

## **Blueberry Pond Theatre Ensemble Lab Protocols**

The mission of Blueberry Pond is to present new works that have not been produced and thereby provide new voices the opportunity to find public expression. "Produced" means Blueberry does not accept work that has been given a full stage production. If a work has been work-shopped or given a staged reading by another theater group, then the writer should consult with the Artistic Director before submitting it to the Lab. In general, work that has been work-shopped or given staged readings will not be considered unless the writer and Blueberry see the opportunity for there to be significant changes made to the work during the Lab process.

There are two kinds of work that a writer may bring into lab: "new" work that has not been workshopped anywhere else, and "work-in-progress" that has been workshopped elsewhere but still needs substantial development.

We ask that writers not use our labs for the purpose of staging a dress rehearsal or polishing a play that is going to be produced elsewhere. Work of this nature, if accepted for a lab reading, will receive a lower priority than new work and is subject to "best availability" scheduling. Work will not be accepted from "drop-in" writers who have not gone through the writer recruitment process.

If a writer brings a one-act into lab, Blueberry Pond asks that it be given the opportunity to produce it first in one of our twice-annual one-act festivals. For work that is accepted for production, the writer is requested to cast the play with Blueberry's member actors. After that, the writer is free to submit the work elsewhere.

Similarly, this protocol applies to full-length plays that are developed in lab. To that end, the play must meet our requirements in terms of cast size (typically a maximum of six actors, which may include one or more actors playing multiple roles). For Blueberry mainstage productions, Blueberry reserves the right to control all creative aspects, except that no portion of the script will be altered without the writer's written permission. Additional details are covered in the license agreement between the writer and Blueberry.

In all material that is workshopped, the writer retains complete ownership. Any licensing agreement with Blueberry will only be in effect for the duration of the production.

In terms of submitting work for lab, we request that writers send the material to be read to [blueberrylabschedule@earthlink.net](mailto:blueberrylabschedule@earthlink.net) no later than one (1) week prior

to the requested reading. Given the previously stated protocols, we will make every effort to accommodate writer requests at the earliest possible date.

Once a date for the lab reading is provided, the writer should forward the script to the actors he or she chooses for the reading from our pool of member actors. If a writer has difficulty casting a part, we will recommend a member actor. If unable to cast the part prior to the scheduled lab reading, we will do our best to find appropriate casting from the actors who attend lab that night.

Lab members consist of writers, actors and directors. We request that all attending members make an effort to offer constructive feedback to the works presented at lab. The feedback we provide from whatever our area of expertise might be is invaluable to the writers having their work presented and is a critical part of the lab process. In addition to hearing the work read by actors, feedback is a key element in any future development of the work and is an important way members can continue to support one another in our effort to grow as artists.