



Greater Erie Arts Rental
An outreach service of Penn State Behrend

**The Greater Erie Film Office & Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend
announce a screenplay competition.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—January 1, 2018—The Greater Erie Film Office, a program of the Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania (FSNWPA), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is proud to announce its fourth annual screenwriting and filmmaking competitions, in partnership with Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend. The competition will be open to anyone residing in the state of Pennsylvania or within a 100 mile radius of Erie, Pennsylvania. We have added this 100 mile radius, in a response, to invite and welcome a wider regional audience from our neighboring states of Ohio and New York. We know this will add to the spirit of the competition, while reaching more filmmakers.

This year's screenwriting and filmmaking competition is themed "Dark Comedy".

A Dark Comedy can be defined as:

1. A comedy having gloomy or disturbing elements, especially one in which a character suffers an irreparable loss.
2. A comedy characterized by morbid or grimly satirical humor.

This topic however needs no clarification to guide writers to a complete story. With hits like Fargo, the Big Lebowski, and American Psycho, the dark comedy style is well represented in Hollywood. And despite our highly sensitive day and age we are encouraging writers to explore topics and events that are commonly regarded as taboo and find ways to treat them in unusually humorous or satirical manners while still retaining their seriousness; the intent therefore, is for your audience to experience both laughter and uneasiness, potentially simultaneously.

Stewart Nash, Film Commissioner for the Greater Erie Film Office, said, "2018 is going to be a huge year for us, while we are running with all pistons firing, we're putting more resources into growing this year's round of competitions. This will mean more marketing, more established professionals to judge, and hopefully, bigger prizes. We really want these competition to grow in popularity and be something our regional filmmakers look forward to. To that end, we wanted to pick a topic with high demand and high entertainment value. We think 'dark comedy' will be both

challenging and fun; and we encourage writers to provoke both discomfort and amusement from their audience.”

The 2018 Short Screenplay Competition is the first part of an annual two-contest combo. The second contest, the 2018 Short Film Competition, will be announced officially at the end of April 2018, using the winning script as it’s blueprint, to be produced by filmmakers.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION SUBMISSION FORMAT AND RULES

Deadlines: There are three deadlines for 2018:

Early Deadline: March 15, 11:59pm PT (\$20 entry fee)

Regular Deadline: March 31, 11:59pm PT (\$30 entry fee)

Late Deadline: April 15th, 11:59pm PT (\$40 entry fee)

Qualifications: Open to amateurs only: Screenwriters who have not earned more than \$25,000 writing fictional work for film or television. Entry scripts must be the original work of one writer, or of two writers who collaborated equally, and must be written originally in English. Adaptations and translated scripts are not eligible.

- One entry per applicant(s)
- All genres are accepted. Highly original material is a must.
- Screenplays must be submitted in English.
- Length (not including title page): Max 25 pages.
- Screenplays must be properly formatted, adhering to screenplay industry standards.
- Digital submissions in PDF format only to info@filmierie.com. Subject must state “Screenplay Competition [Your Name]”. Body of message must list entrants first and last name, phone number, email address, and title of script.
- Please include ONLY the story title on the title page to prevent reader bias.
- Rewritten/corrected pages WILL NOT be accepted once the entry has been received.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION RESTRICTIONS

- No entry fee refunds.
- Script must not have been previously optioned, purchased, currently in production or previously produced.
- Scripts written as adaptations of other works must have secured rights before being submitted.
- Film Society of NWP and Greater Erie Film Office board and committee members and Greater Erie Arts Rental at Penn State Behrend, and Penn State employees are ineligible to participate in this contest.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover credit and debit cards accepted for submission payment through PayPal at FilmErie.com.
- Please DO NOT send cash or checks.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION PRIZES

Notifications will be sent to finalists via email by the second week of April 2018.

The winner will be announced at the end of April 2018 after judging has concluded.

First Place:

- \$500 (USD) Cash Prize.
- Winning script will be used by all entrants in the 2018 Short Film Contest, which will be screened at the 2019 Film & New Media Dinner Party.
- DramaShop Stage Reading Event. An awards presentation will take place with actors reading the winning script in a dramatic presentation.
- Recognition in the Erie Reader.
- Final Draft 10 Software

Top 3 Finalists:

- Face-to-face script critique session with a film industry professional.
- Recognition on the website, social media, and through a press release.
- Invitation for you and a guest to the DramaShop Stage Reading Event live screening.
- Judges notes.

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION CONTACT

Greater Erie Film Office

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FilmErie.com

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