



3rd World Sinophone Drama Competition for Young Playwrights

Official Terms and Conditions

I. About the Competition

The World Sinophone Drama Competition for Young Playwrights (hereafter referred to as “the Competition”) is open to young writers (ages 18 to 35) worldwide. It accepts scripts written in either Chinese or English, and seeks to encourage production of new dramatic works that reflect upon global Chinese culture from a variety of perspectives and enrich our understanding of Sinophone cultures, circulations, histories, and communities. For Chinese-language submissions, there are no specific requirements for content; for English-language submissions, we welcome new works of self-reflection from members of Sinophone communities, as well as those that explore encounters among the Sinophone and other cultural contexts.

In today’s world of highly globalized culture and art, we call upon the young playwrights of the world to turn their gaze towards and expand their understanding of global Sinophone cultures. We take the inherently hybrid and diverse locale of Taiwan as our main stage for engaging artists and audiences both in and beyond the Sinophone. We especially seek new works of hybridized cultural and dramatic aesthetics that will add new voices to Sinophone theatre and further invigorate the already diverse field of global Sinophone cultures.

II. Awards Summary

Winners of the competition will receive a monetary prize, a translation of their winning work (either from English to Chinese, or vice versa), and a bi-lingual e-publication of the winning work. The award ceremony and the Arts Festival of Script-readings of winning works will be held during September to November in 2017. In addition, a series of readings held by our partners around the world in the following two (2) years will offer winning playwrights an unprecedented opportunity for international circulation of their work. The collaborating organizers of this competition are from Taiwan, United States, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, mainland China, Macao, etc.) Please see the information below for further details about other prizes of the awards.

Sponsor | The Ministry of Culture, S-An Cultural Foundation

Host | National Central University (Taiwan)

Organizer | Research Center for Theatre and Performance Studies at National Central University (Taiwan)

Partner | School of Liberal Arts, Nanjing University (China)

Co-Organizers | Nanjing University Art Master Performance Group (China)

Co-Producers | Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Washington in St. Louise (USA), Dept. of Theatre and Film, University of British Columbia (Canada), Dept. of Theatre Arts, Taipei National University of the Arts (Taiwan), Dept. of Visual arts and new media, College of Media and International Culture, Zhejiang University (China), Dept. of Theater Arts at National Sun Yat-sen University (Taiwan), Dept. of Performing Arts at Shu-Te University (Taiwan), Dirks Theatre (Macau)

Supporting organizations | Dept. of Drama and Theatre, National Taiwan University, NUS Centre For the Arts National University of Singapore, Trojan House (China)

Production Partners | Creative Society (Taiwan), Ibsen International, Nanjing University Arts Masters Performance Group (China), Puppet & Its Double Theater (Taiwan), Tainaner Ensemble (Taiwan)



III. Participant Qualifications

- A. Participants must be between 18 and 35 years of age at the time of submission to qualify (Date of Birth between 01/01/1982 and 12/31/1999). There are no limitations on the citizenship or educational level of participants.
- B. Competition entry is limited to single authors; works written collectively will not be accepted. If it is determined that a submission is not the original work of a single author, the submission and its author will be disqualified.
- C. Submissions cannot have been previously produced, published or made available online in any public forum. Submissions that have had nonprofit work-in-progress presentations or workshops for educational or development purposes are permitted, as long as the work in question does not undergo any further public presentations before the results of this competition are announced.
- D. If the submission has entered multiple contests simultaneously, the participant must provide a list of the other contests in the application form. If the submission in question receives awards from other contests before the results of this competition are announced, the act will be seen as a form of public presentation, and the submission will be disqualified from this competition.

