



T H E · W I L L · G E E R
T H E A T R I C U M · B O T A N I C U M
1419 North Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, CA 90290

BOTANICUM SEEDLINGS: A DEVELOPMENT SERIES FOR PLAYWRIGHTS

Submission Guidelines

With its roots in the McCarthy Era Blacklisting, over the past 25 years the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum has provided a unique Southern California home for Shakespeare and the classics in its scenic, outdoor amphitheatre in rustic Topanga Canyon. The Theatricum now renews its commitment to furthering new works and new voices in theatre with Botanicum Seedlings.

Playwrights are invited to submit works for this development series, which acts as an adjunct to the Theatricum's Summer Repertory Season. Each year in the theatre's intimate S. Mark Taper Foundation Youth Pavilion, Botanicum Seedlings hosts staged Winter and Spring Playreadings, heading toward Fall Workshops or Playreadings. Plays may also be selected to receive occasional GreenReads, the newest branch of the series providing an unrehearsed, fresh look at scripts in various stages of development.

The goals of Botanicum Seedlings are:

- to maintain focus on the needs of the playwright in regard to a play's growth;
- to foster relationships with emerging playwrights around the globe;
- to act as an advocate whenever appropriate in recommending plays to other companies;
- to establish the Theatricum as a guiding force in the development of original material; and
- to provide a nurturing environment in which Theatricum company members can expand and stretch in new directions—as actors as well as directors, writers and dramaturgs.

For consideration, please keep in mind that the Theatricum encourages provocative, political and socially relevant material, and prefers plays and musicals which are uniquely theatrical and character-driven. Although the company is classically based, Botanicum Seedlings is by no means traditional in its sensibilities and is not looking for classical translations or adaptations unless they are highly original, nor interested in scripts which might be better suited to film or television. Submissions may also be considered for production as part of the Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum's Summer Repertory Season. Note that the theatre *very* rarely includes new works in its season; these works must be large enough in style and scope to fill the Theatricum's 299-seat outdoor amphitheatre.

Playwrights should submit works of any genre to Botanicum Seedlings c/o Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum, P.O. Box 1222 Topanga, CA 90290. Please send a full script and a tape/CD for musicals (include a large SASE if you'd like your materials returned—we'll recycle them otherwise), along with the playwright's biographical information and the work's development history, and an SASE (or email address if you prefer) for our response. We are also accepting electronic submissions of *dialogue samples only*. Send 10-15 page samples as MS Doc or PDF attachments to seedlings@theatricum.com.

For current information on Botanicum Seedlings and other Theatricum events and programs, visit www.theatricum.com. The business office can be reached at (310) 455-2322.

Thank you in advance for your submission, and for your patience if our response is delayed.

Jennie Webb
Playwrights' Development Director