

# Premiere Contract

**2025 – 2028**

Both the Theatre and the Playwright agree that each and every clause contained in the Playwrights Guild of Canada/Professional Association of Canadian Theatres Standard Clauses is part of this Contract. In the event of any conflict between the terms of this Contract and the terms set forth in the Standard Clauses, the terms in the Standard Clauses will prevail. When signed by both parties, this Contract with all modifications, together with the Standard Clauses, constitutes a legal binding Agreement.

No clause in this Contract may be deleted or altered without the mutual consent of both parties.

In the case of additional agreement requirements, the use of Riders is encouraged. Please contact your member organization for guidance, if required.

Agreement made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_

between \_\_\_\_\_  
(hereinafter called the Playwright)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address of Playwright)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Playwright email address)

And

\_\_\_\_\_  
(hereinafter called the Theatre)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(address of Theatre)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Theatre email address)

WHEREAS the Playwright is the author (or authors) and sole owner(s) of a certain Play entitled

\_\_\_\_\_  
(hereinafter called the Play);

**Playwrights Guild of Canada**  
**Professional Association of Canadian Theatres**

AND WHEREAS the Theatre wishes to produce and publicly perform or arrange for the production and public performance of the Play;

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

**1. Right to Produce**

The Playwright grants to the Theatre the exclusive right to present the Premiere production of the Play in a location or region as indicated and mutually agreed to below:

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Within the dates specified below:

from \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (date)

to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ (date).

The parties hereto agree that if, due to unforeseen circumstances, these dates cannot be met, the right to produce will be extended a further period of up to 30 (thirty) days from the stated date of the first public performance. If the Theatre cannot open the play within this 30- (thirty-) day period, Clause 3 will apply.

**2. Royalties**

Royalties shall be paid by the Theatre to the Playwright at a rate to be agreed upon by the parties, based on a percentage of the certified gross box office receipts, not including credit card charges, group sales commissions, and all sales tax, goods and services or similar government taxes. There shall be no other deductions unless approved by the PGC/PACT Joint Standing Committee.

The agreed percentage for the royalties herein is \_\_\_\_\_ % (Premiere minimum 10% [ten percent], Premiere Musical minimum 12% [twelve percent]).

In circumstances where more than one person is involved in the creation of the work, a rider stipulating the payment of the total creators' royalty shall be attached to this Contract.

The Theatre guarantees that a minimum royalty of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ will be paid to the Playwright, and that such guaranteed minimum shall be based on the potential royalties as projected by the Theatre in accordance with the current experience and expectation at the Theatre's venue.

The Guarantee for productions with runs of 7 (seven) or more performances shall not be less than \$2000 (two thousand dollars).

The Guarantee for productions with runs of fewer than 7 (seven) performances shall not be less than: \$75 (seventy-five dollars) up until June 29, 2022; \$100 (one hundred dollars) from June 30, 2022 – June 29, 2023; \$125.00 (one hundred and twenty-five dollars) from June 30, 2023 – June 29, 2024, per performance.

This Guarantee shall be paid in the following manner:

a) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ upon signing of this Agreement;

b) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ upon the first day of rehearsal;

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c) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ upon the day of the opening performance.

Payments will be made out to:

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This Guarantee shall be an advance against royalties but shall not be refunded in the event the Play is not produced within the time period referred to herein under Clause 1, or if the amount of royalties to be paid in terms of this Contract does not equal the basic guaranteed minimum.

The balance of royalties shall be paid by the Theatre to the Playwright according to the schedule as follows:

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Full payment of royalties shall be made no later than 30 (thirty) days following the end of the run of the Play. The Theatre shall furnish the Playwright a duly certified weekly statement of the box office receipts at the same time that royalties are paid. In the case of repertory theatre, 8 (eight) performances shall constitute 1 (one) week.

Any payments made more than 60 (sixty) days after the due date(s), which includes the Guarantee payment schedule, are subject to a 2% (two percent) per month penalty starting from the due date and continuing until paid in full.

### **3. Extension of the Right to Produce**

In the event that the Theatre does not produce the Play by \_\_\_\_\_ (date), the Theatre may by mutual agreement with the Playwright extend its rights according to the terms of this agreement for a further period of one year, upon payment of a fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The payment for the Extension of rights shall be a non-refundable advance and shall not be recouped from the Playwright's royalties.

### **4. Option to Acquire Further Rights Following the Premiere of the Production**

#### **a) Right of First Refusal for Stage Production Rights in Other Region(s)**

For a period of 3 (three) months from the date of the final performance of the Theatre's Premiere production, the Theatre shall receive the right of first refusal to purchase an exclusive option on stage production rights for the Play in any region(s) of Canada and the world.

