

Playwrights Unit Information

What it is: The Eastern Front Theatre Playwrights Unit is a professional support network for Nova Scotian playwrights. It brings together six writers on a regular basis to share their progress on current works and receive feedback from peers.

What it isn't: Eastern Front Theatre's Playwrights Unit is designed to support playwrights as they develop individual projects. It is not a commissioning or development enterprise for plays to be produced by Eastern Front Theatre. Apart from a request to have Eastern Front's support recognized whenever one of the works from a Unit playwright is produced or published, Eastern Front Theatre makes no claim on any of the works. In the event a play is identified as appropriate for production by Eastern Front Theatre, separate negotiations would be undertaken.

How it works: Six writers will be selected based on an application process. They will form the inaugural core group of writers. The unit will meet once every month at a venue provided by EFT (or agreed upon by the group) and share progress on their current projects.

Playwrights are required to bring a minimum of three new pages of writing to each meeting. The new material will be read aloud followed by constructive criticism from the other members of the unit. If a writer wishes to have a complete draft read and considered, additional meetings may be set up, or a regular meeting might focus on the work of one playwright.

What is provided: In addition to providing a venue for the meetings, EFT will also provide printing and photocopying for meeting materials. We will also provide support and advice on grant writing, technical matters, marketing, etc. EFT is interested in seeing the plays generated by the unit succeed, so we will be happy to provide assistance as requested, subject to our means.

What is expected of the writers: First and foremost, playwrights are expected to show up on a regular basis and to write. Playwrights will be expected to be supportive of the other writers around the table and supportive of the unit as a whole. The aim of the unit is to provide a secure, supportive environment where writers feel comfortable sharing their work, and where the solitary nature of writing may be mitigated by communal gatherings.

As indicated above, publication or production of a work which receives support from the unit should include a credit in the publication or theatre program stating: [Title of Play] was developed in part with the assistance of the Eastern Front Theatre Playwrights Unit.

We invite Nova Scotian playwrights of various experience levels who wish to be considered for the Eastern Front Theatre Playwrights Unit to submit a proposal to the Unit Coordinator.

Proposals should include:

Two copies of:

- A brief resume or bio
- A one page outline of the project you plan to work on over the course of the next 12 months
- A sample of up to 10 pages of the script in progress (if possible, not required)

Please mail to
Michael McPhee
Coordinator
EFT Playwrights Unit
P.O. Box 11
Dartmouth, NS
B2Y 3Y2

Submissions will be accepted by mail only and must be received or postmarked by November 1, 2010.