MEANWHILE PARK

THE 2024 MEANWHILE PARK PLAYWRIGHT PRIZE

OVERVIEW

Meanwhile Park is a small, private park in Salt Lake City's Park District. The Park hosted its first performing arts evening in 2022. Continuing that tradition in 2023, the Park presented *From June to August*, a new summer romcom by Matthew Ivan Bennett. In 2024 the park will produce a one act, original play over a two-weekend period in July/August. The play will be selected through the 2024 Meanwhile Park Playwright Prize (MPPP) competition.

ENTRY GUIDANCE

Entries into the MPPP should consider the following:

- Plays should run between forty minutes and one hour including any required or desired breaks.
- The "cast" should be limited to no more than six people. Cast can include actors, musicians, or other artists required to tell the story directly to the audience.
- Plays should have not been produced elsewhere. We are looking to present world premiere plays.
- As an outdoor, summer theatrical experience like no other in Utah, entrants are invited to consider stories and genres suitable to the occasion. Ideas include but are not limited to:
 - Campfire tall tales
 - Backvard ghost stories
 - Summer love stories
 - Action-packed adventures
 - Musical comedies
 - Local histories
- Meanwhile Park celebrates the diversity of humanity and welcomes stories from diverse races, ethnicities, cultures, genders, and sexualities.

THE RULES

- Submission for the 2024 Meanwhile Park Playwright Prize are now being accepted.
- The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2024. Submissions should be sent via email to info@meanwhilepark.com
- The winner will be announced February 16, 2024. All entrants will be informed of the winning entry via email.
- The winner will be awarded a \$500 honorarium no later than March 1, 2024 via Venmo or check.
- The winning play will be performed six times during July and/or August 2024.
- Entries will be judged by Jeff Paris and a panel of theatre enthusiasts.
- The winning playwright will be involved in staffing and casting the production in conjunction with the producer.
- The production will be granted the following:
 - Onstage performers will each receive \$500.

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- The director will receive \$500.
- o The stage manager will receive \$500.
- The lighting budget is \$250.
- o The sound budget is \$250.
- o Costume design will be determined based on the needs of the play.
- Each performance will feature a pre-performance reception/party with drinks and snacks sponsored entirely by Meanwhile Park. For this reason, ticket sales are limited to individuals 21 and older.
- Seating will be limited. Comp tickets will be made available solely at the discretion of the producer.
- Meanwhile Park reserves the right to cancel the competition or the production at any time for any reason.

ADDITIONAL INFO

- For more information, email info@meanwhilepark.com.
- To learn more about Meanwhile Park visit our Instagram account:
 @meanwhilepark. Or visit our website at www.meanwhilepark.com.
- To schedule an in-person visit to Meanwhile Park, email info@meanwhilepark.com.
- To see what people said about the 2023 production of the first ever, Meanwhile Park Playwright Prize winner, follow these links:
 - Salt Lake Tribune pre-show article (You can request a PDF version of this story if you don't have access to the Salt Lake Tribune): https://www.sltrib.com/artsliving/2023/07/28/salt-lake-city-man-wanted-produce/
 - GephardtDaily.com review: https://gephardtdaily.com/local/review-
 meanwhile-parks-from-june-to-august-is-the-most-charming-of-rom-coms/
 - TheUtahReview.com review: https://www.theutahreview.com/a-summer-rom-com-in-a-new-urban-park-setting-in-salt-lake-city-meanwhile-park-presents-world-premiere-of-matthew-ivan-bennetts-from-june-to-august/

WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THE 2023 WINNING PRODUCTION

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"The play . . . clips along nicely with banter that fizzles and pops like Champagne bubbles, but with the richness and complexity of a glass of fine Macallan whiskey."

Daisy Blake GephardtDaily.com "What Bennett has achieved masterfully with this piece is that he's written a classic rom-com, but with the brilliantly subtle dialogue he's known for as an author."

Daisy Blake Gephardt Daily.com

"And the actors in this show are sublime. Director Jason Bowcutt . . . always brings out the best in his ensembles, and here, he has assembled the crème de la crème of Salt Lake talent."

> Daisy Blake GephardtDaily.com

"With four actors, this chamber theater rom-com is witty, sensitive, realistic and intelligently sentimental. Bennett's play was chosen from 57 submissions, for this unique outdoor theatrical experience."

> Les Roka TheUtahReview.com

"With Howell as Harley and Beck as Hamer, the production excels in the sidekick marker that makes for a great rom-com. Both are loyal and lovable, as well as blunt and hilarious in navigating their respective challenges."

> Les Roka TheUtahReview.com

"In the outdoor setting of Paris' perfectly built theater, the production rides the sounds and the visions of a late July evening that amplify the script's summery mood . . . by the middle of the action, audience members can glimpse the bright moon rising behind the trees, feel the gentle breezes as temperatures retreat from the daytime nineties and listen to the gentle noises of summer insects or to an occasional roar of motorcycle on a nearby thoroughfare.

Les Roka TheUtahReview.com "The whole evening provides a new recipe for the theatre of the future. Make it comfortable. Make it fun. Make it social. And make the play wonderfully brilliant."

> Julie Jensen Playwright