

The 24 Hour Plays Nationals

NYC + LA

2026 Application

Every year, The 24 Hour Plays bring together the most promising early-career theater artists for a free professional intensive, culminating in their own production of The 24 Hour Plays. We are now accepting applications to join our 2026 cohort **June 23-29 in New York City** OR **August 24-28 in Los Angeles**.

The Nationals program in NY will accept applications for actors, directors, playwrights, composers, designers, stage managers, and producers. The program in LA will accept applications for actors, directors, playwrights, stage managers, and producers (this year, composers and designers will only be considered for the NY cohort). This application will give you the opportunity to be considered for one or both programs, but please note you will only be able to participate in one, and acceptance is non-transferrable (i.e. if you apply for both programs and are accepted into Nationals NY, you will not be able to request a spot in Nationals LA).

The 24 Hour Plays celebrates the diversity of the theatrical field and seeks to make the application process equitable for every eligible artist. We actively encourage artists of all races, ethnicities, creeds, classes, abilities, genders, identities, affiliations, and orientations to apply for this program. If you have accessibility concerns regarding the application or the program, please email nationals@24hourplays.org so that we can explore all accommodations.

Applicants may apply in more than one discipline (i.e. as a director and a producer) but may NOT be accepted in multiple tracks nor participate in the program more than once. We encourage you to apply only for tracks you feel you are a fit for. Eligible applicants from previous years are welcome to apply again.

Application deadline: **Friday March 13, 2026 (by 11:59 PM ET / 8:59 PM PT.)**

For more information about the program, please visit 24hourplays.org/nationals.

Questions? Contact nationals@24hourplays.org

Full Name *

Pronouns

Email *

Phone *

Which program are you applying for? *

Nationals NY June 2026, Nationals LA August 2026. Select one or both.

Applicant Discipline(s) *

Actor, Composer, Designer, Director, Playwright, Producer, Stage Manager. Applicants may apply for multiple tracks (i.e., as an actor, a director, and producer) but may NOT be accepted in multiple tracks nor participate in the program more than once. Please note: composers and designers will ONLY be considered for the program in NY.

Professional Website

If you have one that you'd like to share.

Eligibility Confirmation *

Check this box to confirm your eligibility. Participants must be 18 or over and no more than seven years out of high school (class of '19 or later) OR four years out of undergraduate or equivalent study (class of '22 or later). Conservatory training after the completion of a separate undergraduate degree is generally not considered equivalent study. (Please reach out to nationals@24hourplays.org if you have questions about eligibility.)

How did you hear about the program? *

Have you applied to Nationals before? *

Have you participated in The 24 Hour Plays before? If so, where? *

Are you a student or alumni of Pace University? *

Are you a student or alumni of Stella Adler? *

Resume upload *

Upload a professional resume listing relevant experience and theatrical training. (If applying for multiple disciplines, you may upload separate resumes or one combined resume. Submit as PDF.)

Headshot/photograph upload *

Please upload a recent headshot or photograph (JPG or PNG preferred).

Please provide ONE professional reference *

Provide the name of someone who is familiar with your work and can speak to your professional qualifications for this program. We will only contact this person if we feel we need more context on your application.

Professional reference's email. *

Professional reference's phone number.

Personal Statement *

Please submit a personal statement that helps us get to know you as a theater artist AND explains why you want to be in this year's Nationals company.

Below are a few possible prompts for inspiration -- these are optional, but feel free to use them if you find it helpful:

- Describe a formative experience you've had making or watching theater.
- What's the most meaningful collaboration you've had as an artist?
- If you have an artistic mission, how would you articulate it?
- What does community mean to you as an artist?

(Maximum 500 words.)

One-Minute Video *

Submit a one-minute video that showcases your creativity. There are no rules beyond this -- have fun with it! (Youtube or Vimeo links preferred. Please double-check that the link you submit is active and available to access.)

ACTORS: Audition Video *

Please submit a one to two minute monologue from a play. (Youtube or Vimeo links preferred. Please double-check that the link you submit is active and available to view.)

WRITERS: Script Sample *

Please submit one 10 PAGE selection of your writing. This can be a short play or a selection from a full length play (feel free to include a brief note for context at the top if you'd like). If you submit more than ten pages, only the first ten will be reviewed. (Submit as PDF)

COMPOSERS: Music Samples *

Please submit at least two (or up to three) links that showcase your work as a composer. (Youtube, Vimeo, Soundcloud, or Bandcamp links preferred. Please double-check that the links you submit are active and available to access.)

DIRECTORS: Director Additional Files *

This is an opportunity to submit more information about your work. Possible work samples include production photos, testimonials, video clips, press, or anything else that showcases your work. Please attach as one combined PDF (not exceeding 5 total pages). If you would like to submit links to videos or websites, please upload a PDF with URL links embedded.

PRODUCERS: Producer Short Answer *

Tell us more about a past producing experience (or other relevant work experience). What were your responsibilities? Did you face any particular challenges? Learn anything new about your process? (Maximum 200 words.)

STAGE MANAGERS: Stage Manager Short Answer *

Tell us more about your professional ambitions as a stage manager. Where do you see your career taking you? What kinds of work excites you the most? (Maximum 200 words.)

DESIGNERS: Designer Additional Files *

Please submit a portfolio that showcases your work as a designer. If you are applying for multiple design disciplines, you may upload separate portfolios or one combined portfolio. Please send this in PDF form (with links to audio, video, websites, etc. embedded if applicable).