Purpose of the *Field Guide to the New Play Ecosystem of New England*

It’s often said that the New England new play scene is an “Ecosystem”. In other words, it’s akin to a community of interacting entities and environments, sharing the same space. There are playwrights writing plays, theatres producing plays and holding readings, groups developing plays in a formal or informal basis, and other entities that have sprung up to support, develop, and publicize new plays.

Although there is no shortage of talented people involved in the new play scene and trying to put forward new work, there has been a lack of overall cohesion in the overall big picture. Playwrights often don’t know of resources in their backyard, and vice versa.

In an effort to help playwrights find those who might want to work with them, the New England New Play Alliance is producing this compendium. We invite any active theatre or group involved in the New England new play ecosystem to submit information about their organizations, from the largest companies to a community theatre who occasionally reads a new play on occasion. If you do anything to foster new play development, tell us about it using the form on page 26.
For organizations that are involved in new play development but has not yet submitted information, we have created a placeholder entry with basic known information about their new play activity. If you represent one of these organizations, please feel free to submit additional information. See the instructions on page 26.

The Field Guide will be posted for download at the NPA web site: https://www.stagesource.org/page/NPA. It will be periodically updated as groups submit their information and we learn of more organizations.

To be included in the Field Guide will be free.

To download the Field Guide will be free.

Please spread the word about the Field Guide! We want this to become a valuable resource around the New England new play community and to continually evolve to fit the community’s needs.

In addition to the individual entries, we’ve also included the “New Play Alliance Resource Cheat Sheet” beginning on page 23. It is a two page encapsulation of various local and national resources that any playwright should find informative. Take a look to find deadlines, opportunities, programs and other useful things to know. Also, check out the resources and events offered by StageSource on page 22. As always, send new information and corrections to newplayalliance@gmail.com.
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Acme Theatre

*Maynard, MA*

Annual New Works Winter Festival of 10-minute plays in January.

https://www.acmetheater.com/

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Actor’s Theatre of Newburyport

*Newburyport, MA*

Holds a monthly writing workshop series Writers & Actors INK writing classes, and an annual 10-minute play contest.

https://www.newburyportacting.org/

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Arlington Friends of the Drama

*Arlington, MA*

Community theatre which holds an annual ArlingTEN short play festival.

https://www.afdtheatre.org/

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Artists’ Exchange

*Cranston, RI*

This group holds an annual One Act Play Festival.

https://www.artists-exchange.org/one-act-play-festival

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Actors’ Theatre Playhouse

*Chesterfield, NH*

This theatre holds an annual ten-minute play contest.

http://www.atplayhouse.org/

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Artists’ Theater of Boston

*Boston, MA*

This theater looks for ways to include local playwrights among their productions, including commissioning playwrights for their *This Place/Displaced* series of short plays about gentrification.

http://artiststheater.org
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work.
In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

The Asian-American Playwright Collective is a group of Boston-based playwrights who have banded together to nurture, develop, and promote new work by Asian-American playwrights in the Boston area.

What are a few of your favorite plays or playwrights that you’ve developed or produced?

In 2018 we began a night of 10-minute plays that we perform in the summer in on Cape Cod on Woods Hole, MA. This 10-minute play showcase has featured over a dozen playwrights in its two years. These plays are also collected in an anthology available for purchase here: Volume 1 and Volume 2.

In addition to the showcase, we also hold occasional readings for full-length works by our members. One was the play GOLP by Rosanna Yamagiw Alfaro, a sci-fi play about a robot nanny.

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you, or do you find them? Are there specific times or open calls?

We are always on the lookout for Asian-American playwrights in the Greater Boston area. Please contact us at aapcboston@gmail.com. You can join us for our monthly writer’s group meetings to workshop your play. Meet with us there and you may begin to participate in our discussions of upcoming projects.

What is one thing playwrights should know about you?

We are trying to raise the profile of Asian-American playwrights in Boston as a group. We want to see our members develop their plays via our writer’s group, have public showings at our readings, and eventually have them fully produced at other theatres. We do not currently produce full productions.
Barrington Stage Company

Pittsfield, MA

This Western Mass theatre holds both an annual 10-minute play contest and a full-length play contest with a substantial prize.

http://www.barringtonstageco.org

Boston & New England Playwrights Facebook Page

Boston, MA

Facebook page with postings of local resources, opportunities, and discussions.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/227429400607161/

Boston Center for the Arts

Boston, MA

Arts venue in the South End of Boston hosting dozens of events, available for rent.

http://www.bcaonline.org/

The Boston Foundation

Boston, MA

Major funding benefactor for the arts in Massachusetts with workshops for career building.

https://www.tbf.org/
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

In 2016, Greg Lam and Mara Elissa Palma began this monthly podcast after meeting in the Company One PlayLab. In every episode we featured an interview with a Boston area playwright and a recorded excerpt from one of that playwright's full-length plays.

