

All travel shall be booked by the Kennedy Center at lowest available coach rates. The Kennedy Center reserves the right to book non-local travel as round trip or multi-destination (i.e., Home-DC-NYC-Home) at its sole discretion. The total value of this award package is approximately $650 plus the cost of any applicable travel and accommodations. All selected playwrights will be required to submit a W-9 and an acknowledgement that the value of the award shall be considered taxable income.
Tiny Plays for Ireland and America Playwriting Challenge
Official Submission Guidelines and Rules

Important: Please read these rules before submitting an entry in the Tiny Plays for Ireland and America Playwriting Challenge (the “Challenge”). By submitting an entry, you agree to be bound by these Official Submission Guidelines and Rules and represent that you have read and understood all requirements set forth below.

1. Playwrights must live in the United States.

2. All plays must somehow comment on the themes of John F. Kennedy’s presidency or his legacy. Suggested topics may include a significant event that occurred during Kennedy’s presidency and its rewards/repercussions or a contemporary social or political issue.

3. Submitted scripts must be written in English; scripts written in other languages will not be accepted.

4. All entries must be 500 words or less and be performable by a cast of no more than 3 actors.

5. Plays must be original, unproduced, and unpublished at the time of submission. Scripts with previous readings or workshops are acceptable, as long as they were not produced for a paying audience and have not been publicly reviewed. All submissions must be exclusive to the Challenge through May 31, 2016, regardless of whether a play is selected for performance.

6. All information may be submitted electronically via the interactive form or the paper application. All submissions should be accompanied by a headshot of the playwright which may be used for promoting the Challenge via any and all media.

7. Scripts must be submitted in a standard format and should follow these formatting guidelines:
   a. Include a cover sheet listing the title of the play and the cast list. Do not show your name, address, or any identifying information on the cover or any page of your entry.
   b. List page numbers on each page of the script (not counting the cover sheet)

8. Playwrights may submit only one script, whether under his or her name or a pseudonym.

9. Plays must only have one playwright. No co-authored works, please.

10. If a play includes any material that is copyrighted or otherwise owned or controlled by someone other than the playwright (including but not limited to, poetry, music and/or lyrics, characters originally created by others in any medium, and/or stories based on real people and/or other people’s lives, other than public figures, such as JFK) the playwright shall provide proof of written permission to include such material in the script.
11. All submissions should be complete plays which can stand on their own; structurally, each play should have a beginning, middle and end and not be an excerpt from a longer work. Excerpts from a longer work will not be accepted.

12. Playwrights are encouraged to write multi-character dialogue, not a monologue, although monologues will be accepted.

13. By submitting a play, playwrights (and/or their parents and/or guardians) agree that the Kennedy Center, Fishamble, the Irish Arts Center, and any sponsors or other supporters of the Tiny Plays for Ireland and America project may use the playwright’s name, image and all or a portion of the submitted play to promote the Challenge, regardless of whether the play entered is selected for performance.

14. All selected playwrights will be required to complete a certificate of eligibility, provide headshots or other photographs, and agree to allow themselves to be interviewed on and off camera for use by the Kennedy Center, Fishamble, and the Irish Arts Center in promoting the performances of the winning plays and for other educational and institutional purposes. Playwrights who are under the age of 18 must have the permission of their parent or guardian to submit their work and be interviewed.

15. Employees of the Kennedy Center, Fishamble, the Irish Arts Center and other sponsors and participants in the IRELAND 100 Festival any of their respective entities, subsidiaries, and immediate families (spouses, parents, children, and siblings and their spouses) and/or persons living in the same households as such persons of each are not eligible to enter as part of the age-based call for entries, but may enter as part of the “Kennedy Center Family” category.

16. All applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply. The Challenge and these rules will be governed, construed and interpreted under the laws of the District of Columbia. By entering, you agree to be bound by these rules and by the decisions of the Kennedy Center and other participating organizations, which are final and binding in all respects. The Kennedy Center reserves the right to change these rules at any time, and in its sole discretion, and to suspend, cancel, postpone or extend the Challenge. Individuals who violate or fail to comply with these rules, violate any law, rule or regulation in connection with participation in the application process, tamper with the operation of the entry process, or engage in any conduct that is detrimental or unfair to the Kennedy Center, the application process, any other applicants (in each case as determined in the Kennedy Center’s sole discretion), are subject to disqualification.

17. Selected playwrights will be solely responsible for all food, baggage, ground transportation and other expenses related to their travel and attendance at any events, as well as any taxes applicable to any aspect of the awards provided hereunder.

If you have any questions about these rules or the Challenge, please e-mail them to dl@kennedy-center.org. All selected playwrights’ names will be posted on the Kennedy Center website, www.kennedy-center.org/Ireland100, no later than April 15, 2016.
**Tiny Plays for Ireland and America Playwriting Challenge**

**PLAYWRIGHT INFORMATION**

*Fields marked with an (*) are required.*

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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name (Last, First, M.):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age (at time of submission):</td>
<td>Occupation:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Address:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td>State:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Phone:</td>
<td>Alternate Phone:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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How did you find out about the Playwriting Challenge?

*Category:

- [ ] Middle School (grades 6-8 or equivalents) or ages 11-13
- [ ] High School (grades 9-12 or equivalents) or ages 14-17
- [ ] Adults ages 18-26
- [ ] Adults ages 27-59
- [ ] Adults ages 60 and over
- [ ] Kennedy Center Family (staff, volunteers, and their immediate family members)

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:**

*Note: Your responses in the following section are optional and voluntary. The responses in this section will be used for the purpose of collecting demographic data only and bear no influence on your Tiny Plays for Ireland and America Playwriting Challenge submission.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity:</td>
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I have read and agree to be bound by the Official Submission Guidelines and Rules for the Tiny Plays for Ireland and America Playwriting Challenge. By signing and submitting this application, I declare that I am over 18 years of age and also declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information contained in my application and its attachments is true and correct.

__________________________
*Playwright Signature: *

__________________________
*Date: *

__________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature:

(*Required for Playwright’s under age 18)