

Page to Stage Short Story Writing Contest Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A purchase or payment of any kind will not increase your chances of winning. By entering, you (the “participant” or “entrant”) agree to these official rules (the “Rules”) and decisions of the Sponsor (as defined below), which are final and binding in all respects relating to the Page to Stage Short Story Writing Contest (the “Contest”).

1. **SPONSOR.** The Contest is sponsored by Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall Corporation (“Sponsor”), located at 166 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106.
2. **CONTEST PERIOD.** Submissions (as defined below) for the Contest can be submitted starting on January 25, 2021, at 12:00 AM, and ending on **March 15, 2021, 11:59PM EST** (“Entry Period”). Submissions submitted before or after the Entry Period will not be eligible for the Contest. Contest Winners will be announced no later than one month following the close of the Entry Period.
3. **HOW TO PARTICIPATE.** By participating in this Contest, participant agrees to the Rules and to be bound by them. To participate, entrants will submit via email a written short story (“Submission”) subject to the requirements set forth in Section 4 below, to PageToStage@bushnell.org with entrant’s contact information, including entrant’s name, email address and mailing address. Participants may only submit one Submission. All Submissions must be submitted electronically as a PDF or Word Document, or it will not be eligible. Submissions are accepted via electronic submission only.
4. **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS.** To be considered for the Contest, all Submissions must:
 - a. Be in response to the following prompt: "In the Audience" - Whether on a bus, at a crowded party, or in an audience at an event, being in a crowd affords a person a degree of anonymity. The choice to participate or observe. In that spirit, your short story should include a perspective of someone in the company of a number of people or spectators gathered for a known or unknown purpose.
 - b. Be 3,000 words or less; submissions that are longer than this word count will not be considered.
 - c. Not be an adaptation of a previously-existing work.
 - d. Include the title, name of writer, and contact information, including email address, on the title page and include the participant’s last name in the Submission file name (for example: John Smith could submit a file with the name ShortStory-Smith.pdf).
 - e. Be original, and all rights in to the Submission must be wholly owned by the writer.
 - f. Be written in English.
 - g. Not infringe, misappropriate or otherwise violate any intellectual property or other right of any third party, including without limitation rights of privacy and publicity.
 - h. Not include any inhumane, derogatory, sexual or graphic, or otherwise illegal, content. In particular, the Submission must not contain any discriminatory, defamatory or racist content or content that may corrupt the young or that offends good taste and decency.
 - i. Not exceed PG-13 appropriate content.

Substitutions of either corrected pages or new drafts of the entered Submissions will be not be allowed. Please proofread your story carefully before submitting.

5. ELIGIBILITY. All persons at least eighteen (18) years of age or older that are residents of any State in the United States are eligible to participate in the Contest, except that the following persons are NOT eligible: (a) Employees and officers of the Sponsor and their immediate family members; (b) the Panelist (as defined below in Section 7) and immediate family members of the Panelist; and (c) individuals that are on the Sponsor's board of directors. By participating in this Contest, participant represents and warrants that he or she satisfied all eligibility requirements.

6. CONSENTS AND PARTICIPANT'S WARRANTIES. It is an express condition of participation and eligibility that each participant warrants and represents that participant's Submission is solely owned by participant and solely created by participant for the purpose of entering this Contest, and that no other party has any rights or interest in or to the Submission. Participant further represents and warrants that the Submission and any use thereof by the Sponsor or any partners, subsidiaries and affiliates, including without limitation in connection with stage readings, promotion and publicity, shall not infringe upon, misappropriate or otherwise violate any intellectual property right (including, without limitation, any copyright) under U.S. and international laws of any third party and shall not constitute a defamation, or invasion of the right of privacy or publicity, or infringement of any other right of any kind of any third party. Should a breach of third-party rights occur despite the participant's assurances, the participant is responsible for all resulting damages incurred by the Sponsor.