Since then, we have featured over 20 playwrights, highlighting their new and notable works. Mara moved on from the Boston area after recording Season 1, so since then Greg has carried on the podcast with a rotating set of guest co-hosts. This has allowed him to broaden the scope of the podcast and examine all of the little niches where the creativity of Boston playwrights flourish.

What are a few of your favorite plays or playwrights that you've developed or produced?

Many of the featured playwrights have episodes which are windows into new play subcultures that are easy to overlook. From the documentary playwriting process of the Perpetual Visitors Theatre Company to Manuel Lopez's Morir Sonando representing the Boston Latinx voice to the wisdom of Patrick Gabridge, whose decades long career informs his great interview. We want to examine the depth and breadth of the ridiculously deep pool of playwriting talent in the Boston area.

Off of the usual format, we did an episode in which we went off the usual format and recorded what we called the “Early Career Special, Parts 1 and 2”. We assembled four early career playwrights and asked them for their burning questions about the business of playwriting. We then posed these questions to a panel of theatre experts and veterans, and had a great conversation on how to be a playwright. Highly recommend checking those episodes out, along with any playwrights who sound interesting to you.

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?

To be honest, my nightmare is to have a stack of plays submitted to me, each attached to a hopeful playwright, knowing I'll have to say "no" to most of them. The submission system is a terrible process, so I won't do it. Instead, I recruit guest co-hosts in the Boston theatre community who represent interesting points of view. Then we ask them to suggest a playwright to feature. And then we contact that playwright and invite them on the show. That way the show becomes less about my tastes and more about the creative community of Boston supporting each other. That means I don't consider people sending me plays. I do consider offers to co-host with suggestions of a featured playwright.

What is one thing playwrights should know about you?

As we began Season 2 we began to make a list of playwrights that seemed interesting to speak with and potentially invite for future episodes. Playwrights who have had interesting productions and readings, or been featured by organizations we respect. That list easily grew to around 100 playwrights. If you're reading this, you may be on that list already! We hope to get to you one day.

Where do people go to learn more about you?

bostonpodcastplayers.com, Follow us on Twitter @bospodplay. Facebook page is https://www.facebook.com/groups/385009931833063/
**Boston Playwrights’ Theatre**

*Boston, MA*

This theatre produces new plays by students and alumni of Boston University’s MFA program exclusively. Also a venue for rent.

[https://www.bu.edu/bpt/](https://www.bu.edu/bpt/)

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**Cape Cod Theatre Project**

*Falmouth, MA*

Annual full-length play contest on Cape Cod.


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**Boston Theatre Marathon**

*Boston, MA*

The signature event of Boston's new play calendar. Boston Playwrights’ Theatre works with local theatres to produce 50 ten minute plays in one day.

[https://www.bu.edu/bpt/our-programs/boston-theatre-marathon/](https://www.bu.edu/bpt/our-programs/boston-theatre-marathon/)

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**Centastage**

*Boston, MA*

Runs the WriteOn! playwright’s group which meets monthly to develop work and which has lead to mainstage productions.

[https://www.centastage.org/writeon](https://www.centastage.org/writeon)

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**Boston University MFA**

*Boston, MA*

Boston University’s MFA program in playwriting.


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**Chester Theatre Company**

*Chester, MA*

This theatre in central Mass has an open submission process for full-length plays with small casts.

[http://chestertheatre.org](http://chestertheatre.org)
Company One

Boston, MA

Company One conducts the summer-long PlayLab in which playwrights learn the craft and business of playwriting. Some fellowships lead to readings. They also hold weekend long PlayLab Bootcamps with a compressed workshop schedule. Company One is a member of the National New Play Network.

http://companyone.org

Culture Park

New Bedford, MA

This arts center holds an annual Short Play Marathon producing dozens of new short plays in one day.

http://www.culturepark.org/
The Depot for New Play Readings

Hampton, CT

What is your company/project?

The Depot for New Play Readings provides space where theater lovers may explore developments in contemporary theater and where playwrights may hear their words spoken and their plays critiqued.

The Depot opens in the spring and runs through the summer and early autumn.

Where is it located?

The Depot is located in the rural town of Hampton, CT, in New England's Last Green Valley.

The building once was part of a train station in Hampton, serving the Air Line, which ran from Boston to New Haven. The old rail bed is now the Air Line Trail, popular with bicyclists, runners, walkers, and horseback riders. (A trailhead is a mile from the Depot.)

