

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 80th ANNIVERSARY PLAY COMMISSIONS

The University of Saskatchewan's Drama program is celebrating its 80th Anniversary with an exciting new initiative: the commissioning of one-act plays from playwrights with a connection to the department. We invite playwrights at any stage of their career—whether alumni, former faculty, current students, or artists from the Saskatoon community—to submit proposals for original works that will be developed and premiered as part of our anniversary celebrations.

Artistic Parameters & Inspiration

We are looking for **one-act, one-hour plays** that are fully stageable. We are drawing inspiration from **Suzan-Lori Parks' 365 Plays/365 Days** and Progress Lab's *Obstructions* for this initiative. The works should be dynamic, thought-provoking, and celebratory of the University of Saskatchewan Drama Department's legacy.

Should you be accepted as a commission playwright, we will offer a specific artistic prompt to guide your writing as well as development support as a staged production or reading of your piece.

Artistic Prompt: In the Middle of Every[blank]

For 80 years, the University of Saskatchewan's Drama Department has been at the heart of Canadian theatre—geographically, historically, and artistically. As the first university drama program in the Commonwealth, it has shaped generations of theatre artists, influencing both local and global performance landscapes.

We invite playwrights to engage with this legacy and its evolving future through the creation of one-act plays that explore theatre in Saskatoon as a central node in a vast network of artistic creation. The University of Saskatchewan's Drama Program exists *in the middle of everywhere, everything, everyone, every time*. Positioned between major city centers and theatrical networks, exhibiting ripples and radiality, at the heart of the country geographically and socially, while simultaneously being remote or isolated, Saskatoon embodies both a space of convergence and passing through—a crossroads, a threshold, a community—where local and global influences might converge and disappear in a single action on stage.

Playwrights are invited to respond to the prompt: **“In the Middle of Every[blank].”** This theme is meant to be evocative rather than prescriptive, offering space for creative interpretation. How does a theatre program rooted in the prairies extend its reach across time and place? What stories exist at the intersection of history, geography, and artistic evolution?

What We’re Offering

Development Support:

All selected playwrights will receive development support for their play.

- (1) Two-day in-person development workshop at the University of Saskatchewan.
- (2) Asynchronous/ Online Dramaturgy, with dedicated dramaturg selected from Usask Faculty and community members.
- (3) Culminating production and/or reading of the piece, with in-kind production support through the Greystone Theatre, or through participating theatre partnerships (facilitated by drama faculty).
- (4) Post-mortem support in project planning next steps, future of the project, additional development support needed, etc.

Artist Fee / Accreditation

- (1) We are currently seeking funding to support this initiative, with the goal of offering an artist fee that aligns with industry standards.
- (2) Despite our success with grants, we will offer a stipend to account for the minimal labour of creation. At this time, we can guarantee a minimum fee of \$1,000.
- (3) For the 80th Anniversary performance we ask that all performance rights are offered for free, with the playwright maintaining exclusive rights on the piece after the 80th Anniversary celebrations are wrapped.

Who Can Apply?

This opportunity is open to playwrights at any career stage who have a demonstrable connection to the University of Saskatchewan’s Drama Department, whether as alumni, faculty (past or present), current students, guest artists, or community partners.

Development & Production Timeline

Please note that this timeline is subject to change.

- **Call for Interest:** Open now.
- **Proposal Submissions Due:** May 9, 2025.
- **Estimated Acceptances Announced:** May 30, 2025.
- **Writing Period:** Summer 2025.
- **Development Workshops & Dramaturgy:** Fall 2025.
- **Final Play Delivery:** January 2026.
- **Hand-Off to Theatre Companies:** Mid-January 2026.
- **Premiere Performances:** March 2026.

How to Apply

Interested playwrights should submit:

- A short bio (150 words)
- A short statement highlighting their unique connection to the University of Saskatchewan's Drama program. (200 words)
- A brief proposal outlining their concept, themes, and approach. Max 1 page, single-spaced.
- A short statement on your productions feasibility to be staged at Greystone. (Max 350 words).
- A writing sample (up to 10 pages of previous work).
- Please submit as a single PDF document.

Submission Deadline: May 9, 2025

Send all materials and inquiries to drama.submit@usask.ca.

We look forward to celebrating 80 years of theatre with fresh, bold, and original voices. Apply now and be part of this exciting theatrical collaboration!

Access note: if any part of the submission process is a barrier for you, please reach out to drama.submit@usask.ca for alternative methods to submit.