7. PRIZES; PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WINNERS. The Sponsor has designated Ransom Riggs as the judge (the "Panelist") to assess the skill of each participant as demonstrated by their respective Submissions. After the Entry Period, the Panelist will review and judge all qualifying Submissions on the following criteria: (i) premise; (ii) execution; (iii) style/tone; (iv) characters; (v) dialogue; (vi) ability to adapt to a live theatrical work or a screenplay; (vii) structure; (viii) pacing; (ix) payoff; and (x) marketability. Based on the foregoing criteria, the Panelist will select three winners, comprising of a first place, second place and third place winner (collectively, the "Winners"). The first place winner will receive a prize of \$500 dollars, the second place winner will receive \$250 dollars, and the third place winner will receive \$125 dollars (all of the amounts collectively, the "Cash Prizes"). In addition to the Cash Prize awarded to the first place winner, the first prize winner will also be awarded a one-on-one conversation with the Panelist and the Sponsor will organize and host a stage reading of the first place winner's Submission at the Sponsor's location, on a date and time chosen by the Sponsor at its discretion (the conversation and stage reading together with the Cash Prizes collectively, the "Prizes"). Sponsor may also host stage readings of the second and third place winners' Submissions in Sponsor's discretion if it so chooses, but such readings are not guaranteed to be provided in the Prizes. Sponsor will notify participants by mail, telephone, and/or email, in Sponsor's sole discretion, of the selection of Winners within one month following the close of the Entry Period.

Entrants may be required to submit further information to assist in the Panelist's verification of eligibility. Any entrant may be deemed ineligible at the sole discretion of the Sponsor. Finalists may be required to sign and return within seven (7) business days of receipt a notarized Affidavit of Eligibility (which affirms that he/she has complied with these Rules) and a Release, Indemnification and tax withholding forms including social security number, as well as proof of valid identification and any other documents that the Sponsor or any other partner may require before receiving prize payment or inclusion in the anthology, and/or the dramatic reading. Failure to respond to such initial request notification within ten (10) days or return of notification may result in disqualification and the Prizes may be awarded to an alternate winner. We reserve the right to amend these rules at any time.

Winners will not receive Prizes if they do not abide by these Rules. If Sponsor determines Winners are ineligible or otherwise not in compliance with these Rules, the selected entrant forfeits the Prize(s); and at Sponsor's discretion, the Prize(s) can be awarded to an alternate entrant. Cash Prizes may be awarded in the form of a debit card, cash, or check, payable in US dollars, the exact form to be determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion.

8. **TAXES; NO TRANSFER.** All federal, state, and local taxes are the responsibility of the Winners. Sponsor is required to withhold by law a percentage of the Prizes for tax purposes before distributing the Prize awards. Prizes cannot be transferred or substituted except by Sponsor in its sole discretion. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute Prizes of equal or greater value.

9. **COPYRIGHT AND OWNERSHIP; LICENSE TO USE SUBMISSIONS.** By participating in the Contest, participant acknowledges and agrees that if participant is awarded a Prize, participant hereby grants to Sponsor a non-exclusive, irrevocable, perpetual, royalty-free, transferrable, sublicensable license to use participant's Submission for stage readings, to record such stage readings, and show such recordings and/or a text version of the Submission on Sponsor's website, social media accounts or elsewhere. Except as expressly provided otherwise in these Rules, all ownership and rights, title and interest in and to the Submissions remains with the original rights holders until and unless other agreements are made.

10. **PUBLICITY; DATA PROTECTION.** Except where prohibited by law, participation in the Contest constitutes each entrant's consent to Sponsor's and its agents' use of entrants' names, likenesses, photographs, and/or personal information for promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration. All uses of entrants' personal information will be related to the Contest. We do not share personal information with third parties. The data collected in the form of the name, address and email address of the entrant will be used by the Sponsor and on its behalf in the running of the Contest and allocation of Prizes, as well as notification of the Winners. The name of the Winners will be published by the Sponsor and published on the webpage at <https://bushnell.org/pagetostage>. No further use or sharing of entrant's personal data to third parties shall take place. The entrant may revoke his/her Submission in the Contest at any time by providing written notice to the Sponsor. Withdrawal from the Contest will forfeit all of entrant's rights to claim any Prizes. The entrant has the right to request from the Sponsor access to and rectification or erasure of personal data or restriction of processing data concerning the entrant, or to object to processing entrant's data, as well as the right to data portability. The personal information collected from each entrant in connection with the Contest is collected by Sponsor, and will be used by Sponsor for the purposes of administration of the Contest and as otherwise permitted in accordance with Sponsor's Privacy Policy which can be found at <https://bushnell.org/content/privacy-statement>.

