



15 Tens - A Short Play Festival

Teachers! Students! Adults!

Sharpen your pencils! Plug in your laptops!

*We're looking for writers or amateur writers
with stories that can be told in a ten minute play!*

*Three Categories:
High School Students
Community College/College Students
Community At-Large*

*Scripts Accepted at
depottheater.com*

*Round One 15 Tens
August 17, 2020 through November 16, 2020
Top 15 Announcement – December 9, 2020*

*Round Two 15 Tens
January 15, 2021 through January 16, 2021
Tech Consultations & Videotaping*

*15 Tens - A Short Play Festival Finale & Awards
February 6, 2021*

*Contact Terri Dieker
tedieker@gmail.com or 904-707-8302*

sponsored in part by



Mariah Fund
Bringing Kansas Tourism to Life



GUIDELINES

15 Tens – A Short Play Festival

The Depot Theater announces the first annual, regional, short play festival *15 Tens*. Entries of original works will be accepted in three categories (high school students; community college/college students; and at-large community members) from throughout the 22 counties of southwest Kansas. Each play selected will be performed on a blank stage with one set piece -- a bench -- and minimal props and characters.

Entries will be judged in two rounds. In Round One, 15 scripts (five in each category) will be selected for performance. Round Two will feature the 15 winning playwrights casting and performing their works for video recording at the Depot Theater in January 2021. The festival will culminate in a February Zoom event at which the 15 Round One winners will receive \$100 awards and one grand prize winner from each category will receive awards of \$500. Winning scripts and videos will be published as a collection each year.

In future years, the *15 Tens Short Play Festival* will feature an on-site weekend of performances and gatherings celebrating theater arts in southwest Kansas. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020-2021 festival will feature video productions of the award-winning scripts. Please read all information before submitting a script.

QUOTE – 10 MINUTE PLAY

“Chuck is very self-conscious about his raspy voice and refuses to answer any of the numerous phone messages left by Nancy, the Welcome Wagon lady.”
The End of the Line, Greg Cummings. Heuer Publishing

What are the Details?

There is no entry fee. A regional panel of five judges in each category will select five winners in each of the three categories in Round One using the 15 Tens Rubric found on page 6. Scripts will be numbered and will not be identified by playwright or by the order of submission. Round Two will feature the same regional panel of judges who will review the video submissions (or in future, post COVID 19 years, the live performances at an on-site festival) and will select a grand prize winner in each category.

Judges as well as entries will remain anonymous until awards are announced and presented at a culminating event. Judges' scoring sheets will be provided after the winners are announced.

All scripts become the property of the Depot Theater. All playwrights will be expected to cast, direct (or appoint a director), and provide their own limited props. All plays will be set on a bare stage with a single set piece: a bench. Although the bench may represent anything, it must appear on stage. There is no other furniture on the stage and only those props that can fit easily inside a standard sized file box may be used. Limited to ten minutes, each script should feature small casts. Plays with elaborate sets, lighting or sound will be disqualified.

Who Can Enter?

Individuals residing in or attending school in the 22 county SW Kansas region may submit original works in one of three categories.

Each playwright may submit up to two, original one-act plays, each 10-minutes in length. Scripts submitted in previous years not selected for awards may be substantially rewritten and resubmitted in following years.



How do I Submit an Entry?

Scripts may be submitted online or by mail. Submissions must be postmarked or uploaded no later than midnight, November 16, 2020. Scripts will not be returned.

Entries will consist of the Submission Form (page 7) with identifying information and an unidentifiable, single-spaced script of approximately 10-12 pages. Each entry will be assigned a number when submitted to ensure blind judging for Round One. All author information will appear on the 15 Tens Submission Sheet only. Please note: A script which is identified with the playwright's name will **not** be accepted.

- Online entries may be submitted at depottheater.com under the Events tab.
- Address mail entries to:
15 Tens – A Short Play Festival
Depot Theater
P O Box 661
Dodge City KS 67801
- Emailed entries may be submitted to depottheater1@gmail.com

What are the Guidelines for Submissions?

Scripts must be typed, single-sided and have numbered pages. They must not be stapled or bound. There should be no identifying information on the pages of the scripts, although the Submission Form may be attached by paperclip if entries are mailed.

Playwrights must own the copyright to any material submitted. This includes not only the script itself, but also any musical number written explicitly into the script or any other copyright protected material.

Scripts may be written and performed in a language other than English as long as an English translation accompanies the submission. Consultation for non-English language playwrights is available upon request.

A cadre of volunteers will be available by appointment for one or two, 30-minute Zoom consultations upon request. These volunteers may help at any point in script development or preparation for performance.

Failure to follow these guidelines will automatically disqualify scripts from consideration.

QUOTE – 10 MINUTE PLAY

From extracting a gummy bear out of a new set of braces to coping with bullies, these characters share their innermost hopes and fears with each other, ten minutes at a time. 16 in Ten Minutes or Less, Bradley Hayward.

What happens if I'm a 15 Tens Round One Winner?

Five winning playwrights/plays will be announced for each of three categories at a virtual event scheduled for Saturday morning, December 9, 2020. All entrants will be invited to a Zoom event. The 2021 15 Tens Short Play Festival has been modified due to COVID-19 restrictions. Details for this virtual event will be announced through email in early December 2020.

Each of the 15 winning playwrights will have five weeks to cast, prepare and rehearse their work. Playwrights will be able to make slight modifications to scripts as their work takes shape during the rehearsal process.

