



HOW TO SUBMIT TO A
THEATER FESTIVAL
& GET IN!

THE PRODUCER'S PERSPECTIVE
EXECUTION PLAN SERIES

PRO

HOW TO SUBMIT TO A THEATER FESTIVAL & GET IN!

Do you have a show that you want to get off the ground, but don't know where to start? One of the absolute BEST ways to get your show up on a stage in an affordable way is by submitting to and participating in festivals. If accepted, you get the benefit of all the publicity of the festival as a whole, plus usually the chance to win awards for your show, get recognition, and maybe even make some money!

Sounds great, right?

That's exactly why I've started my own festival called Rave Theater Festival in New York City. It's part of my mission to help 5000 shows get produced by 2025, and I want you to be one of them.

This execution plan is going to teach you six of my top tips on submitting to a theater festival that will help you get accepted. These tips are great to use for my theater festival, and can also be used for NYMF, The Fringe, and theater festivals all over creation. Use these tips to give yourself a little bit of a leg up, and if you get in, let me know by posting on Facebook or Instagram using #5000by2025 so I can see!

Ready for your tips? Here we go.

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Submit Early. As early as you can. Theater festivals get inundated with scripts, and readers are just a little bit fresher at the beginning. And when readers first start they have nothing to compare your script to, so it very well may stay at the top of the pile for a long time (or forever!). When they read a script they like at the beginning they're more likely to put it in the 'yes' pile and keep it there.

PRO TIP: Not sure when submissions are due for various festivals and other opportunities? Members of my Producer's Perspective PRO community have access to our submission opportunity list with up-to-date submission opportunities each month!



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TIP 2

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Have your team in place. Festivals want to have great productions as part of their line-up, and if you have a full team in place when you submit it shows that you are serious and ready for the opportunity. You will have a better chance of being accepted when you have a creative team in place. So, if you have a show or play, you can say, “Oh, we have a director, a choreographer, a musical director, etc.” Festival directors feel much more secure knowing that the show is going to be well prepared.

PRO TIP: Don't have your creative team lined up? Join my PRO community and post for collaborators in our private Facebook group or search our Director and Actor Databases to find who you need.

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TIP 3

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Materials and Formatting. When it comes to your script, make sure it's formatted with proper script formatting rules. It's much easier for readers to digest, especially when they are reading 50-500 scripts at a time! And if you get to the finalist phase you want your script to be clear and professional like the other scripts up for consideration.

PRO TIP: Not sure if your script is formatted correctly? Check out our script formatting service at www.TheProducersPerspective.com/services and we can help!

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TIP 4

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Professional Demo Recordings. I talked about this on my Whiteboard Workshop video series (PRO members can access my Whiteboard Workshop video library anytime). Your recording should sound clear and feature instruments and vocals. If you want to really stand out try to cast an actor or singer with clout that we'll recognize because they will help elevate your piece, which is well worth the investment. Make sure your demos are first class. Don't just record it in your apartment or on that microphone in your phone.



PRO TIP: Need help with your demo? My General Management team can help you with your recording. Check out our demo recording service at www.TheProducersPerspective.com/services and we can create a proposal for you based on your needs.

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TIP 5

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Make sure your script or your cover letter makes it feel or seem like your show is going to do well in a festival setting. Festivals are very unique theater-producing environments. Your set has to come up and tear down quickly. Your show has to adapt to time constraints. You're sharing a space. We want to make sure that if your script has twenty people in it that it won't be difficult to produce in a festival.

ACTION ITEM: List 3 Reasons Why Your Show Works Well in a Festival Setting

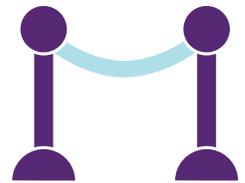
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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TIP 6

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Missed the deadline? Ask for a second chance. This is a secret of festivals so don't tell any of the other festivals I told you this, but if you're up against the deadline or even missed it, they may just sneak yours in. Why? Because festivals want their line-up to be great. So if you missed the cut off for whatever reason, make sure that you call and see if they can make an exception.



And now you have it. These are my top six tips for submitting to a festival and getting in! There are lots of great festivals out there, including Rave Theater Festival, so get out there and start submitting!

Interested in learning more about Rave Theater Festival and how to submit your show or attend? Visit www.RaveTheaterFestival.com to learn more.

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Join our community of theatre-makers on The Producer's Perspective PRO!

www.TheProducersPerspectivePRO.com

