

WCLA's Wellesley In Entertainment 2018-19 Screenwriting Competition

General Information

Description

The WCLA's Wellesley In Entertainment group holds an annual screenwriting competition for graduating seniors of Wellesley College. The competition is open to all majors. This year, the organization will accept submissions between September 4, 2018 and January 27, 2019.

Submitted scripts may be any genre — short film, pilot, feature, web series, comedy, drama, science fiction — but must be original content, the sole property of the applicant. No spec scripts for existing television series will be accepted. Any adaptation must be based on properties which the applicant owns in full. **This year, stage plays will be included, and comedy packets will be excluded from the list of accepted materials.** We made the former change because the broader film/TV industry now readily accepts plays as writing samples for television staffing, as well as for acquiring agents and managers. However, comedy packets will always be written in response to a prompt (issued by a late-night or variety show), never as a completely original concept, and never submitted as an industry-wide writing sample.

Moreover, we are looking for narrative — new ideas, strong characters, believable worlds, and well-defined conflicts. We hope the scripts will demonstrate both a love of language and a commitment to storytelling. As a guide, applicants may reference the scoring rubric, below, which will be used by the judges.

A panel of Wellesley alums who are industry professionals will review submissions and select both a competition winner and an honorable mention. During the College's 2019 spring break, the competition winner will be flown to LA, housed for four nights with a Wellesley alum and set up with three days of meetings with industry professionals (writers and executives). The WCLA's WIE will arrange the student's flight, and a \$100 cash per diem (\$300 total) will be given upon arrival to LA, to cover meals and travel within the city.

We hope that this competition will promote the completion of writing samples in advance of graduation, allowing seniors to graduate with at least one of the tools necessary for becoming a professional writer. We hope the award package will allow the winning student to grow comfortable with taking general meetings and receiving industry feedback on a writing sample. Last, we hope that the student will carry the experience back to classmates, able to reflect on not only possible paths to becoming a working writer but also the ways Wellesley graduates can support each other in bringing diverse, smart, human stories to the screen.

Timeline

- September 4th, 2018 — Submission period opens
- January 27th, 2019 11:59 PM EST — Submission period closes
- February 19th, 2019 — Winner and Honorable Mention announced
- Week of March 25th, 2019 — Winner flies to LA, meets with industry professionals
- May 3rd, 2019 — Announcement of 2019-20 competition

Scoring Rubric

Scored 1 to 10, with 10 being “yes, very much so” and 1 being “not at all”

- Is the document consistently formatted, without typos?
- Is the script’s concept original?
- While reading the first page, did you want to know where this story was headed?
- Do the characters represent specific, unique, diverse points of view?
- Does the writer employ any invention within the structure, entry into scenes, introduction of characters, or exposition?
- Is there a strong sense of place? Do you have a sense of the world beyond the bounds of this script?
- From the words on the page, do you have a visual sense of this story? Does the writer offer any sense of the visual style and tone?
- Do you have a sense of the characters’ inner lives, beyond the spoken dialogue?
- Does this script make you want to know more about the writer behind it?

Submission Guidelines

- Scripts should be properly formatted through Final Draft, Screenwriter, Celtx, or a similar screenwriting software.
- One submission will be accepted per person.
- All documents must be in English.
- Submissions may not be altered, revised, or resubmitted after initial submission.
- Complete the attached informational form, including short essay questions, and sign the legal waiver. Please type responses to short essay questions on a separate sheet, in 12-point font. Send completed form, short essay question page, signed waiver, and script **in that order, as one PDF**, to WIEScreenwritingCompetition@gmail.com. Please put your last name in the header of each page.
- A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your submission. Please do not inquire on the status of your application beyond that confirmation. Results will be announced on February 19th, 2019.

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Basic Information Form

Applicant name: _____ Student ID: _____

Are you a current student? Y N

Anticipated graduation year: _____ Semester: _____
[Must be Fall 2018, Spring 2019, or Fall 2019]

Title of Submission: _____

Genre (television pilot, feature, web series, short film, stage play, other): _____

I have read and signed the attached release form: Y / N

Short Essay Questions

*Please limit responses to 150 words.

1. What is your dream job and/or what would you like to be doing in ten years?
2. What role does writing play in your life, and how will that role change after graduation?
3. Describe the first time you felt like you had found — and were writing in — your own voice.