

Lucille Lortel was a champion of new plays and new playwrights. Her eponymous theatre not only introduced many new voices and works to audiences throughout the world but the sidewalk in front of her theatre is the only permanent monument of its kind to playwrights. The Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation's playwriting fellowship is to support and encourage the next generation of diverse young writers and their original voices in New York City as well as to create an awareness of playwriting as a career. Through the opportunities provided by this program, the Foundation will encourage and support New York City public high school students to become the next generation of playwrights.

2026-2027 OFFICIAL RULES

Please read these Official Rules carefully before entering the Lucille Lortel Theatre's NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship ("Fellowship") presented and sponsored by the Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation ("Sponsor"). By entering the Fellowship, you agree to these Official Rules.

ELIGIBILITY

The Fellowship is open to any high school student who is currently enrolled in and attending public high school in one of the five boroughs of New York City at the time of entry (each, an "Entrant"). Sponsor reserves the right to revoke the eligibility of any student based on academic or disciplinary reasons.

The following persons are not eligible to enter: (i) previous Fellows (ii) employees, directors, officers of the Sponsor; (iii) any person who would be considered a "disqualified person" (as defined under Internal Revenue Code Section 4946) with respect to Sponsor; (iv) any reader or selection committee member; (v) any member of the immediate family (i.e., parents, children, sibling, and spouse) of the foregoing (i-iii) and any person living in the same household (whether related or not) of the foregoing (i-iii). All federal, state, and local regulations apply. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED.

ENTRY PERIOD

The Fellowship entry period begins at 12:01 AM (EST) on September 30, 2026 and ends at 11:59 PM (EST) on November 19, 2026 ("Entry Period"). All entries must be received by the Fellowship Site (as defined below) during the Entry Period.

HOW TO ENTER

Each Entrant must complete an application online at https://tally.so/r/68BX5J ("Fellowship Site") and submit an artistic statement, three story ideas, and a creative writing sample ("Submission") through the Fellowship Site during the Entry Period. The Submission must: (i) be written solely by Entrant; (ii) be written in the English language; (iii) be in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format; and (iv) not contain any material that Sponsor, in its sole discretion, deems inappropriate for a public reading or publication. Each Entrant may enter only one Submission.
By entering the Fellowship, Entrant represents and warrants that the Submission: (i) is original and Entrant's sole creation; (ii) the Submission has not previously been entered into any competition or fellowship, publicly performed, or won any award; (iii) does not infringe any person's intellectual property rights, rights of publicity or privacy, or other rights or defame any person; and (iv) does not include any racial slurs.

Visit lortel.org/hspf for further information on submission guidelines. If you have other questions, please contact Sponsor at HSPF@lortel.org.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

This is a skill-based fellowship award process. Following the conclusion of the Entry Period, all eligible Submissions received will be reviewed by a panel of readers ("Selection Committee") drawn from the New York City theatre community and evaluated by the following criteria ("Evaluation Criteria"): Artistic Statement, Story Ideas, and Creative Writing Samples. Depending on the number and quality of Submissions received, the readers may select Submissions to be judged in a second round. If a second round is necessary, the Submissions will be reviewed by another Selection Committee drawn from the New York City theatre community and evaluated in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria. No employee, officer, or director of Sponsor will serve as a reader or member of any of the Selection Committees.

AWARD

The Selection Committee will choose as many as seven winning Entrants ("Fellows") in each of the following categories: one from each of the five New York City boroughs, one from a District 75 school, and one from a District 79 school, subject to sufficient Submissions in each category. In the event that there are not sufficient Submissions in each category, Sponsor shall select up to six fellows, selecting the next highest scoring Entrant in each category. The seven Fellows will each receive: (i) mentoring from theatre professionals on the playwriting process; (ii) a $500 honorarium paid upon program completion; (iii) a "Special Evening on Broadway" that will include a dinner and tickets to a Broadway show; (iv) a professional staged reading or an online presentation of the Fellow's play ("Production") in Sponsor's sole discretion; (v) a certificate of recognition; (vi) and publication of the Fellow's play in a compilation prepared by Sponsor.

The decisions of the Selection Committees and Sponsor concerning selection of the Fellows as well as all other matters relating to this Fellowship (including whether an Entrant is eligible, the Submission meets requirements, and the Official Rules have been complied with) are final and binding. Each Fellow will be notified by email or telephone and must respond by email within five days after being notified.

No cash or other substitution of all or part of an award is permitted, except that Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to substitute any award (or portion of it) with another of comparable or greater value. You acknowledge that: (i) you will be solely responsible for taxes (if any) and other costs or fees of any kind (if any) payable in connection with receipt of an award; and (ii) if you are not a legal resident of the U.S., Sponsor may be required to deduct and withhold taxes from the award and provide a report relating to taxes in compliance with applicable laws and you agree to provide Sponsor with any forms and information

Sponsor may request to comply with applicable laws. All costs associated with accepting each award is the responsibility of the recipient.

