

Call for Proposals - *Madison New Works Lab* *We seek... We encourage... We welcome... We invite...*

We seek material ready to be workshopped with a community of artists at James Madison University (JMU).

We encourage scripts that respond to contemporary questions in our world.

We welcome diverse perspectives and theatrical approaches.

We invite artists eager to engage in a developmental process.

The mission of the Madison New Works Laboratory at JMU is to create a nationally recognized incubator for the development of new plays and musicals.

- To develop new works by and for various ages, cultures, and populations
- To produce a summer season of workshops, readings, and performances that assist new theatrical works in taking the next step in their development
- To foster theatrical innovation in the development of musicals and plays
- To identify new work for eventual production in our Mainstage Season
- To support early-career playwrights
- To create a theatre artist-friendly environment that encourages risk-taking and the chance for failure
- To provide opportunities for JMU student-artists to develop their skills and gain valuable professional experiences working with professionals on new works, thereby supporting the next generation of theatrical innovators
- To encourage the integration and development of community partners, thereby building an audience-base of colleagues, not just spectators

The School of Theatre and Dance at James Madison University believes that equity, access, and inclusion are moral imperatives and artistic obligations. Diversity—in the stories we represent, the students we serve, and the audiences we engage—is vital for the health and relevance of contemporary performing arts practice. The School of Theatre and Dance, therefore, welcomes diversity of perspective, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability.

The Madison New Works Lab (MNWL):

- The 2020 Madison New Works Laboratory season runs from May 24 – June 6, 2020.
- Review of submissions begins January 15. Applications will be accepted until January 15, with priority given to those received by December 15.
- MNWL Season 2020: the MNWL is interested in new plays that address contemporary issues with characters that are suitable for college-age actors; plays that have the potential to be considered for our undergraduate student performance season; plays that have no more than 8 characters. If your work has more than 8 characters and can be accomplished with character doubling, the character doubling must be articulated in the script.
- The MNWL is housed in JMU's Forbes Center for the Performing Arts in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Forbes Center has multiple venues for presentation of works including a Concert Hall, Recital Hall, Studio Theatre, and Mainstage Theatre. All venues are equipped with a baby grand/grand piano, mics, music stands, and professional theatrical production equipment. Harrisonburg is situated in the scenic Shenandoah Valley region of Virginia between Charlottesville, Richmond, and Washington DC, approximately a two-hour drive from Washington DC.
- Creative teams are given retreat during a one-week residency while working on a new play. During this residency, we provide opportunities for creators to take their new plays into the next stage of development and explore their work with a community of artists in the rehearsal room as well as in front of an audience. Connecting emerging writers with our students and faculty offers mutually beneficial opportunities for artistic growth in a safe and focused environment.
- Madison New Works Lab Offers:
 - Round-trip transportation and housing for the playwright
 - Honorarium for the Playwright
 - Rehearsal studios and practice rooms in a variety of performance venues.
 - Access to student performers, selected through an audition process. (Maximum of 8 actors, may include double casting.)
 - Available resources include director, stage managers, and supportive artistic staff.

Submission of Materials:

You may only submit one play. Please label the files with writer's last name first; underscore; title of work (for example: Smith_Title of Play.pdf), when submitting your application.

You may submit your materials to madisonnewworks@jmu.edu.

For all Plays, submit the following as a SINGLE pdf:

- A cover letter introducing yourself
- A play synopsis, no more than 250 words
- A working draft of your script
- **Statement of Purpose/Need.** Identify three specific objectives you have for the developmental process at JMU
- **History of Development, if any**
- **Bio for playwright**
- **Proof of rights (required for any material that is not your own)**

Timeline of Events:

January 15, 2020

Review of submissions begins. Applications will be accepted until January 15, with priority given to those received by December 15.

March 1, 2020

Selected works will be announced.

May 24 – May 30, 2020 New Play Workshop #1

The New Play Workshop will include one week of development with actors and a director, culminating in a reading at Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.

May 31– June 6, 2020 New Play Workshop #2

The New Play Workshop will include one week of development with actors and a director, culminating in a reading at Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.