

WCLA's Wellesley In Entertainment 2020-21 Screenwriting Competition

General Information

Description

The WCLA's Wellesley In Entertainment group holds an annual screenwriting competition for graduating seniors of Wellesley College. The competition is open to all majors. This year, the organization will accept submissions between September 4, 2020 and January 31, 2021.

Submitted scripts may be any genre — short film, pilot, feature, web series, comedy, drama, science fiction — but must be original content, the sole property of the applicant. No spec scripts for existing television series will be accepted. Any adaptation must be based on properties which the applicant owns in full. Stage plays are accepted, but comedy *packets* will not. The broader film/TV industry now readily accepts plays as writing samples for television staffing, as well as for acquiring agents and managers. However, comedy packets will always be written in response to a prompt (issued by a late-night or variety show), never as a completely original concept, and never submitted as an industry-wide writing sample.

Moreover, we are looking for narrative — new ideas, strong characters, believable worlds, and well-defined conflicts. We hope the scripts will demonstrate both a love of language and a commitment to storytelling. As a guide, applicants may reference the scoring rubric, below, which will be used by the judges.

A panel of Wellesley alums who are industry professionals will review submissions and select both a competition winner and an honorable mention. During the College's 2021 spring break, the competition winner will be flown to LA, housed for four nights with a Wellesley alum and set up with three days of meetings with industry professionals (writers and executives). The WCLA's WIE will arrange the student's flight, and a \$100 cash per diem (\$300 total) will be given upon arrival to LA, to cover meals and travel within the city. In the event of pandemic, natural disaster, or other disruption to daily life and travel, the meetings will take place on Zoom (with flights and per diem cancelled).

We hope that this competition will promote the completion of writing samples in advance of graduation, allowing seniors to graduate with at least one of the tools necessary for becoming a professional writer. We hope the award package will allow the winning student to grow comfortable with taking general meetings and receiving industry feedback on a writing sample. Last, we hope that the student will carry the experience back to classmates, able to reflect on not only possible paths to becoming a working writer but also the ways Wellesley graduates can support each other in bringing diverse, smart, human stories to the screen.

Timeline

- September 4th, 2020 — Submission period opens
- January 31st, 2021 11:59 PM EST — Submission period closes
- February 28th, 2021 — Winner and Honorable Mention announced
- Wellesley 2021 Spring Break — Winner flies to LA, meets with industry professionals (or conducts Zoom meetings)

Scoring Rubric

Scored 1 to 10, with 10 being “yes, very much so” and 1 being “not at all”

- Is the document consistently formatted, without typos?
- Is the script’s concept original?
- While reading the first page, did you want to know where this story was headed?
- Do the characters represent specific, unique, diverse points of view?
- Does the writer employ any invention within the structure, entry into scenes, introduction of characters, or exposition?
- Is there a strong sense of place? Do you have a sense of the world beyond the bounds of this script?
- From the words on the page, do you have a visual sense of this story? Does the writer offer any sense of the visual style and tone?
- Do you have a sense of the characters’ inner lives, beyond the spoken dialogue?
- Does this script make you want to know more about the writer behind it?

Submission Guidelines

- Scripts should be properly formatted through Final Draft, Screenwriter, Celtx, or a similar screenwriting software.
- One submission will be accepted per person.
- All documents must be in English.
- Submissions may not be altered, revised, or resubmitted after initial submission.
- Complete the attached informational form, including short essay questions, and sign the legal waiver. Please type responses to short essay questions on a separate sheet, in 12-point font. Send completed form, short essay question page, signed waiver, and script **in that order, as one PDF**, to WIEScreenwritingCompetition@gmail.com. Please put your last name in the header of each page.
- A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your submission. Please do not inquire on the status of your application beyond that confirmation. Results will be announced on February 28th, 2021.

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Basic Information Form

Applicant name: _____ Student ID: _____

Are you a current student? Y N

Anticipated graduation year: _____ Semester: _____
[Must be Fall 2020, Spring 2021, or Fall 2021]

Title of Submission: _____

Genre (television pilot, feature, web series, short film, stage play, other): _____

I have read and signed the attached release form: Y / N

Short Essay Questions

*Please limit responses to 150 words.

1. What is your dream job and/or what would you like to be doing in ten years?
2. What role does writing play in your life, and how will that role change after graduation?
3. Describe the first time you felt like you had found — and were writing in — your own voice.

Wellesley in Entertainment Script Competition Terms

1. I understand that any and all materials I included in my application will be considered submitted materials and shall be subject to the terms and restrictions outlined herein.
2. I understand that submission is not guarantee of award. I understand that Wellesley in Entertainment and competition juror(s) will have final and absolute say in determining winners of the competition. I understand that any and all decisions made by Wellesley in Entertainment and competition juror(s) are final and may not be contested by me during the competition and in perpetuity.
3. I confirm that I am the sole and original author of all material submitted. I acknowledge that this material has not been plagiarized or otherwise taken from another source without citation. I confirm that no other person(s) retains any rights to this material. I understand that I will be disqualified from the competition if any part of the submitted materials has been plagiarized, otherwise taken from another source without proper citation, or if any other person(s) retains any rights to this material.
4. I understand that Wellesley in Entertainment and competition juror(s) have not paid or otherwise compensated me for submitted material.
5. I grant Wellesley in Entertainment permission to use the submitted material and my likeness and bibliographical material in any and all promotions during the competition and in perpetuity.
6. I understand that I retain full rights to submitted material throughout the competition and in perpetuity. At no point during the competition and in perpetuity do Wellesley in Entertainment and/or its juror(s) retain the rights to submitted material except as otherwise provided herein.
7. I understand that the jurors are entertainment industry professionals and that they are or may be in the future working on projects that are similar to material that I submit and that any similarity with the juror(s) current or future produced material in perpetuity is purely coincidental and that I expressly waive any claims that I may have regarding any possible similarity. I understand that the juror(s) and their respective affiliated companies and/or employers have not licensed or otherwise acquired the rights to submitted material. I understand that juror(s) and their respective affiliated companies and/or employers have not paid me to write submitted materials, nor have they agreed to represent me or my submitted materials in any way, at any point during the competition or in perpetuity. I understand that juror(s) operate solely and completely in an advisory role, and their role as competition juror is in no way connected to any affiliated companies and/or employers.
8. I understand that Wellesley in Entertainment and its juror(s) are not responsible for any loss or damage of submitted materials at any point during the competition and in perpetuity.
9. I understand that any and all social media I create that references the competition and/or Wellesley in Entertainment in any way will be subject to all terms outlined in this document.
10. I understand that Wellesley in Entertainment retains the right to disqualify me at any point in the competition if any of the above terms are not fully observed. I waive my right to seek recourse if I am disqualified for any reason.
11. I understand that I and any and all submitted materials are subject to all terms outlined in this document even if I withdraw from the competition at any point.
12. I expressly release Wellesley in Entertainment and all competition juror(s) and their respective affiliated companies and/or employers from and against any and all claims which I have or may have in perpetuity for any cause of action arising from or relating to the competition.
13. I understand that this document constitutes our complete and entire agreement in respect to the competition. Any other terms or waivers related to the competition will be subject to the terms outlined herein.
14. This document and all terms listed herein shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of California.

Name (Print): _____

Signature : _____ Date : _____