

The Top 14 Screenwriting Contests To Enter In 2018

 web.archive.org/web/20180817030948/https://goodinaroom.com/blog/screenwriting-contests

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To learn [how to become a screenwriter](#), screenwriting contests are a great way to get started.

One of the best ways to get noticed by agents and managers – especially if you don't have many Hollywood connections – is by winning screenwriting contests and competitions.

Winning screenplay contests is not an automatic ticket to success, but your work is more likely to be read by potential managers, agents, and producers.

Screenwriting Contests Overview

There are at least 74 screenwriting contests (you can find them [here](#) and [here](#)), but only a small number (in my opinion) are worth entering.

If you want to enter all the screenplay contests, go for it (though this can get expensive), but I recommend that you focus on taking fewer, higher-quality shots by entering the top screenwriting contests to which industry executives pay attention.

The following screenwriting contests are a viable avenue for getting representation and breaking in (especially for those who are outside LA).

□

The Top Screenwriting Contests

The Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting, Austin Screenwriting Competition and PAGE International Screenwriting Awards are the best screenwriting contests because many agents, managers, and executives will read the winning scripts.

There is a proven track record of writers who have sold scripts, gotten representation, and launched their careers based on winning these screenwriting contests.

Academy Nicholl and Austin are the two largest, most well-known, and most prestigious. PAGE is also very well-known, but not as prestigious.

Academy Nicholl Fellowship

Academy Nicholl Fellowship

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: March 7 (\$45)
- Regular Entry: April 10 (\$60)
- Late Entry: May 1 (\$85)

Odds of winning (based on previous entries): 6915 submissions, 5 winners = 0.00071685

Austin Screenwriting Competition

Austin Screenwriting Competition

Deadlines for 2018:

FEATURE SCREENPLAY

- Early Entry: March 30 (\$45)
- Regular Entry: April 20 (\$55)
- Late Entry: May 15 (\$70)

SHORT SCREENPLAY, TELEPLAY, & DIGITAL SERIES

- Early Entry: March 30 (\$35)
- Regular Entry: April 20 (\$45)
- Late Entry: May 15 (\$60)

Odds of winning (based on previous entries): 9100 submissions, 10 winners = 0.00109890

PAGE International Screenwriting Awards

PAGE International Screenwriting Awards

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: January 15 (\$45)
- Regular Entry: February 15 (\$55)
- Late Entry: March 15 (\$65)
- Last Minute: April 16 (\$75)

*Includes TV categories

Odds of winning (based on previous entries): 4400 submissions, 12 winners = **0.0027272**

Screenwriting Contests Worth Considering

The following contests are worth entering because they have a track record, winners have developed relationships within the industry, and projects have been optioned or sold as a result.

BlueCat Screenplay Competition

BlueCat Screenplay Competition

Deadlines for 2018:

- Regular Deadline: February 1
- Final Deadline: February 20

Fees range \$50 – \$65 and vary according to genre and entry date.

*Includes short film and TV categories

Finish Line Script Competition

Finish Line Script Competition

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: March 13 (\$35)
- Regular Entry: May 30 (\$40)
- Final Deadline: July 1 (\$45)

*Includes TV category

Final Draft Big Break Contest

Final Draft Big Break Contest

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: March 14 (\$40)
- Regular Entry: June 18 (\$50)
- Extended Entry: July 2 (\$65)
- Last Chance: July 17 (\$75)

ScreenCraft

ScreenCraft

ScreenCraft's screenwriting contests are broken down by genre, with multiple dates for each. Fees range from \$39 – \$59 depending on selected deadline. See below for 2018 dates:

2018 ScreenCraft Screenwriting Fellowship

- Regular Deadline: January 31
- Final Deadline: March 1

SciFi Script Contest

- Opens for entries: January 10
- Early Deadline: February 9
- Final Deadline: March 30

Comedy Script Contest

- Opens for entries: March 15
- Early Deadline: April 16
- Final Deadline: June 1

Public Domain Script Contest

- Open for Applications: April 2
- Early Deadline: May 2
- Final Deadline: August 10

Horror Script Contest

- Opens for entries: April 3
- Early Deadline: May 3
- Final Deadline: June 29

Short Screenplay Contest

- Opens for entries: May 10
- Early Deadline: June 11
- Final Deadline: August 15

Drama Script Contest

- Opens for entries: June 11
- Early Deadline: July 11
- Final Deadline: September 15

Pilot Launch TV Script Contest

- Opens for entries: July 16
- Early Deadline: August 15
- Final Deadline: October 3

Action & Thriller Script Contest

- Opens for entries: July 25
- Early Deadline: August 24
- Final Deadline: October 25

Family-friendly Script Contest

- Opens for entries: October 2
- Early Deadline: November 2
- Final Deadline: December 30

Scriptapalooza

Scriptapalooza

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: January 5 (\$25)
- First Deadline: February 1 (\$30)
- Regular Entry: March 1 (\$35)
- Late Entry: April 16 (\$40)
- Final Deadline: April 30 (\$45)

Scriptapalooza TV Contest

Scriptapalooza TV Contest

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: April 2 (\$45)
- Regular Entry: April 30 (\$55)

Script Pipeline Screenwriting Contest

Script Pipeline Screenwriting Contest

Deadlines for 2018:

SCREENWRITING CONTEST

- Early Entry: March 1 (\$55)
- Regular Entry: May 1 (\$65)

TV WRITING CONTEST

- Early Entry: March 1 (\$55)
- Regular Entry: May 1 (\$65)

Slamdance Screenplay Competition

Slamdance Screenplay Competition

Deadlines for 2018:

- Early Entry: April 9
- Regular Entry: June 11
- Late Entry: July 23
- Withoutabox Extended Deadline: July 27

Fees range \$25 – \$90 and vary according to genre and entry date.