In the 1990s, the award-winning editorial cartoonist Paul Rigby used the building for a studio, and in 2006, the printmaker Rhea Nowak created large-format prints at the table where we now read plays.

Tell us about your company/project. What do you do, when and how did it start? In what ways do you support new plays in New England?

The Depot for New Play Readings began in 2015 as a casual get-together among friends intent on staying abreast of trends in contemporary theater. We now provide playwrights cold table reads of new work, followed by critical discussion of the play.

Additionally, the Depot offers playwrights hospitality, a review on the New Play Exchange, and references.

The Depot operates within a “gift” economy; everyone who attends gives freely of his/her/their time, attention, creativity, and responses.

What are a few of your favorite plays that you’ve developed or produced?

I can’t answer this question—all of them stick with me, a sign of their strength and power.

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide whom to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?

Playwrights find the Depot through word-of-mouth. Playwrights submit a ten- to twenty-page sample of a play, and a selection committee determines which playwrights to invite. All genres and lengths are considered.

Playwrights interested in submitting a play for consideration should contact the Depot through the website at www.thedepot.space.
East/West Playfest

Milford, CT

An annual 10-minute play contest held by the Milford Arts Council.

https://www.milfordarts.org/new-events-1/2019/7/26/east-west-playfest

The Firehouse Theatre

Newburyport, MA

Holds an annual New Works Festival for new plays of all lengths.

https://www.firehouse.org/new-works/

Fresh Ink Theatre

Boston, MA

Fresh Ink is a theatre dedicated solely to developing new plays by local playwrights. Look out for its deadline every January. It only accepts the first 40 submissions!

http://freshinktheatre.org
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

Gloucester Stage Company is Boston’s North Shore premier professional, nonprofit theater company. Located in a century-old repurposed brick warehouse on the edge of the Atlantic and at the entrance to the Rocky Neck Cultural District, the intimate venue has provided the setting for premiering award-winning new works.

Gloucester Stage has established a culture of supporting new play premieres since its inception. Initially, that impact was founded on one playwright, but is being expanded to include new authors who have unique perspectives to share. This has liberated the creative resources of Gloucester Stage and grants the ability to amplify new, laudable voices, telling significant stories that demonstrate cultural competency.

What are a few of your favorite plays or projects that you’ve developed or produced?

In the last year, the Company has presented My Station in Life by Ken Riaf (World Premiere), The Lifespan of a Fact by Jeremy Kareken, David Murrell, & Gordon Farrell (Post-Broadway Premiere), and Too Fat for China by Pheobe Potts (World Premiere).

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?

In 2019 alone, Gloucester Stage received, read, and responded to 313 unsolicited play submissions (through our website submission form). To aid in this overwhelming response, the Company has subscribed to the membership/resources provided through the National New Play Network and New Play Exchange.

What is one thing playwrights should know about you?

Gloucester Stage Co. is looking for new plays that reflect a cultural competency with cunning, intelligence, and passion. Our performance space is intimate – ideal for powerful encounters between actors and the audience, but not well-suited to multiple realistic sets or cast sizes above eight.
Greater Boston Theatre Company  
Burlington, MA

Open for submissions of full-length plays from March 1 to August 1 every year for consideration of readings and full productions.

https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/

Grub Street Writers  
Boston, MA & Providence, RI

Writing workshops in many genres, including playwriting.

https://grubstreet.org/

Huntington Theatre Company  
Boston, MA

One of Boston's premiere theatres has a fellowship program which develops local playwrights.

https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/

Lesley University MFA  
Somerville, MA

Low residency MFA program including concentration in writing for stage and screen.

https://lesley.edu/academics/graduate/creative-writing

Maine Playwrights Festival  
Portland, ME

Readings and productions of short plays by Maine based playwrights.

https://acorn-productions.org/maine-playwrights-festival/

Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Massachusetts

Funding for artists in Massachusetts including biannual Fellowships. Projects funded through Local Cultural Council program.

https://massculturalcouncil.org/
Massasoit Community College Theatre Company

*Brockton, MA*

This South Shore Massachusetts college theatre department holds a 10 minute play contest and a full-length contest annually.


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National Playwrights Conference (The O’Neill Conference)

*Waterford, CT*

A prestigious, nationally recognized contest. This has a large entry fee but also a national reputation. This also includes the National Puppetry Conference, National Musical Theatre Conference, and National Cabaret & Performance Conference

[https://www.theoneill.org/npc](https://www.theoneill.org/npc)

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New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)

*New England*

NEFA invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts, enriching the cultural landscape in New England and the nation. Programs include Creative City Boston, touring and travel grants, and other arts grants.

