

SOMEWHERE I CAN SCREAM: THE NEXT STAGE

Amy Drake
Drake Theatrical

Winning the Inner Circle Investment contest would allow me to further develop the play and ensure the financial ability to produce a top-notch show at The Players Theatre and publication of the script, to be offered at Bravo's Bookstore. I would be deeply grateful for the opportunity to hire the right talent—actors, director, designers, tech, and marketing to present the play at its best. Staging the play in New York would bring the issues of injustice in the legal system, racism, and politics in the medical system to a broader audience opening the door for discussions and conversations of how these problems can be dealt with effectively. At its heart, the play is a love story between a scientist and his Chinese-American wife early in the 20th century.

The Inner Circle helped me get my show, *SOMEWHERE I CAN SCREAM*, to the next stage by making me aware of the Residency Program at The Players Theatre and putting me in touch with Michael Sgouras. The script consult with Eric Webb helped me pinpoint the rough spots in my script giving me a roadmap to smooth out the story and dialogue to make it submission worthy. Ken and Inner Circle members have been very supportive and encouraging as I have worked through the development process up to this point.

The play was conceived to answer the question: what really happened in the Midwestern murder investigation in which the accused was an Olympic gold medalist in marksmanship, yet the victim died from bruises to the skull? And why was the case rushed through and wrapped up in a mere six months? The more I read about this Roaring Twenties investigation the more curious I became about what really happened. This event happened in my home town of Columbus, Ohio, and I'd heard stories about the people involved for most of my life, but the truth turned out to be more fantastic than I'd imagined. To get to the truth I set about pouring over newspaper clippings, including reports in *The New York Times*, transcripts of the trial eyewitness testimony and correspondence between the parties involved only to discover that evidence had been removed from the crime scene, some items in police custody had been tampered with, and the accused was beaten by a police commissioner until he confessed. Courtroom testimony was sold on the street under the counter of magazine stalls like pornography. The handling of this case changed procedure for all future murder investigations. I interviewed a judge for her professional opinion of the investigation and she confirmed it was a landmark case in Columbus history. Books based on reports and conjecture have been written on the case. Most significantly, I determined that the former Olympic hero wasn't guilty of the crime for which he was put to death. I was on a quest to put the record straight.

The play was staged in Columbus with a nearly sold out run. It was billed as "Best Bet" by The Columbus Dispatch newspaper. Many people with ties to the case, through their grandparents, neighbors, or colleagues turned out for performances and shared stories with me during intermission and after the show. I am now preparing to share the story with a New York audience in spring on 2020. The investor who had initially agreed to fund the production pulled out and expenses are coming in. If my show were awarded the \$10,000 investment prize, I would spend \$5,000 on the scheduled run at The Players Theatre, for this was the amount of the budget

Michael Sgouras and I discussed in our initial meeting, leading to the signing of a contract, and the other \$5,000 would be put toward a future production at a regional theater. The additional cost in the schedule below is due to legal fees for contract review by my attorney and for marketing ads, not figured into the original budget discussed with Michael. We will be publishing the script to be made available at Bravo's Bookstore, adjacent to The Players Theatre, with an eye toward licensing the play across the country.

Here are my accrued and projected expenses for the April 2020 run:

Legal	\$647
Marketing design	\$600
Marketing materials and ads	\$300
Director	\$500
Stage manager	\$600
Light design	\$300
Sets and props	\$200
Costumes	\$300
Actors	\$2550
Total	\$5997

Alternately, if Katrin Hilbe sings on as director and brings in her own team, the budget will be \$16,000. Expense breakdown TBD.

Top 10 reasons why you should invest in SOMEWHERE I CAN SCREAM

- 1) This play has already enjoyed a successful run. (We made money.)
- 2) The script has been improved by the implementation of suggestions given by Eric Webb
- 3) True crime plays are hot
- 4) It has been accepted for an April 2020 run at The Players Theatre
- 5) The themes of love, murder, drug abuse, and crooked officials never go out of style.
- 6) The husband of the main character is the only Olympic gold medal winner ever to be executed in the electric chair
- 7) The main character is a strong woman of a certain age.
- 8) A future president plays into the story
- 9) This case was so sensational that it grabbed the attention of The New York Times
- 10) The playwright has won awards in playwriting (MITF), directing (Theatre Roundtable), and business writing (IABC).

Bonus) My goal is long term profit.