

Perisphere Theater Commissioned Play Application Notice

Perisphere Theater, a young theater company in Washington, D.C., is seeking a playwright for a commissioned work. The play will focus on Georgia Douglas Johnson, who hosted literary salons during the Harlem Renaissance movement here in D.C., and on the poetry and writing of the Harlem Renaissance and its relevance to the early civil rights movement in the United States.

This is an opportunity to create a piece about local history and culture that is also relevant to national themes and involves promoting the literary arts in a dramatic medium. This piece will be the focus of our educational programming for next season, so it must be appropriate for high school students, but it will also be presented to the general public.

We have available some preliminary research done by a literary expert on our board, but further research would be the responsibility of the playwright. Exact length, cast size, format, and timeline for completion are open for discussion.

The most likely contractual arrangement would be half of the commission fee up front, followed by the second half upon completion. Perisphere Theater would have rights to the show for its first production in D.C., and rights would revert to the author in full afterward, to offer to other theaters or publish as they see fit.

Application Process: To be considered, please submit a letter of interest and biography or resume to the artistic director, Heather Benjamin, at info@perispheretheater.com, along with samples of published or unpublished work, by July 31, 2018.

Perisphere Theater Mission and Focus

The company's focus is two-pronged: to produce well-written, classic plays from all eras, and to produce plays with historical and social themes:

Vision Statement

Perisphere Theater aims to create compelling theater that expands the way DC audiences view the past, the present, and one another.

Mission Statement

Perisphere Theater is dedicated to performing excellent plays with attention to the clarity of each playwright's particular style, allowing each unique voice to resonate through our production choices. We believe that all great plays, classical or modern, tragic or comic, have something to say to people from any time and place. With evocative design, compelling direction, and vivid and passionate performances, we aim to engage our audience's minds as well as touch their hearts. Perisphere embraces both the diversity and the commonality of human experience, finding creative tension and opportunity in exploring these aspects of life through the lenses of different time periods.

Values/Principles

Perisphere Theater has a commitment to:

- Produce moving, thought-provoking productions that raise questions and shed light on human fears and foibles even as they entertain.
- Respect the unique vision and style of the playwright while providing for creative artistic choices in presenting the work.
- Make choices in presentation that arise from the text itself and its historical, social, and emotional context.
- Provide opportunities every season for new as well as returning artists to work with the company.
- Encourage in people of all ages a love of history, and an understanding of its relevance, through the immediacy of theater performance and outreach programs.