[https://www.nefa.org/](https://www.nefa.org/)
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

The New Play Alliance is a project begun in 2014 as a project of Stagesource. It seeks to bring together the collective energy and resources of new play producers and developers in Greater Boston/New England.

OUR GOALS:
• Grow audiences for new plays.
• Encourage more new play development and production.
• Spread the word outside of Boston about plays/playwrights from Greater Boston/New England.

What are a few of your favorite plays or projects that you’ve developed or produced?

We run the New Play Newsletter email list. Anyone running new play events in New England can submit information to our newsletter editor. See our web page for templates detailing the information we request for these items. On a weekly basis, we compile and send out these events to our email list which has almost 1,000 subscribers as of November 2019 and support it with our Social Media team. It's a great way to amplify the potential audience for new plays.

We hold occasional in-person workshops and events about topics pertinent to playwrights.

The Field Guide you are reading right now is a new project of the NPA! Please let us know what you think.

We have in the past done projects like surveys of new play activity in New England and a brag sheet to recount recent playwriting successes of New England playwrights. We are interested in hearing about people's opinions of those projects and whether we should revive those in the future, and for projects that the NPA should explore doing.

What is one thing playwrights should know about you?

You can become involved in the NPA! We are always on the lookout for editors for the newsletter, social media editors, and producers of events. Please email newplayalliance@gmail.com for any inquiries.

Where do people go to learn more about you?

https://www.stagesource.org/page/NPA
New Repertory Theatre

Watertown, MA

Part of the National New Play Network, New Rep ran a playwright’s program up until recently. We await to see if something like that restarts after a recent change in leadership.

http://www.newrep.org/

New World Theatre

NH

This group runs a long distance Masterclass program from writers across New England and a playwrights’ collective.

https://www.newworldtheatre.org/
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

Open Theatre Project was formed to transform lives and build thriving communities through high-quality theatrical experiences. We are dedicated to providing artistic opportunities which allow the expression of diverse ideas to traditional and non-traditional audiences.

Our work is defined by the passion of individual artists in partnership with the culture of professionalism and collaboration we build around each of our creative endeavors.

We welcome all backgrounds, skill levels, and perspectives in order to broaden voices in theater with a particular focus on developing opportunities for women, people of color, LGBTQ and the elderly.

We support new play development by producing new plays… simple as that. Whether it's original work we’re developing in our "Plays in Progress" series, one of our signature 10-Min Play festivals featuring many new & first time playwrights, or any of the world premiere productions we’ve put up over the last 8 years, new work is at the core of who OTP is. We are a reflection of our community and those stories are in the here & now.

What are a few of your favorite plays or projects that you've developed or produced?

An Education in Prudence by Stefan Lanfer – The story of America's first attempt at a racially integrated school. Following the students of Prudence Crandall's School for Girls, this piece weaves 1833 CT & today together to tell the story of how stories can be found in the cracks of other's history. Developed over 2 years at OTP, this has been one of our proudest moments and continues to be a model for the type of work and process we want to create.

The Fear Project – A devised production that asked the question “What are you afraid of?” to 100’s of community members over 9 months. The final outcome was a beautiful and mind blowing full scale production and a model of using “Love” or “Hope” or “Sadness” or any other emotion to build an entire world from. It was an entirely original production for, by and with our community.

Gay Shorts created by George Smart– OTP loves a great 10-Min Play Model, and this one is entirely OURS. After 3 years performing at Club Café in Boston, Gay Shorts has become a celebration of the LGTBQIA+ community and these incredible voices are given the platform to shine. Focused entirely on New and Local work, Gay Shorts is one of our favorite events of the year.

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?

Word of mouth has been our biggest asset, every curtain speech comes with a call to action “If you have an idea, a spark, a sprinkle, anything that you think OTP should have it’s eye on, let us know...” That has produced every production idea we’ve had to date. We also stay active in our theatrical world via attending theatre, sharing resources with our partner companies, and being present where the artists we're seeking exist. It's not easy and it's not perfect, but how we create seems to build a steady flow of work in our world and we're grateful.

We love artists sending us scripts whenever is good for them, we will organize them based on their genre, type etc, and when a call comes through formally we have a set of scripts to look at. However, if you reach out to us or submit with little to know knowledge about who you’re reaching out to, it’s hard for us to jump on board. Make a proper introduction and not one you wrote for every cover letter, we LOVE real people. Also, read our mission, get to know our amazing team, better yet, comes see what we create before you tell us OTP is a perfect home for your work. It's a two way street and when it comes to contact, I'm all taking the time to make a good introduction. YES I know this is not how it's typically done, but this means the world to us and it's gotten us this far.

