

estrogenius festival 2009

Director Information

Welcome to the tenth annual estrogenius festival. We are thrilled to have you on board, and look forward to working together over the next couple of months. The festival is a success every year because of amazing, talented artists who generously lend their talents.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Manhattan Theatre Source's estrogenius festival, an annual celebration of female voices, is one of New York City's largest women's arts festivals. Founded by Fiona Jones in 2000, the festival debuted with a program of 10 short plays and music. Since then, it has grown into a five-week event including short plays, solo shows, music, visual art, dance, teen performances and a fundraiser for African girls' education.

Completely volunteer run, the estrogenius festival has provided more than 1,600 artists the chance to shine; nurtured award-winning playwrights **Quiara Alegria Hudes, Sheila Callaghan, Bekah Brunstetter, T.D. Mitchell** and **Melissa Maxwell**; showcased Bessie Award-winning choreographers **Marta Renzi and Jennifer Nugent**; and benefited girls' education in Niger through a Peace Corps Partnership.

The festival celebrates female voices. We take open submissions from around the world and are committed to providing opportunities to female artists (and male artists who create complex female characters) - in a variety of disciplines - ranging from the emerging to the seasoned professional.

SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

Our weekly program of short plays anchors the festival. The performance schedule each week is Wednesday through Friday at 8:00 pm and Saturday at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm. (For specific dates, see the next page). There is a closing night party after the 8:00 pm Saturday night performance each week. We encourage everyone to attend.

FESTIVAL STAFF STRUCTURE

The co-executive producers for this year's festival are Fiona Jones and Jen Thatcher. Each program of short plays also has a producer. They are Nichole Donje (Week 1), Elizabeth Koke (Week 2), Jen Thatcher (Week 3), and Rita Kompelmakher (Week 4). You will deal most directly with your week producer. The contact sheet is posted to the estrogenius.participant gmail account. (Instructions to access were sent separately.)

We will also have a set designer for the whole festival. There will be a sound designer, lighting designer and costume designer assigned to each week. Our tech director is Ien DeNio and our festival lighting designer is Kia Rogers.

IMPORTANT DATES

Kickoff Party: Date & location to be determined. Stay tuned for details!

Week 1 of Estrogenius 2009

Auditions: July 24 & 25 12-5pm

Callbacks: July 26 12-5 pm

Read-through: Sept 2 5-7pm

***Tech:** Sept. 26 10am-2pm, Sept. 27 (10am-10pm), Sept. 28 (5pm-11pm), Sept. 29 (Invited Dress)

***Runs:** Wed – Sat Sept. 30 – Oct 3 (Wed – Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm)

Week 2 of Estrogenius 2009

Auditions: July 31 & Aug. 1 12-5pm

Callbacks: Aug 2 10-3pm

Read-through: Sept 9 5-7pm

***Tech:** Oct. 3 (10am-2pm), Oct. 4 (10am-10pm), Oct. 5 (5pm-11pm), Oct. 6 (Invited Dress)

***Runs:** Wed – Sat Oct 7-10 (Wed – Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm)

Week 3 of Estrogenius 2009

Auditions: Aug 7 & 8 12-5pm

Callbacks: Aug 9 10-3pm

Read-through: Sept 16 5-7pm

***Tech:** Oct 10 (10am-2pm), Oct 11 (10am-10pm), Oct 12 (5pm-11pm), Oct 13 (Invited Dress)

***Runs:** Wed – Sat Oct 14-17 (Wed – Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm)

Week 4 of Estrogenius 2009

Auditions: Aug 14 & 15 12-5pm

Callbacks: Aug 16 10-3pm

Read-through: Sept 23 5-7pm

***Tech:** Oct 17 (10am-2pm), Oct 18 (10am-10pm), Oct 19 (5pm-11pm), Oct 20 (Invited Dress)

***Runs:** Wed – Sat Oct 21-24 (Wed – Sat 8pm, Sat 3pm)

Best of Estro Week (Possible)

***Tech:** Oct 25 (10am-10pm), Oct 26 (5pm-11pm)

***Runs:** Tue – Fri Oct 27-30 at 8pm

RULES

Manhattan Theatre Source's Four House Rules:

1. Practice Generosity of Spirit
2. Principles Before Personalities
3. Share Your Information
4. Clean Up After Yourself

AUDITIONS FAQ

1. You must attend auditions. It's really important for you to see the actors from open call.
2. There is no pre-casting in the festival, but you may invite actors to audition. We want you to have as large a pool of talent as possible from which to draw.
3. The Executive/Week Producers may ask you to include up to 3 actors in your callbacks.
4. The scripts will be available for actors to read starting July 13th. They are available for reading every day from 12 pm until 7:30 pm.
5. The sign-up sheet for Week 1 auditions is available beginning July 13th.
6. Sign-ups for subsequent weeks of auditions begin the Monday before that week's auditions. For week two, it's Monday, July 27th. For week three, it's Monday, August 3rd. For week four, it's Monday, August 10th. This gives us a chance to notify all those people cast in the previous week so actors know whether they are eligible to audition for each week.
7. There is no double casting.

REHEARSAL/PRODUCTION FAQ

1. We will provide rehearsal space for you. Often, other studios offer us free or reduced rehearsal space. If you have any leads or connections for free space, please let us know.
2. Our winning formula for rehearsal is one hour of rehearsal time per page. If you have a 20 page play, then 20 hours of rehearsal is right.
3. We produce the festival under the Equity showcase code. Therefore, rehearsals may start 28 days prior to opening. Week 1 plays may begin September 2nd, Week 2 plays may begin September 9th, Week 3 plays September 16th and Week 4 plays September 23rd.
4. Everyone uses the same set. We create the set based on the needs of 20 short plays. The set may not be perfectly tailored for your play, but we will make it as user friendly as possible. Please keep in mind that we are all in this together, and everyone has the same parameters with which to work.

5. Your budget for props AND costumes is \$50. While the budget is limited, we've created spectacular shows on this shoestring for eight years. **All expenditures must be approved** by co-executive producer Jen Thatcher.
6. Manhattan Theatre Source has a selection of costumes and props. Let us know what you are looking for, and we can arrange for you to see what's available at the Source. We may also borrow items from Monk's Thrift Shop next door, and often have friends who have the perfect item for you.

COMP/TICKET POLICY

1. As a festival participant, you receive one comp for yourself during your show's run.
2. Directors also receive two comps (one for yourself and one for someone else) to your show's dress rehearsal.
3. We allow directors and writers to see their show again for free on a standby basis based on availability like the Equity showcase code for actors.
4. All festival participants receive half-price tickets to other festival events – Women in Motion dance, Sola Voce shows, Other Short Plays, GirlPower – except Voices of Africa, which is a fundraiser for girls' education.
5. Equity actors receive two comps for the run of their show.
6. All comp requests must be sent to us no later than four days before your show opens. Our festival sells out quickly, and to make sure we can accommodate your requests, we need it as soon as possible.