The terms and conditions for said options and payments shall be based on location of territories and length of option to produce, which will be laid out in the Option to Acquire Further Rights rider, in accordance with sound business practice.

#### **b) Right of First Refusal for Other Media(s)**

It is understood and agreed that during the term of this Contract the Theatre shall have the right of first refusal to acquire sole, exclusive and separable options on reproduction rights for: world television, film, radio, video cassette, sound recording and all electronic and mechanical reproduction methods currently in existence or yet to be developed, for the production of the Play as staged by the Theatre. The terms and conditions of such rights will be negotiated by the Theatre and the Playwright in accordance with sound business practice.

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**5. Artistic Decisions**

Following consent by both parties on the choice of director, the parties agree to the following:

- ☐ The Theatre and the Playwright agree that the Playwright will have approval of the following creative team members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

And/or

- ☐ The Theatre and the Playwright agree that the Playwright will be consulted on the following creative team members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ The Theatre and the Playwright agree that neither approval nor consultation of the Playwright is required.

**6. Changes in the Script**

See Standard Clause 7.

**7. Rehearsals**

See Standard Clause 26.

The Playwright will be provided with round trip air or other available and appropriate transportation from the Playwright's place of ordinary residence and in addition shall receive a per diem allowance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

It is understood between the parties that the use of the most economical and mutually convenient reasonable transportation (especially in regard to air travel) is the spirit and intention of this clause. Should either party subsequently change the arrangements for any reason, that party shall be responsible for any additional incurred costs.

**8. Billing**

When the Theatre prints a house program, the Theatre shall include the following credit:

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ” (Playwright's name) is a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

The Playwright will be credited as follows (as per Standard Clause 16):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Professional Association of Canadian Theatres**

The Theatre shall make the following acknowledgements in the house program on behalf of the Playwright:

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The Theatre shall credit the Commissioning Theatres in the house program as follows:

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The Theatre shall credit the Developing Theatres in the house program as follows:

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The Playwright agrees to require that future producing companies acknowledge the Theatre as having been the producer of the Premiere production of the Play in the house program of future productions as follows:

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**9. RRSP**

RRSP contributions from the Playwright and a matching contribution from the Theatre are required. See Standard Clause 5 for calculation, remittances, and limits.

**10. Exclusivity**

During the period commencing with the date on which the Playwright has signed this Agreement continuing to the closing date of the production and for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ weeks (minimum fifty-two weeks) thereafter, the Playwright shall not license or assign any third-party rights to the Play granted herein within a \_\_\_\_\_ kilometer radius of the Theatre's performance/tour venues as outlined in Clause 1, unless the Playwright has received the Theatre's prior consent to do so.

**11. Notices**

All notices herein provided for shall be delivered personally, sent by registered mail, or email to the addresses specified in this contract. If notice is delivered by email, notice shall be effective when the recipient acknowledges receipt of email by responding to the sender through any of the methods listed in this section. Either party shall by like notice specify any change of address.

**12. Riders**

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Riders and/or additional notes are attached to this contract (check one): Yes ☐ or No ☐

**13. Completion and Filing of Contracts**

Contracts may be completed, signed, and filed electronically. Electronic signatures are valid.

Executed contracts will be filed as soon as possible after signing according to the following checklist:

- ☐ Playwright will keep a signed copy
- ☐ Theatre will keep a signed copy
- ☐ Playwright will file a signed contract with PGC
- ☐ Theatre will file a signed contract with PACT
- ☐ Theatre will file a signed contract with PGC along with the initial RRSP remittance (where applicable)

Addresses for filing:

PACT:

Upload to the PACT website:

Pact.ca

PGC:

Upload to the PGC website:

Playwrightsguild.ca

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed the present Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Theatre

\_\_\_\_\_  
Playwright

\_\_\_\_\_  
GST #

\_\_\_\_\_  
GST #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Professional Association of Canadian Theatres**

**Option to Acquire Further Rights Rider**

This is a rider to the \_\_\_\_\_ contract dated \_\_\_\_\_ between:

\_\_\_\_\_ (the Theatre)

And \_\_\_\_\_ (the Playwright)

Concerning his/her play \_\_\_\_\_ (the Play).

For the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_, the Playwright hereby grants the Theatre the exclusive option to acquire the live performance rights to present the Theatre's production of the Play in the territory/territories described below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

from the date of \_\_\_\_\_

to the date of \_\_\_\_\_.

It is understood that, during the term of the option, the Playwright may apply to the Theatre to have an independent production of the Play produced within a specific territory. The consent of the Theatre will not be unreasonably withheld.