As for How? Email us anytime at contact@theopentheatre.com
Meeting Locations:
- Boston Playwrights Theatre, Boston, MA
- Woman’s Club of Newton, Newton Highlands, MA
- Cambridge Public Library, Main Branch, The Community Room, MA

Tell us about your company/project. What do you do, when and how did it start? In what ways do you support new plays in New England?

Playwrights’ Platform exists primarily to help playwrights develop their plays through public readings and audience feedback. Member playwrights can schedule readings for plays ranging from 1-minute to 2 hours (if a full-length is longer than 2 hours, they can have the play read on multiple dates). Playwrights are responsible for casting actors for their readings, but Playwrights’ Platform also has a large group of Resident Actors who are available to contact through our website. Every June, Playwrights’ Platform produces a Festival of New Plays at Boston Playwrights’ Theatre. Playwrights are responsible for finding a director and helping in the process of casting. We feel that this a great way to help playwrights engage with the theatre community and meet new artists and collaborators.

Playwrights’ Platform was created in 1973 by a group of local playwrights who wanted to develop and produce their own plays. We have been running continuously, in some shape or form, since then.

What are a few of your favorite plays that you’ve developed or produced?

We are always thrilled when our playwrights develop plays that go on to have productions with other companies. We are lucky to have a large group of talented playwrights who receive productions and readings both nationally and internationally, often after having started by having a public reading with us.

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?

We usually let playwrights find us. We are a public group: anyone can join us and schedule readings for a yearly fee of $40. During a year-long membership, playwrights can schedule as many readings as the calendar permits.

Playwrights usually find us online: we have a large presence on Facebook, and we also have a website, playwrightsplatform.org, with information pertaining to membership, our calendar, and our Resident Actors. [Editor’s Note: The Resident Actors page on their website is an excellent resource to find local actors who want to be involved in new play readings.]

What other theatres or institutions should we make sure to include in this field guide?

Our playwrights have worked with the following theatre companies who work to develop and/or provide a space to produce new plays:

- Fresh Ink Theatre (Boston, MA)
- New World Theatre (Concord, NH)
- Company One (Boston, MA)
- The Players’ Ring Theatre (Portsmouth, NH) (self-production)
- The Hatbox Theatre (Concord, NH) (self-production)
What is your company/project?

Portland Stage is the leading professional theater of Northern New England, and a member of LORT.

Tell us about your company and your focus on new work

Portland Stage presents six full length plays and a holiday show in our 286-seat Mainstage Space each season. We have a track record for producing at least one (and more recently two) world premieres per season. We also develop three new plays each May (with the playwrights in residence) in our full-length reading series, the Little Festival of the Unexpected. Additionally, we are committed to developing the voices of our region through the Clauder Competition for New England Playwrights, which has recently moved into a biannual schedule. Playwrights from all over New England may submit full-length, unproduced plays. Each submission will be read twice and given personalized feedback, and three plays will be workshopped in the Little Festival of the Unexpected, with the grand prize winner receiving a production the following season.

How do you find playwrights?

We find and forge relationships with a lot of writers through our Little Festival of the Unexpected. Even if a play doesn't get selected, we work to stay in touch with and encourage those that had an effect on our readers. We do our best to keep in touch with the writers we have premiered and workshopped and many of them return to work on subsequent plays. Additionally our Literary Department works hard to keep an eye on what's happening nationally with different writers.

What's one thing playwrights should know about you?

While it isn't advertised, per se, our Literary Manager Todd Brian Backus has met with every playwright that reached out and was coming through Portland since 2016. He's committed to the work.

Where do people go to learn more about you?

portlandstage.org

Matt R. Harrington*, Sophia Holman*, and Christopher Kelly* star in the world premiere of "The Center of Gravity" at Portland Stage Company. Photo: Darren Setlow
Post Meridian Radio Players
Somerville, MA

This group produces live radio format plays with various themes. These readings include live Foley sound effects.

http://pmrp.org/

River’s Edge Arts Alliance
Hudson, MA

Community arts group which has held a pop up play festival in recent years.

https://upwitharts.org/

Silverthorne Theatre
Greenfield, MA

Annual Short & Sweet play festival and a full-length reading series in Central Mass.

https://silverthornetheater.org/

SpeakEasy Stage Company
Boston, MA

Holds the annual “Boston Project” contest in which playwrights submit proposals for modern Boston-based plays they’d like to write.

https://www.speakeasystage.com/
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

StageSource provides leadership and services to advance the art of theater in the Greater Boston and New England region. Our mission is to unite theater artists, theater companies, and related organizations in vision and goals that inspire and empower our community to realize its greatest artistic potential.

