

Volume I: Issue I
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www.MontanaPlaywrights.org

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MPN News

The official newsletter of the Montana Playwrights Network

Share your Story!

The **Montana Playwrights Network (MPN)** is looking for original material to include in our first ever performance of staged readings at the **Montana Playwrights Conference**. Send us your **poetry, stage monologues, short essays, short plays, stories and memoirs** for consideration. You must be a member of MPN to be featured in this exciting new event. Look inside this issue for guidelines, or go to our website:

www.MontanaPlaywrights.org

Join the
Network today!

Announcing the first Montana Playwrights Conference!

November 2, 3, 2017

We are pleased to offer the first Montana Playwrights Conference to be held at Helena College, on the Roberts Street campus. This informative and entertaining event is supported by a unique partnership among the Montana Playwrights Network, the Helena College Foundation and the College's Continuing Education department to promote awareness of the importance and purpose of stories in our personal and professional lives.

Featured presenters will offer hands-on workshops that benefit playwrights, storytellers, literary/reading/writing teachers, librarians and business professionals, as well as writers of most genres, or members of the general public. More details inside!

Helena College Continuing Education



Supporting creativity in our community



Host of the first Montana Playwrights Conference in November 2017.

Visit our website for more information on class offerings.



Your talent could be our next class! We would love to hear your ideas.

www.umhelena.edu/continuinged, email ce@umhelena.edu or call Mary Lannert at 406-447-6945.



Supporting the arts in Helena.

Please consider Helena College Foundation in your philanthropic giving.

www.helenacollegefoundation.org



Greetings from the President

It is with great pleasure that I write this first salutation as the President of the **Montana Playwrights Network**. Through the efforts of our Charter Board of Directors and members, our company has been incorporated in Montana as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is working hard to establish our presence throughout Montana and our neighboring states; and at the same time, making preparations for our first big event in November: the **Montana Playwrights Conference**.

You'll find this first issue of **MPN News** packed with preliminary information about the Conference, details explaining **Montana Monologues**, a project created especially to highlight the creative works of MPN members, and other pertinent information. On our website, www.MontanaPlaywrights.org, we'll be posting regular updates about our progress as an organization and identify special events that benefit our members and the public.

The **Montana Playwrights Network** was formed to provide a forum focusing on stories as expressed through a variety of formats, including but not limited to playwriting, storytelling, poetry, history, non-fiction, essays, memoirs and interpersonal communication. We're looking to connect with **writer's groups, storytellers, teachers, theatre companies, libraries, book clubs, and businesses** that are interested in story as integral to company cultures.

In short, the **Montana Playwrights Network** is for people to connect to each other through the important medium of story. After all, everything in our lives involves stories of what we do, what we think, and what we feel, and what it may mean to others.

Become a member and share your story through the Network today! A **Membership Form** is available on **page 6** of this newsletter. For a complete description of membership benefits, go to our website at: www.MontanaPlaywrights.org



Daniel Pink, an internationally renowned author, social and behavioral theorist, describes the importance of stories in his book, *A Whole New Mind*: "*Stories are at the basis of all cultures and civilizations; and of human behavior... We have an internal "story grammar" that helps us to understand the world not as a set of logical propositions, but as a pattern of experiences. We explain ourselves and connect to others through stories.*"

Here's What's Coming to the first Montana Playwrights Conference!

Featured Presenters will offer
inspiring and useful workshops in:

Storytelling Basics

Playwriting Basics

Story Applications in the Classroom (multi-disciplines)

The Presence of Story in the Workplace

Playwriting Concepts to Use in Other Forms of Creative Writing

Improvisational Playwriting and Storytelling

Update on Research Intersections Between Story
and Social Cognitive Neuroscience

Preserving Cultural Identity Through Stories

Master Class in Playwriting presented by our Keynote Speaker

Workshops are scheduled throughout the day on November 2 and 3, and in the evening of **November 2**, we'll present a series of **staged readings** featuring the original works by members of the Montana Playwrights Network submitted through the **Montana Monologues** project.

Deadline for submissions is September 15.
See **page 5** of this issue for complete guidelines.

Call for Staff!