It is understood that, while this option is in effect, the Theatre will make every effort to secure an appropriate production of the Play within the territory specified.

It is understood and agreed that the Theatre shall at any time after the expiry date of any or all options have a non-exclusive right to acquire or re-acquire any or all of such rights as are specified in the contract and riders attached thereto to the extent that any such rights remain available for production and unencumbered.

SHOULD THE OPTION BE EXERCIZED, a Stock Contract will be negotiated in which the Playwright's royalties shall be \_\_\_\_\_ % of the presenting fee(s) or the gross box office revenues, whichever is appropriate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATED

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATED

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**Multiple Creators Rider**

This is a rider to the \_\_\_\_\_ contract dated \_\_\_\_\_ between:

\_\_\_\_\_ (the Theatre)

And \_\_\_\_\_ (the Playwright)

Concerning \_\_\_\_\_ (the Play).

Royalties shall be paid by the Theatre to the Playwright at a rate to be agreed upon by the parties, based on a percentage of the certified gross box office receipts, not including credit card charges, group sales commissions, and all sales tax, goods and services or similar government taxes. There shall be no other deductions unless approved by the PGC/PACT Joint Standing Committee.

The agreed percentage for the royalties herein is \_\_\_\_\_ % (minimum 10% or in the case of a Premiere Musical minimum 12%) where such agreed amount will be the total creators' royalty. The royalty split will be divided among the Co-Creators as follows (additional lines can be added if necessary):

\_\_\_\_\_ % for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ % for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ % for \_\_\_\_\_

In circumstances where the royalty applies to more than one creator, the Playwright and the Theatre shall agree to one of the following arrangements with respect to the distribution of such royalty to each creator to which a portion of the royalty is due:

- a) The Theatre shall pay the royalty to the Playwright and the Playwright shall be solely responsible for negotiating the distribution of the royalty and for distributing the applicable portion of same to each creator to whom a portion of the royalty is due. The Playwright assumes all obligation, responsibility and liability related to the distribution of the royalty and indemnifies and saves harmless the Theatre against any and all claims arising as a result of the Playwright's distribution or failure to distribute the royalty.

Initial to indicate the selection of this option: Theatre \_\_\_\_\_ Playwright \_\_\_\_\_

OR

- b) The Theatre shall be solely responsible for the distribution of the royalty and for distributing the applicable portion of same to each creator to whom a portion of the royalty is due. The Theatre assumes all obligation, responsibility and liability related to the distribution of the royalty and indemnifies and saves harmless the Playwright against any and all claims arising as a result of the Theatre's distribution or failure to distribute the royalty.

The Playwright will provide to the Theatre a list of the creators, their role and the agreed upon royalty percentage for each creator.

The Theatre confirms that royalty payment due to the Playwright is \_\_\_\_\_ %.

Initial to indicate the selection of this option: Theatre \_\_\_\_\_ Playwright \_\_\_\_\_



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**APPENDIX I  
Summary of Billing and Credits**

*This Summary of Billing and Credits Appendix is intended as a tracking resource for Theatre Departments (e.g., Marketing, Communications, and so forth).*

- The Playwright will be billed as the author of the Play on a separate line immediately preceding or following the title of the Play in all programs, houseboards, billboards, print, audio, and online advertising, websites, throwaways and paid announcements of the Play in all media.
- No names except the title of the Play and the name of the Theatre may be larger or more prominent than the Playwright's name. There shall be no exceptions without the Playwright's consent.
- The Playwright will be credited as follows:

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- When biographies are present in the program, the Theatre will include a biography of the Playwright. The biography shall have been approved by the Playwright, and it is the Playwright's responsibility to provide such information to the Theatre, including the Playwright's PGC membership as the following credit:

“\_\_\_\_\_ (the Playwright) is a member of the Playwrights Guild of Canada.”

- In any publication, production, or electronic reproduction of the Play, the Developing Theatre, Commissioning Theatre, and the Theatre of the Premiere production shall be credited appropriately.
- In the case of a Stock Contract, when requested, the Theatre of subsequent productions shall acknowledge, in the house program, the Developing Theatre, the Commissioning Theatre, and the Theatre of the Premiere production.

The Theatre shall make the following acknowledgments in the house program on behalf of the Playwright:

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The Theatre shall credit the Developing Theatres in the house program as follows:

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The Theatre shall credit the Commissioning Theatres in the house program as follows:

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The Theatre shall credit the Premiere Theatre in the house program as follows:

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- In any publication of the Play, the Premiere Theatre, its director, designer, and cast, shall be credited, provided that such production has taken place prior to the publication of the Play.