StageSource is dedicated to the following goals:

- Increasing cultural participation through advocacy, communication, and education.
- Providing information, initiatives, and resources to established and emerging theater artists and organizations in the areas of employment, professional development, and institutional growth.
- Fostering access and non-discrimination in the belief that theater should shape, as well as be shaped by, the diversity of the community it represents.

What are a few of your favorite plays or projects that you've developed or produced?

Here are some events that we help put together:

ANNUAL AUDITIONS

2020 StageSource Annual Auditions

Over 50 directors, producers and casting agents from around the region see over 500 Equity and non-Equity actors at the StageSource Annual Auditions.

THE STAGESOURCE JOB FAIR

Job seekers who work backstage and in administrative jobs with theater, music, opera and production companies have the opportunity to interview for positions theaters throughout the region at this annual job expo.

GREATER BOSTON THEATER EXPO

An annual event convening over 60 theatre companies from the Greater Boston area, Berkshires, and Rhode Island. This event is free and open to the public and is held every fall.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & WORKSHOPS

Programming designed to provide professional development and technical assistance to individuals and organizations. Including acting techniques, panels, intimacy direction, administration, resumes, auditioning, and more!

Where do people go to learn more about you?

https://www.stagesource.org/

15 Channel Center Street, Suite 103
Boston, MA 02210

Phone: 617-350-7611
Email: info@stagesource.org
TC Squared

Somerville, MA

Playwright development group based in Somerville, MA.

http://www.tcsquaredtheatrecompany.org/
Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?

Theatre@First is an all-volunteer community theatre based in Somerville, MA. Founded in 2003, we fill a vital niche in the vibrant Davis Square arts scene. We draw upon the talents and support of individuals and organizations throughout the community to provide opportunities for our participants and audiences to experience quality live theatre in a variety of local venues.

Each production we present is the dream of someone within our community. Our shows range from Shakespeare to contemporary plays to original works. Each season consists of fully produced mainstage shows, a series of staged readings, a workshop program for new playwrights, and other special events.

What are a few of your favorite plays or projects that you’ve developed or produced?

Since 2004 we have produced ten iterations of Festival@First, our summer evening of one-acts. These celebrations of short works range in theme from First Times to Fairy Tales and have included the work of dozens of playwrights from across the country.

In 2006 we tracked down playwright Carole Braverman and worked with her to bring her unpublished play, *The Margaret Ghost*, to life again, thirty years after it premiered at Berkeley Rep. Based on the life of local luminary Margaret Fuller, our production was revived in 2010 as part of the bicentennial celebration of her birth.

In 2009, in collaboration with local screenwriter Colleen Campbell we presented a concert version of her lesbian fairytale musical screenplay, *Never After*, to sold out crowds at the Somerville Theatre.

In 2012 we returned to the Somerville Theatre with Artistic Director Elizabeth Hunter’s stage adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice*.

From 2013-2016, as part of Bare Bones: Staged Readings at Theatre@First, we presented the first three installments of *Mrs. Hawking*, an original play series written and directed by local playwright Phoebe Roberts.

In 2015 we launched FirstWorks, our workshop program for new playwrights. Our experienced directors and actors work with playwrights to hone their drafts and present them as readings to our engaged audience for their feedback.

Beginning in 2017 we have made a tradition of Giving@First, a 24-hour play festival for charity. Each festival harnesses the creativity of playwrights, directors, actors, and tech staff to develop an entire evening of new short works in just a day and raise money for the causes that move us.

How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?

As a community theatre, many of our playwrights come to us in other capacities. We also reach out via online playwright forums and make an effort to connect with local playwrights at other festivals. Playwrights who are interested in participating in FirstWorks should join our mailing list and keep an eye out for our annual call for submissions. Those interested in participating in Giving@First should email specialprojects@theatreatfirst.org.

What is one thing playwrights should know about you?

Theatre@First is director-driven theatre community, with a proposal process, rather than a reading committee. The best way to get your work produced with us is to keep an eye on our Facebook page and newsletter for submission windows, or to come join our community and get to know some of our directors.