We're looking for reliable and talented people to fill the following
positions for the Montana Playwrights Conference:

Marketing Coordinator

Media Coordinator

Registration Table Staff & Greeters

Actors, Storytellers, Orators & Directors

Stage Crew

Some of these positions offer a modest stipend. If you are interested, please contact
Pamela Mencher at MontanaPlaywrights@gmail.com

Send us your entries by September 15, 2017

Competition Details

The “**Montana Monologues**” project is an opportunity for MPN members to showcase their work in performance and publication. Selected poetry, stage monologues, short essays, memoirs, and short plays will be performed at the first “**Montana Playwrights Conference**” scheduled for **November 2, 3, 2017, at Helena College** in Helena, Montana. A collection of these works will be published within two years, or later depending upon the amount and overall quality of submissions gathered in a two year period. Creative works written by members, but not performed at the annual conference, may also be considered for this publication.

Members retain ownership rights to their creative works, but featured writers are required to submit written permission for their works to be included in any MPN sponsored publication or anthology of members’ works. All proceeds from any such publications are used to support the Network, and the annual conference.

Montana Monologue Competition Guidelines

1. All members of the Montana Playwrights Network (MPN) may submit up to two creative works per year for consideration in the “Montana Monologues” project. You must be a member to participate. Send us your best!
2. Writers’ themes must clearly illustrate an aspect of Montana life, past, present or future.
3. Poetry must not exceed 20 lines, and stage monologues, short essays and memoirs must not exceed 500 words. Only unpublished works are eligible for consideration. Short plays may not exceed 8 pages of dialogue in standard manuscript format.
4. The work submitted may be comedic, tragic, inspirational or non-fiction. It should be “stand-alone”, and must not depend upon a larger body of work in order to be enjoyed, understood or performed; however, excerpted work may be submitted if it meets the “stand-alone” requirement.
5. **For Stage Monologues:** Monologues must be clearly intended for live theatrical performance or auditions, and exhibit standard theatrical playwriting techniques. Avoid writing a static “memory piece” or disguising an essay or memoir as a theatrical monologue. Create monologues that offer present, in-the-moment performance by an actor. Be certain the monologue contains a dramatic arc that creates dramatic action and sense of progression in performance. Your monologue should be consistent with material often used by successful actors in auditions.
6. The works submitted must not require the use of multiple props or costumes, although one prop or costume piece may be specified for any genre or style.
7. Submit your work in Word or PDF format. Limit one piece per file. Type size is 12 point, and use Times New Roman as the font. Double-space any memoir or essays.
8. Submit to: montanaplaywrights@gmail.com, and label your email subject line as “Montana Works Submission.” **Submission Deadline, September 15, 2017.**

MPN Membership Form

Type of Membership: **Check One:**

Individual Membership: \$35 _____ **Organizational Membership:** \$50 _____

Student Membership: \$15 _____

(Please identify the school where you are enrolled, and also your education level; for example, "I am a sophomore in College.")

Name of School: _____

Education Level: _____

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: Home: () _____

Cell: () _____

Mailing Address:

Twenty-five (25) Word Bio:

Send this completed form, and your check made payable to:

Montana Playwrights Network

Mail to: Montana Playwrights Network; PMB 2052, 1 Jackson Creek Road, Clancy, MT 59634.

FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS ONLY:

Send a jpeg or tiff file of your organization's logo to: montanaplaywrights@gmail.com

**For a complete description of our Membership Benefits,
please go to our website at:**

www.MontanaPlaywrights.org

Post Scripts



- On this **back page of MPN News**, we'll print any announcements you might like to share with our membership and the general public that highlight writers' news and associated events around Montana. Send us information that's not longer than 80 words (or so) and we'll include it in the next MPN News issue to be published in July, 2017.
- Keep your eye on our website for more information about the **Montana Playwrights Conference, Meet & Greet** get-togethers around our great State, and associated MPN activities.
- Get to work on those submissions for **Montana Monologues!** Don't forget that you need to be an MPN member to be eligible to submit your creative works for this exciting project.
- **Share this newsletter** with your friends and anyone else who you think might be interested in our events, joining the Network, or attending the Montana Playwrights Conference in November at Helena College. It promises to be educational, inspiring and entertaining for everyone!

It's a Party!

Announcing a festive reunion for all **RMTA family, friends & guests** from around the Rocky Mountain Region.



Save the date: November 3, 2017, in Helena, Montana.

**For more information, and to RSVP, contact Pamela Mencher at
MontanaPlaywrights@gmail.com**