

Gorilla Theater Productions

An Evolution in Theatre
www.gorillatheatre.org



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OVERALL GOALS

- Consolidate Our Talent
- Improve Our Writing
- Get Plays Produced

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This is my plan to foster local playwriting in Kansas City through Gorilla Theatre and the Inaugural Dramatists Festival. It is not a project I will do all by myself, but I will manage it from Gorilla Theatre's perspective. It will require the efforts of several playwrights within this community. It would be great for all the writers to contribute ideas and energy in to making Kansas City a better place to write plays. The question is what do you need as a playwright? What can Gorilla Theatre do for you? What would you like to see happen in Kansas City and how can we make that possible?

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

The short term objectives focus the overall goals on the playwrights in the area. A solid organization amongst the playwrights must be created before any further steps can be taken.

Consolidate Our Talent

The first thing that needs to be done is count our numbers. How many writers are there? How many are interested in working together or supporting this idea? Who is currently working? How involved would they like to be? What are their ideas for this project? So how do we go about this?

Step one is to send out the word to round up a list of names of all potential/existing writers in KC and the region.

Step two is to throw a playwright's potluck and invite all the writers.

Step three is to have each one fill out a questionnaire about themselves and start a database.

Step four is to open communications with all the writers so that there is a free exchange of ideas.

Step five is to get everyone's input and set up further mid- and long-term objectives. Try to match them to the three overall goals.

Improve Our Talent

The gathered writers will display varying degrees of knowledge and experience regarding the craft, but I doubt there is one of us that isn't able to improve their writing and make better plays. My main purpose in doing this is to find ways to make ALL writing in Kansas City better – good enough so that people from outside of town show some interest in what we have here. This is not an impossible task if the writers work together and help each other out. This is the area that is most open to exploration. So how do we go about this?

Step one is to start an exchange of scripts and ideas between the writers.

Step two is to start weekly or monthly playwriting group. I have already contacted the Playwright's Circle about serving this purpose, and for time this will work.

Step three is to begin building a lending library of plays, how-to-write books, and other theater related texts.

Step four is to host classes in playwriting.

Step five is to get everyone's input and set up further mid- and long-term objectives. Try to match them to the three overall goals.

Get Plays Produced

I'm assuming the goal of all the playwrights is a production of their work. There are other goals but this one seem primary from the start and never diminishes. My initial conduit in this direction is the Gorilla Theatre's Inaugural Dramatists Festival, whereby you enter a play, the winning play receives \$100, and most likely a production. I'd like to anchor on the festival and go from there. So how do we go about this?

Step one is to get writers to enter plays into the Inaugural Dramatists Festival.

Step two is to sponsor more staged readings throughout the year with actors and directors.

Step three is to establish a group whose purpose is fostering the growth of all playwriting in Kansas City.

Step four is to workshop plays with actors and directors, which will develop into full productions.

Step five is to get everyone's input and set up further mid- and long-term objectives. Try to match them to the three overall goals.

My Personal Objectives

These are the goals that I will be focused on in the next few months.

- Establish more contacts with writers.
- Help supervise the Inaugural Dramatists Festival.
- Coordinate our activities with the Dramatists Guild of America.
- Record staged readings so they can be listened to on our website.
- Collect information from the playwrights on the plays they have written.
- Obtain copies of plays from the playwrights to keep in the Gorilla Theatre library.
- Collate this information into a book called "The Plays of Kansas City" to be distributed to all the theatres, libraries, schools, and theatre related organizations in the region, as well as making the information available on our website. (more of a mid-term goal)
- Setting up a pseudo-publishing house for all work written by local writers. (more of a mid-term goal)
- Handle royalty contracts for local writers whose work is produced by educational or non-professional theatres. (more of a mid-term goal)
- Encourage workshops with other theatre companies.
- Making sure the short term goals are accomplished and then move on to the mid-term goals.