Sponsor is not responsible for any delay in delivering any award (or portion of it). If an insufficient number of eligible Submissions are received, Sponsor reserves the right not to provide all awards.

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS / REHEARSALS / READINGS

Sponsor anticipates that: (i) the selected Fellows will be announced on or about December 26, 2026; (ii) Fellows will meet with theatre mentors on the following dates:

- January 5, 7, 12, 19, 21
- February 2, 4, 9, 23, 25
- March 2, 4, 9, 12, 16, 18;

(iii) Fellows will see theatrical presentations on the following dates:

- February 5, 12
- March 3, 19

and (iv) rehearsals and a Production will take place between March 20-21, 2027. If selected as a Fellow, the Fellow is required to attend at least 13 of the 16 mentoring sessions, three shows, rehearsal of their play, and the final Presentation. If a Fellow has more than 2 unexcused absences, Fellow's participation in the fellowship will be under review.

Each Fellow (and, if under age 18, the Fellow's parent or legal guardian) will be required to complete, sign, and return an Affidavit of Eligibility and Release, a supplemental license to the rights granted in these Official Rules, and other documentation as Sponsor may determine. Failure to comply (or delay in complying) with any of these conditions or the Official Rules may result in forfeiture of the applicable award; Sponsor reserves the right to select alternate Fellows in its discretion in such circumstance. If an award notification is returned as undeliverable, Sponsor may, in its discretion, select an alternate.

If selected as a Fellow, without further consideration of any nature, the Entrant hereby grants Sponsor a worldwide, nonexclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, royalty-free, sublicenseable license to:

(i) reproduce, distribute, create derivative works of, publicly display and perform the Entrant's Submission, in whole or in part, in any medium now known or later developed, including: (a) on Sponsor's web site and social media accounts; (b) in rehearsals and public readings; (c) as part of a publication by Sponsor (or its designee) concerning the Fellowship; and (d) to promote the Fellowship (this year and in subsequent years) and generally in furtherance of Sponsor's charitable and educational mission; and

(ii) use his or her name, voice, likeness, and biography in all media now known or later developed: (a) in connection with exercise of Sponsor's rights under (i) above; (b) for publicity concerning the Fellowship (this year and in subsequent years); and (c) generally in furtherance of Sponsor's charitable and educational mission.

RELEASE

By entering the Fellowship, each Entrant (on behalf of Entrant and Entrant's heirs, executors, and administrators) hereby releases and holds harmless the Sponsor (and its directors, officers, employees, and representatives) (the "Released Parties") from any liability for loss, harm, damage, cost or expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees), including for property damage and loss, personal injury, and otherwise, which may occur in whole or part, directly or indirectly, whether known or unknown or caused by negligence in connection with the Fellowship and any Fellowship-related activity or the use or misuse of any Submission or any award.

PRIVACY

All personal information submitted in connection with this Fellowship through the Fellowship Site is governed by Sponsor's privacy policy (at https://www.lortel.org/privacy-policy) and the privacy policy of Sponsor's service provider, Award Force (at https://www.submittable.com/privacy/). By entering the Fellowship, each Entrant acknowledges that they have read and agree to these privacy policies.

GENERAL

Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify these Official Rules (including by adjusting the dates and timeframes). Sponsor is not responsible for incorrect or inaccurate information by Entrants or for lost or late Submissions, whether arising from any technical, hardware, software, telecommunications, human, or other errors or malfunctions of any nature. Incomplete or illegible entries may be voided. All Submissions become the property of Sponsor and will not be returned. If for any reason the Fellowship is not capable of being conducted as described in these rules, Sponsor may cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the Fellowship.

These Official Rules and the Fellowship are governed by the laws of the State of New York applicable to agreements made and performed in New York. Entrant irrevocably: (i) agrees that any claim relating to these Official Rules or the Fellowship must be brought exclusively in the courts located in the County and State of New York; and (ii) waives any objection to the jurisdiction of those courts based on an inconvenient forum or other reasons. If information in any materials relating to the Fellowship conflicts with these Official Rules, the terms of these Official Rules will prevail. The term "including" in the Official Rules is illustrative and means "including, but not limited to."

The odds of winning an award depend on the number and quality of eligible entries received.

FELLOWS LIST

For a list of all Fellows, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope by March 31, 2027 to the Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation, Attn: Lucille Lortel Theatre's NYC Public High School Playwriting Fellowship, 134 West 18th Avenue, New York, NY 10011.

SPONSOR

Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation, Inc., 134 West 18th Avenue, New York, NY 10011