*Includes short film and TV categories

Sundance Screenwriters Lab

Sundance Screenwriters Lab

Deadlines for 2018/2019:

The application for the 2019 development track will be available beginning April 3, 2018, and applications must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. PT on May 15, 2018.

Regular Entry: Open until May 15 (\$40)

*The fees have not been confirmed yet. I have listed 2017 fees for your reference.

Please note there are two labs; one for American citizens and one for international applicants. They share the same application dates.

Sundance Episodic Storytelling Lab

Sundance Episodic Storytelling Lab

Deadlines for 2019:

Final: February 1 (\$40)

TrackingB Feature and TV Script Contest

TrackingB Feature and TV Script Contest

Deadlines for 2018:

FEATURE CONTEST

- Early Entry: July 30 (\$95)*

- Late Entry: September 4 (\$110)*
- Really Late Entry: October 9 (\$125)*

*Feature Contest has not opened yet and dates are not confirmed. Will be announced between late June 2018/ early July 2018.

TV SCRIPT CONTEST

- Early Entry: January 21 (\$95)
- Late Entry: February 25 (\$105)
- Really Late Entry: April 29 (\$115)

Tracking Board Launch Pad

Tracking Board Launch Pad

2018 Launch Pad Feature Competition

- Early Entry: July 9 (\$65)
- Regular Entry: August 6 (\$75)
- Late Entry: August 28 (\$85)
- Final Entry: September 18 (\$95)

2018 Launch Pad Pilots Competition

- Early Bird: November 13th – December 3rd (\$65)*
- Regular: December 4th – January 7th (\$75)*
- Late: January 8th – February 4th (\$85)*
- Last Minute: February 5th – February 25th (\$95)*

*Launch Pad Pilots Contest has not opened yet and dates are not confirmed.

WeScreenplay

WeScreenplay

Deadlines for 2018:

Diverse Voices Spring Deadlines

- Early Bird Deadline: February 15 (\$35)
- Regular Deadline: March 15 (\$45)
- Final Deadline: April 15 (\$55)

Diverse Voices Fall Deadlines

- Early Bird Deadline: August 15 (\$35)
- Regular Deadline: September 15 (\$45)

- Final Deadline: October 15 (\$55)

WeScreenplay Feature Contest Deadlines

- Early Bird: Sept 28th (\$39)
- Regular: Oct 26th (\$49)
- Late: Nov 16th (\$59)
- Final: Dec 14th (\$69)

WeScreenplay Television Contest

- Early Bird: May 18th (\$29)
- Regular: June 22nd (\$39)
- Late: July 23rd (\$49)
- Final: Aug 10th (\$59)

Why Enter Screenwriting Contests?

Screenwriting competitions are FANTASTIC motivators because of their rigid deadlines.

Lots of writers struggle with procrastination (do you?) and committing to even just one screenwriting contest deadline can be a big boost to your productivity.

“Because of the anticipated surge in submissions, we cannot guarantee access to the online application form during the last six hours before the entry deadline.

–**Submission Rules, Academy Nicholl Fellowship**

Many people wait to submit until the final six hours of a screenwriting contest that happens once a year, so you aren't alone struggling to get projects written and submitted.

Another reason to enter the top screenwriting contests is to stay motivated. Making it to a quarterfinal or semifinal or top 25% (or however they whittle down the standings) can prove to an aspiring writer that they're doing something right.

How To Enter Screenwriting Contests

Choose a contest and a deadline. Then, submit at least one script to one of the top screenwriting contests I recommend.

If the script gets recognized in any way (i.e., it doesn't win but it makes the second round, or top 10%, etc), revise it and submit to three different contests.

If the script doesn't get recognized, then keep it in your library of projects, pick something new from your development slate, and write something else.

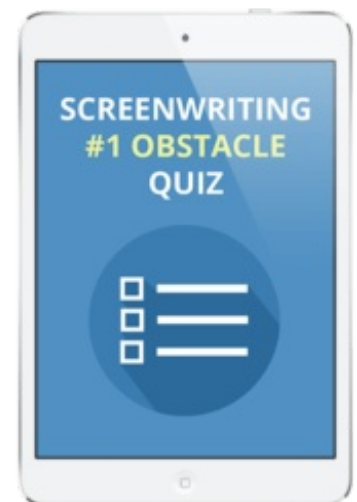
Instead of submitting multiple projects to several contests (which can get expensive), you only make multiple submissions when you have objective evidence that your work is good enough to have a chance to win, and you spend more of your valuable time writing new material.

That's plenty of work, I know.

And it doesn't take into account the other aspects of how to be a professional writer that have nothing to do with writing that I cover in my course (e.g., networking, pitching, selling).

But over time, if you write and submit at least one script every year to one of the best contests, you will get better and your material will get better. If you submit multiple scripts only when they have received positive feedback, your chances of being successful go up.

Do You Know the #1 Screenwriting Obstacle that is Holding You Back?



Almost Every Screenwriter Struggles with 1 of 3 Common Obstacles. Over 16,892 Screenwriters Have Found Out Theirs.

[Take 60 Second Quiz](#)



Written by Stephanie Palmer

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[More About Stephanie](#)