

PLAY CAFÉ'S READINGS FOR MEMBERS

SECTION I GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC READINGS:

PLAY CAFÉ, the producing arm of Playwrights Café, produces plays written by its members, as staged readings, by hiring actors, reserving a performance space, coordinating rehearsals, inviting an audience, and facilitating a post play audience discussion. This is an opportunity for members to see their plays performed by trained actors .

READINGS and rehearsals typically take place on the same Sunday afternoon in Berkeley.

PLAYWRIGHTS have a choice of two reading formats. (1) The Basic Reading: Actors sit in chairs and read the script. There are no props and no movement.

(2) The Staged Reading: Actors read from scripts in hand, there are props so long as they don't interfere with the actors holding scripts, and some scenery with stage lighting. The script is acted out with normal stage movement.

Both kinds of readings are with directors and audience feedback.

TO QUALIFY for a Public Reading, a script up to 30 pages must have had a complete reading at the Thursday night meetings. A script of more than 30 pages must have been a "play of the month."

SCRIPTS are limited to a total of 120 pages. The script must be complete when it is submitted. Minor changes can be made up to two weeks prior to the Reading. The playwright must pay 25 cents per page and \$5 per actor up through 6 actors. If there are more than 6 actors, the playwright must pay \$20 per actor for the additional actors over six.

MAKE A CHECK PAYABLE to Play Café and give it to Steve Lyons on the day of the Reading.

DIRECTORS: If Play Cafe furnishes a director for a play, the playwright pays \$20 directly to that director. The director will be asked to work closely with the playwright. The playwright has the option of directing his/her own play or hiring his/her own director.

REHEARSALS usually take place on the day of the Reading. The playwright can pay for additional rehearsals on other days. Playwrights can attend rehearsals as observers and are encouraged to do so, as it is a valuable learning experience. During a rehearsal, a playwright must not speak except to answer a director's question. If the playwright wants to speak to the director, this must be done away from the actors.

ACTORS will be hired by Play Café. To minimize the cost of the Readings, an ensemble of actors will be cast. Most actors will, of necessity, be cast in more than one play. Actors are trained to play various ages and ethnic types, so they might be cast into roles that don't necessarily match their appearance. Play Café's policy is to hire minority actors on an equal basis.

WHEN a play is cast, the playwright will be put in touch with his/her director and asked to send copies of the script to the actors. The playwright should work with the director and not with the actors unless the playwright is the director.

VENUE. Play Café will select and pay for the venue including related expenses.

PLEASE SUBMIT SCRIPTS, you wish to have read, to Ron Weaver in person at a monthly meeting. Include your E-mail address and phone number.

SECTION II GUIDELINES FOR NON-PUBLIC DEVELOPMENTAL READINGS:

For plays that are clearly not ready for public readings, Play Café will help members organize private developmental readings of their plays. Playwrights invite their audience. Finding and paying for a performance space is the responsibility of the playwright. Because these readings are for an invited audience only, they may be held in a living room or some other free space. Play Café will arrange for and pay actors, and assist in post-play discussion. This type of reading is generally not done with a director.

PLEASE SUBMIT SCRIPTS, you wish to have read, to Ron Weaver in person at a monthly meeting. Include your E-mail address and phone number.

IF you have questions, please contact Ron at wcfron@aol.com

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