Assuming that travel and gathering restrictions allow the 15 winners' teams to social distance in order to record at the Depot Theater, hour-long appointments will be scheduled on Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16, 2021. Each playwright and team will schedule a 30-minute consultation with sound/light technicians and then will perform their work to be recorded on video. All recordings will be blind judged by the regional panel and grand prize winners will be selected from the video reviews. In future years, the consultations and performances will be live and on-site.

Those plays written in a language other than English may be performed in either the language in which they are written or in English as long as an English script is provided. The winning scripts and videos will be posted on the Depot Theater's website.

How Will the Festival Culminate?

Plans will include an on-site, two-day festival under normal conditions. The 2020-2021 15 Tens - A Short Play Festival will culminate with a Zoom event with details to be announced.

QUOTE – 10 MINUTE PLAY

The three characters have different types of faith. The young Millsap has faith that God will protect them, Brody has faith in herself to find a way out, and Murphy, the old timer, is devoid of faith. Hole, Stephen Bittrich

How Can I Volunteer?

The Depot Theater wishes to express our sincerest thanks to the volunteers who assist with this project and who assist playwrights wishing to submit entries. Anyone wishing to volunteer is welcome to contact Depot Theater at depottheater1@gmail.com

How Do I Get More Information?

Contact the Depot Theater's Board Member Terri Dieker for more information. Email tedieker@gmail.com or phone 904-707-8302.

What is the 15 Tens Calendar?

Round One 15 Tens
August 17, 2020 through November 16, 2020
Top 15 Announcement – December 9, 2020

Round Two 15 Tens
January 15, 2021 through January 16, 2021
Tech Consultations & Videotaping

15 Tens - A Short Play Festival Finale & Awards
February 6, 2021

Join Us in Thanking the Mariah Fund for Support



Funding for the 15 Tens- A Short Play Festival was provided in part through a grant from the Mariah Fund, a 501(c)3 Private Foundation, formed to enhance regional tourism through both targeted and collaborative efforts.



FOR DEPOT THEATER USE ONLY

SCRIPT NUMBER

**15 TENS - A SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL
JUDGE'S SCORING SHEET**

CATEGORY		5 HIGH	4	3 AVERAGE	2	1 LOW
THEME	Is there a strong, clear use of the theme in this play?					
	Is the use of the theme original and interesting?					
VOICE	Does the author show a strong, interesting writing style?					
	Does the author have a clear viewpoint that's well integrated into the play?					
CHARACTERIZATION	Are the characters interesting and compelling as written?					
	Are these people you want to hear more about at the end of ten minutes?					
	Do the characters seem credible and real?					
	Are these the best characters to propel this action?					
PLOT	Does the plot seem fresh, intriguing and original?					
	Does something happen?					
	Is there sufficient conflict and tension to sustain ten minutes?					
	Will this plot seem active, vital and dramatic on stage?					
DIALOGUE	Does the dialogue fit the characters?					
	Does the dialogue sound natural and credible for the plot and location?					
	Does each character have his or her own unique voice?					
	Does the dialogue seem fresh and compelling not dull or boring or generic?					
OVERALL EFFECT	Is the play satisfying and memorable by the end?					
SUBTOTALS						
GRAND TOTAL						



FOR DEPOT THEATER USE ONLY

SCRIPT NUMBER

**15 TENS – A SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL
2020-2021 SUBMISSION FORM**

Please read all information before submitting your script.

Complete the submission form below and attach it to the top of your unmarked script if you are submitting by mail. DO NOT STAPLE OR BIND YOUR SCRIPT.

Please print

AUTHOR'S NAME		CATEGORY (MARK ONE)		
		HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	COMM C / COLLEGE STUDENTS	ADULT
FULL MAILING ADDRESS				
E-MAIL ADDRESS				
HOME PHONE		CELL PHONE		
TITLE OF PLAY				
SEND JUDGES' SHEETS TO				
<input type="checkbox"/> MAILING ADDRESS		<input type="checkbox"/> E-MAIL ADDRESS		

Submissions must be postmarked or uploaded no later than Monday, November 16, 2020. Scripts will not be returned. Award-winning scripts will be published in a festival compendium.

Online Submissions

depottheater.com under the Events Tab

Mail Submissions

15 Tens - A Short Play Festival
Depot Theater
P O Box 661
Dodge City KS 67801

Email Submissions

depottheater1@gmail.com

Questions?

Depot Theater Board Member Terri Dieker, tedieker@gmail.com or 904-707-8302.



15 de Diez - Festival de Obras Cortas

¡Maestros! ¡Estudiantes! ¡Adultos!

¡Estamos buscando escritores o personas que quieran ser escritores con historias que se puedan contar en una obra de diez minutos!

Tres Categorías:
Estudiantes de Preparatoria
Estudiantes del Community College
La comunidad en general

Mandar libretos a
depottheater.com

Primera ronda de 15 de Diez
Agosto 17, 2020 hasta Noviembre 16, 2020
Los primeros 15 se anunciarán el 9 de Diciembre, 2020

Segunda ronda de 15 de Diez
15 de Enero, 2021 hasta 16 de Enero, 2021
Videograbaciones y consultas de Técnicos

15 de Diez – La Final de obras cortas y premiación.
6 de Febrero, 2021

sponsored in part by



Mariah Fund
Bringing Kansas Tourism to Life