

**Playwrights and Creative Teams (PACT)
Call for Panels, Roundtables, and Workshops
for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
2027 Summer Conference, July 26-28 Online**

ATHE 2027 will be an online conference from July 26-28, 2027. This year's conference theme, "Un/Rest: Restorative Leadership in Praxis, Practice and Performance," invites us to hold together the unrest that theatre and higher education are navigating and the rest, repair, and care needed to sustain our work. The theme asks how restorative approaches to leadership and how acts of restoration can shape our scholarship and pedagogy (praxis), our artistic and institutional processes (practice), and the work we put on stage (performance). Further information on the ATHE 2027 Call can be found at on the ATHE website at [Association for Theatre in Higher Education - 2027 Annual Conference Call](#).

The PACT Focus Group invites proposals for panels, roundtables, and workshops that respond to ATHE's 2027 theme by addressing restorative leadership models; restorative, disruptive, and sustainable creative practices; and/or the productive tension between unrest and rest within playwriting, dramaturgy, and new play development. Proposed sessions might address or incorporate these questions:

- How can playwriting and new play development hold space for both unrest (disruption, protest, urgency) and rest (care, recovery, sustainability)?
- What are best practices for restorative leadership in the rehearsal room, the classroom, and in the new play development process?
- How can we restore a sense of agency for graduating students given the current landscape of the profession? What professional training best prepares emerging playwrights and creative team members to lead careers in an unsettled field?
- What restorative pedagogical practices might be implemented in the playwriting classroom? How might those practices respond to new technologies, like virtual reality and generative AI?
- How might we utilize less traditional or less adult-focused forms of theatre to restore audience enthusiasm for theatre and/or disrupt hierarchical approaches to theatre making? For example, what models for audience engagement and restorative leadership are provided in immersive theatre and/or in Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA)?
- How can we disrupt the labeling of some plays as "unproduceable" and restore creative risk-taking in playwriting classrooms and in theatre institutions?
- Looking back on what we learned from pivoting to online modalities during Covid, what virtual theatre-making strategies should we restore? Which online strategies are obstacles and which are beneficial to cultivating and producing new plays?
- How can stage adaptation and translation serve as a restorative act?

The ATHE deadline for summer conference session proposals is **December 12, 2026**. PACT welcomes all kinds of sessions, including traditional presentations, roundtables, workshops, and experiential sessions. The online proposal portal will open on **November 2, 2026**, and should be available at [Association for Theatre in Higher Education - 2027 Conference Deadlines](#).

At this time, ATHE is only accepting proposals for full sessions. If you have an idea for a session and are looking for colleagues interested in similar inquiries with whom to form a panel, please reach out to fellow PACT members. You can also email PACT Focus Group Representative Janna Segal (janna.segal@louisville.edu) or PACT Conference Planner Aaron Scully (ascully@ucmo.edu) to assist you in finding additional panelists.

General information about ATHE's Focus Group structure and conference can be found at [Association for Theatre in Higher Education - Experiencing ATHE in 2027 for the 1st Time](#).

Information about ATHE's concurrent session proposal process can be found at [Association for Theatre in Higher Education - 2027 Proposal FAQs](#).

Specific information about the proposal review process and a list of deadlines can be found at [Association for Theatre in Higher Education - 2027 Conference Deadlines](#).