11. **ENTRY CONDITIONS AND RELEASE.** BY ENTERING THE CONTEST YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THESE RULES. By participating in this Contest, participants waive all rights to, and agree to release and hold harmless Sponsor, bushnell.org, its subsidiary, parent and affiliated companies, Prize contributors, Panelists, short story readers, sponsors, and any other organizations responsible for administering, advertising or promoting the Contest, and every one of their respective members, directors, employees, agents and representatives (collectively, the "Released Parties") past and present from and against any and all claims, expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees), loss, damage (including punitive, incidental and consequential damages) and liability, including but not limited to damages and negligence to property and persons, including but not limited to invasion of privacy, defamation, slander, libel, violation of right of publicity, copyright, infringement of trademark or

other intellectual property rights relating to a participant's Submission, participation in the Contest and/or acceptance or use or misuse of Prize; provided however, that such release will not apply to any commercial exploitation of the Submission by a Released Party in violation of your rights under applicable copyright law. Released Parties will not be responsible or liable for (i) telephone, electronic, hardware or software program, network, Internet or computer malfunctions, failures, or difficulties of any kind; (ii) entries that are late, lost, stolen, garbled/jumbled, corrupted, misdirected, or incomplete; (iii) illegible computer system hardware, software or program malfunctions or for other errors, failures or delays in computer transmissions or network connections that are human or technical in nature; (iv) any condition caused by events beyond the reasonable control of Sponsor that may cause the Contest to be disrupted or corrupted; (v) any printing of typographical errors in any materials associated with the Contest; (vi) an entrant's failure to receive Prize notices due to entrant's spam, junk e-mail, or other security settings or for entrants' provision of incorrect or otherwise non-functioning contact information; (vii) any human error which may occur in the processing of the Submissions in this Contest; or (viii) any and all losses, damages, rights, claims, and actions of any kind in connection with or resulting from participation in the Contest, acceptance, possession, or use/misuse of any Prize, or any other matter related to the Contest, including, without limitation, claims based on personal injury, death, and property damage; infringement, misappropriation or otherwise a violation of intellectual property or other proprietary rights; or publicity rights, defamation, or invasion of privacy, including any indirect, incidental, consequential or punitive damages.

Sponsor reserves the right to suspend or cancel this Contest for any reason that it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, fraud, computer virus, bug or other technical problem that corrupts the administration, security or proper functioning of the Contest or any condition caused by events beyond the reasonable control of the Sponsor that may cause the Contest to be disrupted or corrupted. Sponsor shall not be liable and may, in its sole discretion, either: (a) suspend the Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Contest in a manner that best conforms to the spirit of these Rules; or (b) terminate the Contest and not award the Prizes. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Contest, acting in violation of these Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, cheating, hacking, or undermining the operation of the Contest. Any attempt by any person to undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. Failure by Sponsor to enforce any term of these Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

ENTRY TO THIS CONTEST IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED or restricted by any Federal, State or Local law. Participants' eligibility will be verified before any Prize is awarded. By entering the contest, participant authorizes Sponsor to use any trusted third-party online and cloud-based services and databases for hosting, managing and/or transmitting Submission file(s).

12. GOVERNING LAW & VENUE. Entrant agrees that all matters arising out of or relating to this Contest and these Rules are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Connecticut, without giving effect to any of its conflict of laws provisions thereof. Entrant further agrees that any legal suit, action, or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Contest and these Rules shall be brought exclusively in the applicable federal or state courts located in Hartford, Connecticut.

13. WINNERS INFORMATION. The names of the Winners will be posted at <https://bushnell.org/pagetostage>. In addition, to obtain this information you may also send a U.S.

Postal Service postcard with your return address clearly marked for receipt to: 166 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1621.