



B Street Theatre is now taking submissions for the inaugural **New Comedies Festival** which will take place from June 25 – 30, 2018 at The Sofia, their new venue on Capitol Avenue.

*“That's great art -- nothing is self-evident. I am made to laugh about those who cry, and cry about those who laugh.” – Bertolt Brecht*

In the ever-changing landscape of our country and the American theatre, B Street is soliciting submissions of comedies in all shapes and sizes for their inaugural New Comedies Festival. We encourage local, national and international artists to submit full-length comedic plays during our open submission process. We encourage pieces to include elements of romance, dark comedy, farce, satire, physical comedy, commedia dell'arte, improv, stand-up, audience participation, music, etc. Following the submission process, B Street will select four plays to receive staged readings in the festival. Following the festival, the audience members who attended all four readings will vote to select which script they would like to see fully produced on the B Street Theatre Mainstage. Their selection will be vetted by B Street Artistic Staff and the winning script will receive a full production on the Mainstage within a year of the festival closing.

### Qualifications

- The works submitted must meet the following criteria:
  - The playwright must be 18 years of age and have the right to work in the United States.
  - The play must not have had a professional production, or be scheduled to have a professional production, prior to January 1, 2019. A professional production means that the artists working on the show were compensated for their time, and that all of the theatrical elements one hopes to see in a production were present.
  - We are seeking to develop comedies of all shapes and sizes; however, we request that all plays be **full-length**. Solo pieces and theatre for young audience pieces will be accepted.
  - We accept both original and adapted works, provided that the rights to any material not in the public domain have been granted in writing, and a copy of the release is emailed along with the script.
  - The script must meet the script formatting requirements set by B Street Theatre that are listed below.
- Submissions that do not meet the above requirements will not be accepted.

### Selection Process

- We will solicit the help of volunteer readers to read the submitted scripts. These readers may include but are not limited to the following: B Street Artistic Staff, B Street Company Members, industry playwrights, industry dramaturgs and other industry professionals.
- There will be two rounds of reading for outside readers and each reader will read between 5 and 10 scripts each round. There will be a third, final round of reading for B Street Artistic Staff only in order to choose the finalists from a short-list of scripts that have been evaluated in rounds one and two of reading.



- **The reading of scripts will take place over a two-month period and the four scripts will be chosen no later than four months prior to the first day of the festival.**

### **How to Apply**

Playwrights interested in submitting a play for consideration in the New Comedies Festival should send the following to B Street Theatre between December 15, 2017 – January 15, 2018. Email submissions are preferred but playwrights may mail their submissions to the address below.

Attn: New Comedies Festival B Street Theatre 2711 B Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

or

[literary@bstreettheatre.org](mailto:literary@bstreettheatre.org)

SUBJECT LINE: New Comedies Festival Submission

In your submission please provide the following:

1. Your contact information – Include First/Last Name, Email, Phone Number, Date of Birth
2. A concise paragraph stating your previous playwriting credits. Please also note any previous experience with B Street Theatre in this section.
3. Title of the play
4. Character breakdown and description
5. Time and place of the play
6. A five sentence synopsis of the play
7. A PDF of your play that does not include the playwrights name.

**Any play that does not meet the above requirements will not be accepted. Please note that B Street will only be accepting the first 350 submissions.**