IV. Submission Categories

- A. The Competition will accept scripts in two groups: dramatic texts written in Chinese and dramatic texts written in English. Three winners will be selected from a combined pool of the two groups.
- B. Chinese-language submissions: the competition welcomes dramatic texts of all forms and genres (such as play, traditional opera, musical, etc.) with a minimum performance time of 60 minutes. There are no specific requirements for content.
- C. English-language submissions: the competition welcomes dramatic texts of all forms and genres (such as play, traditional opera, musical, etc.) with a minimum performance time of 60 minutes. The content of the text must be a new creation of self-reflection from members of Sinophone communities, and/or those that explore encounters among the Sinophone and other cultural contexts.

V. Submission Method and Deadline

The website of this contest will be officially opened on December 20, 2016. Participants may register and submit manuscripts online at wsdc.ncu.edu.tw. Submissions will be accepted until February 28, 2017 at 24:00 (GMT+8). No submissions will be accepted after the deadline. Please review the submission guidelines before the deadline (see Article IX below) and submit both Microsoft Word and PDF copies.

VI. Award Details and Award Recipient Rights/Obligations

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- A. Submissions will be evaluated within their respective language groups during the preliminary review and the first round of competition. The certain number of works in each language group will enter the final round based on the total number of submissions in each language group. The finalist works will then be assessed regardless of language. Three (3) winners will be selected, and at most two (2) Honorable Mention winners can be selected in the final round.
- B. Awards:
- First Prize: 100,000 NTD (approximately \$3,300 USD) and a prize cup
 - Second Prize: 50,000 NTD (approximately \$1,650 USD) and a prize cup
 - Third Prize: 30,000 NTD (approximately \$1,000 USD) and a prize cup
 - Honorable Mention: a certificate of commendation
- C. The three (3) winning plays will be translated into either Chinese or English, depending on the original language. The translator will be selected by the organizers.
- D. By entering the competition, the three (3) winners agree to authorize (without additional compensation) the Research Center for Theater and Performance Studies at National Central University (hereafter referred to as “the Research Center”) to publish and sell the three winning plays online, along with their translations, for five (5) years following the competition. After five (5) years, all rights revert to the playwrights and any related ongoing royalty payments will be further determined.
- E. The three (3) winners will be invited to the staged readings of the three winning plays and then the award ceremony hosted by co-organizer Nanjing University in Nanjing during September to November in 2017.
- F. The three (3) winners should agree to grant (without additional compensation) all collaborating organizations, co-producers and partners the right to produce the staged readings of their winning plays. (All forms of staged readings are allowed, but the content of the scripts may not be altered and readings must be nonprofit. For each script, the total number of readings will not exceed five (5).)
- G. The three (3) winners should agree to grant (without additional compensation) the Research Center non-exclusive, unlimited, and worldwide performance rights to their winning works, including the translated versions, and authorize the Research Center to coordinate the production, funding, and performances with collaborating organizations.
- H. In addition to the range regulated by F. and G., if the winners gain the royalty income because the host organizer successfully matches their winning works with the opportunities of production, the host organizer is entitled to 30 percent of the income, and this income will be designated to fund the related activities of the World Sinophone Drama Competition.
- I. The period of the authorization mentioned in F., G., and H. will last for three (3) years following the date of the award ceremony.

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- J. Honorable Mention: In order to help more excellent young playwrights to get their works to the phase of production, the Competition has set up a new award designed to match finalists with potential producers. Up to two (2) Honorable Mention winners will be selected from the final round of the evaluation process (excluding the top three award winners) and no further rank order will be given to the two winners. Winners of this award will receive a certificate of commendation and the possibility of having a staged reading of their winning play produced by the Research Center within three (3) years following the award ceremony. The winners should agree to grant (without additional compensation) the Research Center the right to produce any form of staged reading of their winning plays during this period, provided that the content of the script is not altered. The Research Center will invite administrative officials, producers, agents, directors, and public audiences to these events. If the Research Center successfully matches any Honorable Mention winners with an opportunity for production, the playwrights retain all rights in relation to the production and the related issues on any royalty payments will be coped with in an agreement signed by all parties involved.