Where do people go to learn more about you?

theatreatfirst.org
Wilbury Theatre Group

*Providence, RI*

Theatre in Rhode Island which has several development initiatives.

https://www.thewishburygroup.org
StageSource Resources & Events

StageSource provides leadership and services to advance the art of theater in the Greater Boston and New England region. Here is a partial listing of StageSource's offerings:

**ANNUAL AUDITIONS**

Each spring, dozens of theatres, organizations, and casting personnel attend this annual event to better acquaint themselves with the talent pool of StageSource member actors in the Boston area.

https://www.stagesource.org/page/StageSourceAuditions

**GREATER BOSTON THEATRE EXPO**

In the late summer, over 50+ theatres and organizations represent themselves to reach out to the local theatre community.

https://www.stagesource.org/page/GBTE19

**JOB FAIR**

The StageSource Job Fair brings the theaters to you! Find jobs, internships, apprenticeships and more in the areas of design, technical, administration, stage management and front of house.

https://www.stagesource.org/page/StageSourceJobFair

**WORKSHOPS**

StageSource workshops are a great way to get personal or professional development classes at an affordable rate. Most workshops are open to the public, but StageSource members have access to them at a discounted rate. We also offer financial assistance for select StageSource programming.

https://www.stagesource.org/page/Workshops

**SECTOR IMPROVEMENTS**

- **A11Y Initiative** - The A11Y initiative is pleased to offer grants to StageSource member theatre companies to have ASL interpreted performances!
  https://www.stagesource.org/page/A11Y

- **Gender Explosion Initiative** - Creating a space for gender diverse theater
  https://www.stagesource.org/page/GenderExplosion

- **Gender Parity Initiative** - The Gender Parity Initiative is compiled of working groups dedicated to the goal of “50/50 by 2020”—That is a 50% representation of people with marginalized gender identities* in the New England theater scene by the year 2020.
  https://www.stagesource.org/page/GenderParity

- **LINE DRAWN - Harassment Initiative** - For the performing arts community, Line Drawn is a challenge for us to create safe working spaces for our community, address issues, have bystanders trained, and be leaders in a culture shift.
  https://www.stagesource.org/page/LineDrawn

**STAGESOURCE MEMBER SEARCH**

StageSource has a database of over 1800 individual artists and over 250 Theater Related Organizations.

https://www.stagesource.org/page/SearchMembers

**SCRIPTS AND LENDING LIBRARY**

The StageSource Library is open Monday - Friday from around 10AM - 5PM

We recommend calling before coming over, to ensure someone is in the office.

The StageSource Library is located within the StageSource Offices at Midway Studios

15 Channel Center St. #103
Boston, MA 02210

https://www.stagesource.org/page/ScriptLendingLibrary

**CONTACT**

You can reach StageSource at:

15 Channel Center Street, Suite 103
Boston, MA 02210
Phone: 617-350-7611
Email: info@stagesource.org

**WEBSITE**

https://www.stagesource.org/
### Annual Deadlines to put on your radar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theatre</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Ink Theatre</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Submit new plays for production/reads. Boston area only! First 40 scripts only!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Theatre Marathon</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>15 Nov</td>
<td>10 Minute Plays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Theatre Project</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Dec for SLAM! / ongoing for full</td>
<td>SLAM! Boston (10-minute plays) / full-length pitches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SpeakEasy Stage Boston Project</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>Pitch Boston-based new play ideas to develop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrington Stage Company</td>
<td>Pittsfield, MA</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>10x10 (10 minute plays) / full-length award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Playwrights Conference O’Neill Award</td>
<td>Waterford, CT</td>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Major full-length award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massasoit Theatre Company</td>
<td>Brockton, MA</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>10-minute plays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre@First</td>
<td>Somerville, MA</td>
<td>15 Mar/Dec</td>
<td>short plays/full-lengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester Stage Co.</td>
<td>Gloucester, MA</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Full-length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Boston Stage Co.</td>
<td>Burlington, MA</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Full-length queries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture Park Short Plays Marathon</td>
<td>New Bedford, MA</td>
<td>14 Sep</td>
<td>15-minute plays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River’s Edge Arts Alliance</td>
<td>Hudson, MA</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>One-acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Firehouse Theatre New Works Festival</td>
<td>Newburyport, MA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Acme Theatre</td>
<td>Maynard, MA</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>10-minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Actor’s Studio of Newburyport</td>
<td>Newburyport, MA</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>10-minute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland Stage Co.</td>
<td>Portland, ME</td>
<td>October 1 &amp; March 1</td>
<td>Several major awards for full-lengths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a New England based resource that should be on this list? Send it to newplayalliance@gmail.com

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**Note:** The seating capacity of these events varies. Please visit the respective websites for specific details.

