

Write a play, see it produced and win \$1,000!

The competition is open for the **2026-27** school year for high school students in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

Judges will select five scripts in **May 2027**. Each of the authors will receive a **\$1,000 cash prize** and have their winning plays presented at Riverwalk Theatre in the **summer of 2027**.



Our 2026 Emerging Playwrights

From left to right:

Sage Shauver (Mason HS),
author of *Hope*

Shepherd Richardson (Mason HS),
author of *Hobo Hotel*

Mohammad Omar Bakhshi (Lansing Technical HS),
author of *Live with a Smile*

Not pictured:

Gwyneth Rangel (Mason HS),
author of *St. Dymphna*;

Ainsley Richard (Mason HS),
author of *There is No Coffee in North Baltimore*



Emerging Playwrights

RIVERWALK THEATRE

Sponsored by
Riverwalk Theatre

Generously supported by
Gordon Masters



Emerging Playwrights is not related to or affiliated with the Wharton Center / MSU Department of Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival competition.



@riverwalktheatre



@riverwalk_theatre



@riverwalk_theatre



@riverwalktheatre.bsky.social

And visit **riverwalktheatre.com**

Emerging Playwrights logo and brochure design
by Gruner Graphics • grunergraphics.com

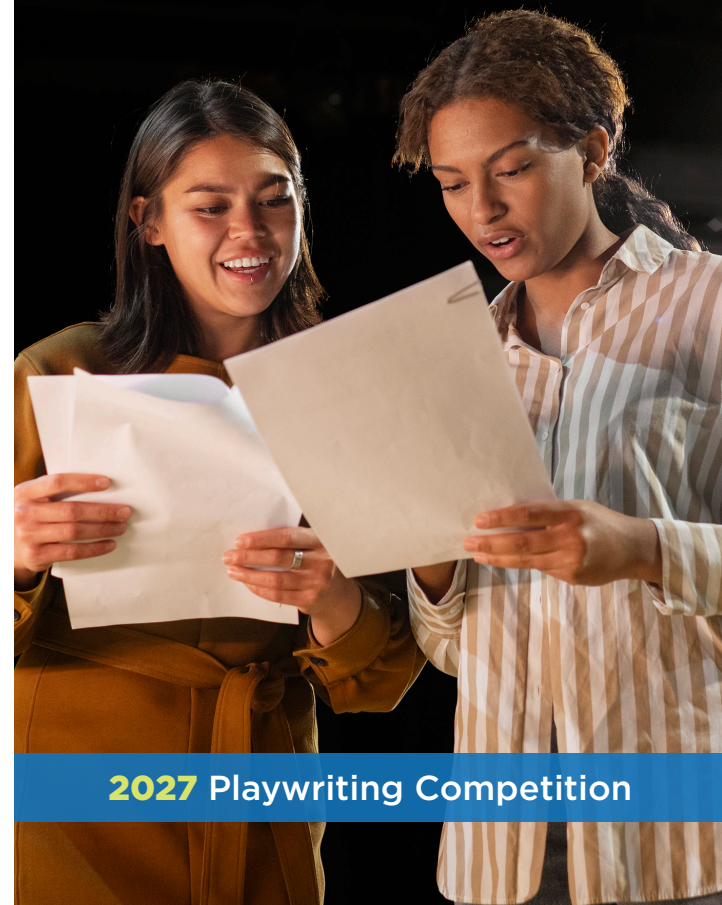


Emerging Playwrights

RIVERWALK THEATRE

HIGH SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITERS

See your play produced
and win **\$1,000**



2027 Playwriting Competition



Eligibility

- Participant must be a high school student (grades 9–12) in Ingham, Eaton or Clinton county, enrolled for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Participant must be sponsored by a teacher who will act as a liaison between the student and the Emerging Playwrights committee.
- Application form must be submitted along with script. Forms will be available September 1 at:
riverwalktheatre.com/playwrights
- Signatures of sponsoring teacher and a parent or guardian are required.
- There is no fee to enter the competition.
- Five finalists will each receive a cash award of **\$1,000**



Script Guidelines

ALL SCRIPTS MUST:

- Be the student's original work.
- Include 1 to 4 characters.
- Be 12 pages maximum length. This does not include a character/description page and a title page.
- Be submitted in a Microsoft Word document, with pages numbered. NO student names on the scripts. Please use Arial font, 12 pt, and 1 inch page margins.

Applications and scripts may be emailed to
EmergingPlaywrights.RWT@gmail.com

or delivered or mailed to the theatre
228 Museum Drive | Lansing, MI 48933

Questions? Contact us at:

EmergingPlaywrights.RWT@gmail.com

RiverwalkTheatre.com/playwrights

Competition Calendar

• September 1, 2026

Applications available
riverwalktheatre.com/playwrights



• February 17, 2027

Submission deadline: applications and scripts must be received by 5 p.m.

• February–April 2027

Scripts reviewed by judges

• May 1, 2027

Winners announced and all applicants notified; all applicants will receive feedback from judges

• Summer 2027

Prizes presented at the annual Riverwalk Theatre Barney Awards in June.

Plays cast and rehearsed in July, and presented in August at the Emerging Playwrights Play Festival at Riverwalk Theatre.