VII. Evaluation

- A. Evaluation process: the evaluation contains three levels: the preliminary review, first round, and final round. In the preliminary review, the organizing staff will review submissions to ensure they meet all requirements and qualifications. In both the first round and final round, a committee of established playwrights and scholars will be invited to evaluate submissions.
- B. If the number or quality of submissions received is insufficient, the judging committee reserves the right to adjust the number of winners and/or withhold the awards.

VIII. Submission Guidelines

- A. Submission format: A4 paper, margins set to Microsoft Word “normal,” single-spaced, 12pt font, black (automatic) font color
- B. Manuscripts must not include any identifying information (such as personal names, affiliations, pseudonyms, etc.)
- C. Submission files should be entitled: “Author Name_ Title of the Play”
- D. The Research Center reserves the right to refuse entry to any submissions that do not meet the requirements instructed in the guidelines above.

IX. Please Note:

- A. Competition winners reserve copyright and intellectual property rights to their works, but also grant (without additional compensation) the Research Center and

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its collaborating institutions unlimited use and the reprinting of any parts of the works for publicity, as well as for non-profit research, exhibitions, educational purposes, and general promotion of playwriting competitions.

- B. All submissions must be the original work of the entrant, and cannot have been previously produced, published, presented online in any public forum (including organization or personal websites, newspapers, magazines, etc.), or won previous competitions. Manuscripts that have been circulated privately or evaluated by educational instructors for the purposes of receiving comments and corrections are allowed. Any related doubts about the format of a given submission will be settled by the judging committee.
- C. Participants may submit manuscripts to both the Chinese and English group, but may only submit one manuscript in each language. In addition, participants must register separately for each submission (with a unique email address as user name).
- D. Participants should submit personal information and manuscript information in the online submission form. Please do not include author names or identifying information on the script/work itself. Submissions that do not adhere to this guideline will be disqualified.
- E. Plagiarism and the submission of a work not written by the participant of the Competition are prohibited. If a submission is found to be a plagiarism or to violate copyright, the submission will be disqualified, the participant at fault will be required to return any and all royalty payments and awards, and the case will be publically reported. In addition, the party at fault will bear all legal responsibility and repercussions.

X. Announcement of Winners and Award Ceremony

Winners will be announced on the competition website in September 2017 (winners will receive award letters and electronic notifications informing them of their award, but other participants will receive no further notifications from the competition). The award ceremony and staged readings of winning works will take place during the period from October to November in 2017. Further details about the venue and the date of the award ceremony will be provided to winners at proper time.

XI. Amendments to the Competition

The Research Center reserves the right to review and revise the rules and regulations of the overall project as necessary.

XII. Organizing Institutes

The Competition is organized by the Research Center for Theatre and Performance Studies at

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National Central University, Taiwan. Since its founding in 2012, the Performance Center has launched a variety of initiatives to promote the performing arts and artistic exchange in Taiwan. The Center has developed various onstage and offstage programs, such as: the “@Theatre” App, an information exchange platform for the performing arts in Taiwan; the “Performing Taiwan: Script, Design, and Stagecraft, 1943-” e-book publication series, and NCU’s annual POPFest. The Performance Center’s most recent efforts aim to create a platform for the publication of high-quality scripts and opportunities for their performance. Responding to the difficulty of finding new scripts fit for production, the Performance Center has founded this playwriting competition to encourage collaboration among universities and performing arts groups in Taiwan and around the world. Through the performing arts industry, this project hopes to establish new ground for creativity and artistic energy.

The Research Center for Theatre and Performance Studies at National Central University is devoted to the preservation and digitization of performing arts recordings. In 2003, it established the Electronic Theater Intermix (eti-tw.com) digital archive of modern Taiwanese theater and has been managing the archive for 11 years. The collection now contains over 400 works. ETI also co-sponsors the “Performing Taiwan” e-book publication series with the Performance Center at National Central University.

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