

Bazaar Productions EarlyStages

2008 Program Description

Program Outline

During the last two weeks of July, the beautiful Berkshire hills will be home to EarlyStages, a young playwright mentorship program created by Bazaar Productions, the presenters of The Berkshire Fringe. In the second year of this unique program, three young writers, who either reside or attend college in the Berkshires or surrounding counties, will be chosen from an open application process. Each will be given the opportunity to focus intensively on developing a play under the mentorship of a skilled professional playwright with extensive experience as a teaching artist.

The young playwrights' work will be developed with the guidance of the mentor during an intensive two-week seminar and rehearsal period on the lovely Simon's Rock campus. The program will be tailored to address the objectives of each participant. Every other day the playwrights will attend a workshop lead by the mentor. Alternating days will be reserved for writing/developing the scripts. Actors will be available to read the plays during at least one seminar session. In addition, each participating writer will have three rehearsals with the actors and a professional director to prepare for the concert reading, which will take place as a free event at The Berkshire Fringe.

Participants will be supplied room and partial board, complimentary tickets to each Berkshire Fringe performance, and the opportunity to attend the community workshops.

It is the hope of the Artistic Directors of Bazaar Productions that this program will create an opportunity for successful participants to be invited to apply to be featured artists at the Berkshire Fringe in later years.

Bazaar Productions provides participating writers:

- Housing for the entire 2 week program (Housing includes shared bathrooms and kitchen facilities with supplies for cooking and dining)
- Partial Board (breakfast and lunch is provided on seminar/rehearsal days)
- Limited transportation to local stores, shops and activities
- A concert reading of up to an hour of the work being developed, including a professional director and actors for rehearsals and reading.
- 1 complimentary ticket to each main stage production at The Berkshire Fringe
- Free printing of scripts for all workshop sessions and rehearsals

Participating writers' responsibilities:

- Transportation to and from the Great Barrington, MA
- To be in residence for the entire two week program
- To provide your own laptop/computer for the duration of the program
- All meals on writing days and all dinners

Timeline

- March 15 – Application is due
- April 1 to 15 – Semi-finalists are notified/interviewed by the selection committee
- April 15 – Final participating writers and alternates are notified after this date
- July 13 – Participating writers arrive, orientation
- July 14 to 27 – Seminar, rehearsals, and concert reading

Bazaar Productions EarlyStages

About Us

The Berkshire Fringe

The festival focuses on presenting work by emerging and early career artists that span the disciplines of theater, dance, music, film, and visual arts. The artists chosen through our competitive open application process provide new and inventive approaches to contemporary themes, styles and content. The Berkshire Fringe adds a fresh perspective to an already flourishing arts community in several unique ways. We strive to make high quality theater and dance affordable, we focus on work that blends genres, creates new styles, and delves into traditions underrepresented in the mainstream, and we focus resources on creating an exemplary experience for our artists. We purposefully schedule our festival so that artists can see each others work, can participate in each other's workshops and can share ideas and experiences. These initiatives establish a center for artistic exchange while providing affordable and unparalleled cultural enrichment to the community. The 2008 festival will include 24 performances and 3 free community workshops lead by artists participating in the festival.

Bazaar Productions

Bazaar Productions is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to presenting affordable, cross-disciplinary and dynamic new works of theater and dance by emerging artists to the Berkshire community. Our mission is to make great theater accessible to the widest demographic possible while cultivating the support of a diverse audience base. We strive to make high quality theater and dance available to the general public by providing affordable or free tickets for all of our performances and events. For not much more than the cost of a movie ticket, our audiences can partake in some of the most experimental, boundary breaking, fresh and original theater today. Bazaar Productions also seeks to expand awareness, increase support, and provide recognition to emerging artists from across the United States.

For the latest updates to the full schedule of events during the 2008 summer season please see The Berkshire Fringe website – www.berkshirefringe.org

Bazaar Productions EarlyStages

2008 Applications Guidelines

The deadline for submissions is **March 15, 2008**. Applications must be **received by March 15, 2008** (this is not a postmark date).

Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 26 on July 13, 2008.

Applicants must reside in or attend school in the following counties:

Berkshire, Franklin, Hamden, Hampshire Counties in MA; Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer Counties in NY; Bennington County in VT; or Litchfield County in CT

Script Submission:

- Each playwright must submit one original play of any length. The play can be in any stage of development. If the play is incomplete, please send the first 20 pages and also include a completed original play, work of fiction, or collection of poetry of at least 20 pages.
- Plays that have not been previously produced are preferred. Plays that are character driven are also preferred.
- Please send one (1) copy with the author's name and contact information on the title page. Please send an additional one (1) copy with a title page, but without any indicator of who the author is anywhere on the title page or throughout the script. Make sure all copies have page numbers and the play's title on each page.
- Please, if possible, save a tree and send double-sided scripts.

Additional Materials:

- The project & applicant information sheet found on the following page.
- A statement of the particular objectives you have for working on your play at EarlyStages.
- A one page synopsis of your play & a character break-down with descriptions and ages.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from teachers or theater professionals who are familiar with your work.
- A check for \$25.00, payable to Bazaar Productions, Inc.

Only submissions completed per these guidelines and received by March 15, 2008 will be considered.

Please note that materials will not be returned.

Playwrights selected to participate in EarlyStages agree to be in residence for the entire length of the program and **may not be employed, in an internship or in another program during their residency.**

Please send all submissions to:

**EarlyStages Application Committee
c/o Ryan Olson, Bazaar Productions
417 E. 65th Street, #26, New York, NY 10021**

For any questions about the program or the application process, please contact Ryan Olson at ryan@berkshirefringe.org.

Bazaar Productions
EarlyStages
2008 Application
Project & Applicant Information

Project Information:

Title of Project _____

Type of Project: Full-Length One-Act Other (please specify) _____

Applicant Information

Will you be between the ages of 18 and 26 on July 13, 2008?

Yes No

In which of the following counties do you reside or attend school?

- Berkshire, MA Franklin, MA Hamden, MA
 Hampshire, MA Columbia, NY Dutchess, NY
 Rensselaer, NY Bennington, VT Litchfield, CT

Contact Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Cell / Alt Phone _____

E-mail _____

Best way to contact you? Phone E-mail

Alternate Contact (optional): Please provide us with a permanent address or the contact information of someone who will always know where to reach you.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

As an applicant I have read and understand my responsibilities fully.

Signature

Printed name

Date