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www.MontanaPlaywrights.org



MPN News

The official newsletter of the
Montana Playwrights Network

It's time for another MPN update!

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MPN News

What's happening at the Helena Avenue Theatre (HAT)

Due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, all our plans for MPN and community events since April have come to a screeching halt, and the move-in and completion has slowed down as a result. MPN's Board of Directors along with several volunteers are working hard to complete the HAT facility as the organization pivots to meet the challenges of surviving during the pandemic.

We created a video of an original song written by Helena composer and musician, Steven Gores, with lyrics by Andrea Crossguns called, "Puttin' on the HAT". It features members of the HAT Theatre Ensemble. Check it out at: <https://youtu.be/1PPe0toqG9A>

Our Open House Reception had to be postponed, and in its place we are working on a virtual tour of the HAT with host, Andy Cottrell of the Cow Tipping Comedy Company. This tour is projected to be complete by the end of August, and a link to it will be available on our website: www.Montanaplaywrights.org, and also on our Facebook page for the HAT.

We also have had to postpone our first production, the *HAT Gala Grand Opening* production of *Bards of the Big Sky*, featuring MPN member playwrights, and Helena area performers. As soon as it is safe to do so, we'll be announcing new dates for this exciting and original production.

MPN is fortunate to have received financial assistance from the federal CARES Act administered by the State of Montana; and the Helena Area Community Foundation and United Way of Lewis & Clark County area. In addition, we have received help from private donors and are waiting to receive word from other possible sources. These funds are being applied to our rental costs, and finishing the facility. MPN extends our sincere gratitude for this assistance, as we could not survive without it.

However, we still need financial support to continue to survive the pandemic until we can open the HAT. Any amount is much appreciated. Online, please go to our website and click on the donate button at:

www.montanaplaywrights.org

Or
contact Pamela Mencher at:

406-235-0353



MPN News

Change in deadline for script submissions for the 2nd MPN Premiere Project: 2021-2023

All theatre companies and venues in the United States are dealing with devastating impacts of Covid-19, and MPN is no different. In the most recent MPN Board of Directors meeting, we discussed the next iteration of our MPN Premiere Project in light of the Pandemic, and agreed that our original plans and dates for script submissions and selection for productions by Montana Theatres were no longer applicable, and unpredictable at this time.

We are continuing the Project, as it is very important for our member playwrights, theatre companies and their communities to have this invaluable opportunity to see original works produced in fully-realized play productions around our home State. Therefore, the MPN Board is extending the deadline for script submissions and subsequent script selections by participating companies.

The terms for script submissions remains the same, but now you have until December, 2020, to send us your best work. For guidelines, go to our website at www.Montanaplaywrights.org.

If you have questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to contact Pamela Mencher at montanaplaywrights@gmail.com

**New Deadline for Submissions:
6:00 p.m. on December 31, 2020**



MPN News



New opportunity for MPN Members: Radio Theatre!

MPN is exploring new ways to harness and highlight creative endeavors while we wait to resume live performances of works generated by MPN members following the pandemic. To this end, we are creating a pilot radio show to air on Montana Public Radio in 2020, called "Montanans At Work!" This pilot is part of a partnership with the Lewis & Clark County Library in Helena and will feature library careers, past and present, and the ways that libraries intersect with and serve their contemporary communities in Montana. The show features interviews with librarians and others related to libraries, as well as stories of what may happen in libraries. We already have the writers lined up for this first pilot show, but plan several more installments of "Montanans At Work!"

In the second show, we plan to highlight the works of game wardens, and will include interviews with game wardens, past and present, and also will feature a radio drama that highlights a story based upon a rookie game warden's unusual and comedic experience in executing her responsibilities.

Although we welcome script submissions and career suggestions for at least three more installments for "Montanans At Work!", we also are eager to receive other radio drama scripts to present on Montana Public Radio. We encourage you to dig out your play scripts, stories, non-fiction essays, songs, and poetry that would be easily adapted to the radio format and run no longer than 25 minutes in performance. (If shorter works are submitted, we will find common themes that may combine works for one show.)

Send your material in standard play script, story, essay or poetry format, and we'll work with you to adapt it for recording. (Musicians will be asked to record their songs and lyrics, or arrange for it to be performed.) MPN will produce the performance recording of the material and will package it for radio. **JOIN US IN THIS NEW AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITY** by sending your work today!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS OF IDEAS AND SCRIPTS IS ONGOING!

CONTACT MPN AT montanaplaywrights@gmail.com