<u>Midnight Sun Theatre's Serial Bowl Instructions</u>

The mission of The Serial Bowl is to produce well rehearsed performances of well written episodic one acts where writers have opportunities for rewrites and edits while collaborating with teams of Directors and Actors, with the possible end result of a much longer piece of work.

How Does Serial Bowl Work?

- Teams of a Writer, Director and Actors rehearse well written pieces of episodic theatre that have a tantalizing "hook" which provides for a later continuation of the piece.

- The "one acts" are produced and performed over the course of a Friday and Saturday night.

- Audience members vote on which pieces will move on to the following episode.

- Writers of episodes selected to return write the next installment of their piece.

- Repeat this process leading up to a final performance which will see the top two winning serials performed in totality with a concluding final scene.

How does a show move on?

- The audience will vote on the pieces they would like to see continue to the next event through an online application that audiences access via their phones at the conclusion of the full performance,

- Round 1: Five short (12-15 minute) performances. Three will be selected to continue to Round 2.

- Round 2: Three previous winners perform. Each is now 20-30 minutes long which includes the previous script with a continuation of the scene. Two will be selected to continue to Round 3.

- Round 3: Two previous winners perform. Each is now 45-60 minutes long which includes all of the previous performance with a continuation that finalizes the work. The serial with the highest voting record for the season will perform first, followed by an intermission. After intermission the second ranked serial will perform. The Audience will vote one last time, selecting the Serial Bowl Champion!

Writers

Submit a FIRST EPISODE using the following instructions. Subsequent episodes will be requested if your script is voted to continue. First Episodes and Treatments are due November 1st.

The Basics

- The first Submission should be 12-15 minutes long.

- Limit your play to no more than 4 actors.

- Scenes should anticipate very simple technical requirements - Props should be simple and few. VERY few. "Costume" should be limited to modern day clothing, other clothing actors might own personally or an extremely limited number of costume elements that might be added for effect (a crown, animal ears, etc) but NOT full costuming. Staging will allow for a table and chairs and two entrances. Do not expect anything more than a rep light hang (wash and 1-2 center specials) with no color options. Sound effects should be limited. This should be about the writing and acting, not tech.

- Your piece should be formatted for the stage, IE., no screenplays, short stories, etc. It should be printed (not hand written) in standard play format. Pages must be numbered. San Jose State offers a good guide based on the old CPF format at https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Scriptwriting%20Format.pdf

- Submit episodes electronically to dblock@midnightsuntheatre.org . Writers must include a "treatment" of how the work will be expanded in future episodes. Please use Open Office, Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Additional

- You may submit plays from any genre. Remember though, this is episodic theatre. Characters should be the primary focus followed by plot. If you are thinking of writing something that is a "statement," make sure it can carry for a duration.

- Each episode should have a compelling angle to it that will cause audiences to want to see additional episodes.

- Audiences should be able to enjoy any episode as a standalone work, but scenes should also be "open ended" enough that they may continue to a next Episode.

- The pieces do not have to be "for purpose" scenes. That is, the piece might be something you've written previously. Please make sure you own the rights to produce any previously written works.

- This will be an all ages performance with suggested age of High School age and up. Consider this in your writing. Also consider your wish to be voted to come back. Language and topic material should be chosen appropriately.

- Each scene will be preceded by a selection of Bumper music. If you have a specific music requirement, you must provide an Mp3 version of your music to the Director, otherwise a piece of music will be chosen for you.

- Writers are responsible for meeting at least once with their Director to communicate their concept. This may be accomplished telephonically, electronicall, in person or through other methods to assure writer and director are collaborating and making appropriate adjustments.

- You may send multiple submissions. An Author may have more than one work in production at a time.

- You own your work. However, by submitting your play to this production you agree to allow the producers royalty free production rights for the duration of the Serial Bowl season. If your work goes on to bigger and better things, we hope you mention Midnight Sun Theatre's Serial Bowl as one of your initial performances. Writers are expected to write all episodes of their work. If a writer cannot continue or is unwilling to continue a successful series, Producers retain the right to move forward with creative control of the concept for successive performances during the Serial Bowl season.

- Writers are expected to participate in the promotion of the event.

- Writers will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that positively reflects on the event and the producing company. At no time may any team member be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during a production activity, including but not limited to rehearsals, performances or promotional events. Midnight Sun is a non-smoking company.

Directors & Actors

Directors

- Producers will select Directors from the Repertory Company and Supernumeraries.

- Directors will meet with production staff for a venue tour and to book rehearsal space.

- Directors are responsible for organizing a rehearsal schedule that will meet a minimum of 3 rehearsals outside of the tech week requirements. It is expected that this will be during the 3 weeks prior to performance. This schedule should be sent to the Producer and Stage Manager. The Schedule is required by the end of the first rehearsal. All Rehearsals will be held at MST Studio

- Directors are expected to send a rehearsal report to Stage Manager and Producer within 24 hours of each rehearsal

- Directors are required to meet with the writer once prior to the first rehearsal.

- Directors should anticipate that their Actors will effect all scenery/prop changes for their performance which should be included as part of the Director's blocking.

- Directors should request very simple technical requirements (See Above)

- Directors will supply the Stage Manager with a Call Script and a Tech rider including: a list of sound and light cues, scenery and props requests, and sound effects prior to the scheduled Paper Tech.

- Directors are responsible for maintaining a professional atmosphere that is conducive to work,

but light and enjoyable. These are short one acts; this is not brain surgery. The product should be quality work, without being overly strenuous.

- Directors are responsible for making sure the entirety of their team is present during dress rehearsal.

- Directors are required to attend the Paper Tech
  All technical questions should be sent to the Producer AND the Stage Manager.

- Directors are expected to be at all Rehearsal, Tech and Performance events on time.

- Directors are expected to participate in the promotion of the event.

- Directors will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that positively reflects on the event and the producing company. At no time may any team member be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during a production activity, including but not limited to rehearsals, performances or promotional events. Midnight Sun is a non-smoking company.

Actors

- The majority of actors will be supplied by the Repertory Company. Other actors will be supplied from Supernumeraries.

- Actors are responsible for learning lines and blocking in a timely manner.

- Actors are required to be OFF BOOK by the second rehearsal.

- Actors should be clearly aware that there will be expectations of work OUTSIDE of rehearsal time.

- Actors are responsible for being on time to EVERY scheduled rehearsal.

- Actors are required to attend all scheduled Tech Week actor activities, including the Dress Rehearsal.

- Actors should anticipate that they will effect all scenery/prop changes for their performance which should be included as part of the Director's blocking.

- Actors are expected to participate in the promotion of the event.

- Actors will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that positively reflects on the event and the producing company. At no time may any team member be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during a production activity, including but not limited to rehearsals, performances or promotional events. Midnight Sun is a non-smoking company.