

## **Mobtown Playwrights Group: Charter**

*Mission:* The Mobtown Playwrights Group is dedicated to giving playwrights an opportunity and a venue in which to workshop and produce new plays for an audience committed to the process of new play development in Baltimore.

*Season:* The Mobtown Playwrights Group season will consist of two parts:

- Staged Readings: Each fall, three playwrights will receive staged readings of a play they are in the process of developing. Each reading will span consecutive weekends, and an audience “talk back” session will follow each performance, so that playwrights have the opportunity to incorporate feedback received during the first weekend’s performances into a revised draft to be performed the second weekend. Audience members will be encouraged to attend both weekends’ performances to experience how the play changes as a result of the workshop process.
- Full Production: Each spring, one play that has received a staged reading will be selected to receive a full production. Priority will be given to the three plays that received staged readings the previous fall; however, if none of those plays are deemed ready for production, the play may be selected from the pool of plays that have received staged readings during any of the previous seasons. Audience members who participate fully in the previous fall’s staged readings will receive complimentary tickets to the full production the following spring.

*Play Selection:* The Director of the Mobtown Playwrights Group, in consultation with the Board of the Mobtown Players, will select the plays that receive staged readings each fall. The Director of the Mobtown Playwrights Group and the Board of the Mobtown Players will jointly select the play that receives a full production each spring.

To be considered for selection, a play must meet the following criteria:

- The play must be in the “development” phrase—that is, it must exist as a working rather than a final draft, and the playwright should view the development process (particularly the staged readings) as an opportunity to improve the play based on feedback from the director, actors, and audience.
- The playwright must be able to attend most rehearsals and each staged reading and “talk back” session.

The play selectors should also consider the following criteria, though no single criterion should be the deciding factor:

- The play will engage and be relevant to an audience.
- The play is original or innovative. (Note that a play may be an original adaptation of another writer’s work.)
- The play has a clear dramatic structure (or at least the makings of one). This does not mean that the play must follow a typical “3 act” structure. It does mean that it should be more than a series of unconnected moments.

- The play is theatrical. That is, it takes advantage—as far as is appropriate, given the playwright’s purpose—of those elements that make theatre a unique form of expression.
- The playwright is relatively new to the Baltimore theatre scene.

For the staged readings, the play selectors should also attempt to create a varied season—unless there is a compelling reason for doing otherwise, a season should not consist entirely of plays with similar themes, styles, etc.

For the full production, the play selectors should also consider whether the play is sufficiently polished to warrant production and whether it is feasible to mount at the Mobtown Theatre.

*Logistics:*

- The Mobtown Theatre, in consultation with the playwright, is responsible for providing the directors, actors, production elements, and venue, as well as for marketing each play.
- Audience members will be encouraged to purchase a season pass to all Mobtown Playwrights Group events, rather than individual tickets to each event.
- There shall be no submission fee for scripts.
- Although the ultimate goal of the Mobtown Playwrights Group is to select scripts through an open submissions process, for the purposes of building an audience and until otherwise noted, scripts shall be selected from a limited pool consisting primarily of local playwrights deemed likely to produce quality work and to attract an audience.