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**Source:** https://www.stagesource.org/page/NewPlayAlliance  November 2019
Local Cultural Councils

New World Theatre (NH) Masterclass Fellows
TC Squared (Somerville)
Centastage’s Write On!
Lesley University Low
Playwrights Theatre
Company One PlayLab
Huntington Playwriting Fellowship

Development Programs or Writers’ Groups

Program/Group
Huntington Playwriting Fellowship
Company One PlayLab
Boston University Playwriting MFA/Boston Playwrights Theatre
Lesley University Low-Residency MFA
Playwrights Platform
Centastage’s Write On!
TC Squared (Somerville)
New World Theatre (NH) Masterclass Fellows
Grub Street Writers

URL
https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/season/new-work/playwriting-fellows/Apply/
https://companyone.org/engage/playlab/
https://www.bu.edu/academics/graduate/creative-writing
https://playwrightsplatform.org/
https://www.centastage.org/writeon
http://www.tcsquaredtheatrecompany.org/playwright-lab/
http://www.newworldtheatre.org/masterclass_playwright_fellows/
https://grubstreet.org/

Application Deadline
November
November
February
November
Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing
Ongoing

Financial Resources:
The Boston Foundation
Mass Cultural Council
Local Cultural Councils
New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA)

Grants for Boston based creative projects
Grants for professional support
Grants for community events
Grants for New England artists

https://www.tbf.org/
http://www.massculturalcouncil.org/programs/artistfellow.asp
https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/
http://www.nefa.org

Multiple Deadlines
October
October
Multiple Deadlines

Have a New England based resource that should be on this list? Send it to newplayalliance@gmail.com
National Submission Opportunity Resources:
New York City Playwrights Blog  
Playwright Marketing Binge List  
Kat’s Play & Musical Submission Central  
Six Perfections Blog  
Playwright Submission Helper (paid)  
American Association of Community Theatre  
Burry Man Writers Center  
The Playwrights’ Center  
Stageplays Forum  
En Avant Playwrights Forum

Professional Resources:
New Play Exchange  
StageSource  
NE New Play Alliance  
Dramatists Guild  
Playwrights Center  
Official Playwrights of Facebook  
Boston & New England Playwrights  
Howlround (Theatre Blog)

One Playwright’s Opinion on What New England Playwrights Should Be Doing, by Greg Lam

• At minimum, explore some of the local opportunities. They are good and different ways to see your work on local stages if you should be chosen.
• Register on New Play Exchange, join Dramatists Guild and StageSource. They are worth the investment.
• Mine the Submission Resources to find local and non-local opps. At best, good playwrights have only 10-15% of submissions result in a positive response, so don’t be discouraged by rejections. You probably won’t get your stuff produced unless you take positive actions like applying to appropriate multiple opportunities.
• Join a local writing group/apply for local writing programs. They are various investments in time and money, but are good learning experiences/ongoing support. There are also informal writing programs as well that aren’t listed.
• I’ve found online forums like the Official Playwrights Facebook page to be useful for networking and research. Also, investing in traveling to a competitive theatre conference was a wonderful experience in meeting playwrights.
• Meet one theatre group and participate in their work long enough that you build a relationship to them eventually leading to a production? Apparently that’s something that can happen, or so I’ve been told...
• Consider self-producing? Not for everyone certainly, but sometimes you can manufacture your own opportunities. Local Cultural Councils can help out with funding.

Have a New England based resource that should be on this list? Send it to newplayalliance@gmail.com
Add Your Company to the Field Guide

The Field Guide to the New Play Ecosystem is an ongoing project of the New England New Play Alliance. We hope to have an entry for every entity who supports the creation of new plays in the New England area, from major development opportunities to a single new play reading held every couple of years. We have put in a small entry for known projects from organizations who have not yet contacted us with full information. We will update this document periodically as new information is sent to us.

If you represent a theatre or other organization which helps to foster, develop, producer, and/or promote new plays, you are welcome to submit information about your organization to expand a small entry or add a completely new entry. Please send an email to newplayalliance@gmail.com. In your own words, tell us the following:

- What is your company/project?
- Where is it located?
- Tell us about your company/project and your focus on new work. In what ways do you support new and local plays and playwrights?
- What are a few of your favorite plays or projects that you’ve developed or produced?
- How do you find playwrights? How do you decide who to work with? Would you like playwrights to contact you? How?
- What is one thing playwrights should know about you?
- Where do people go to learn more about you?
- What other theatres or institutions should we make sure to include in this field guide?

We are looking for brief descriptions of your company or project. All in all, we’d prefer if all of your answers were 800 words or fewer combined. Theatres already in the Field Guide should feel free to update their entry if their information changes.

Please send a hi-res image or two we can use in conjunction with your entry. A logo and a photo of your project in action would be ideal. Also send us any caption and credits that need to accompany your artwork.