



The Rella Lossy Award honors the memory of Rella Lossy, a lifelong champion of the American theatre and playwriting, by honoring the best new full-length script of a play by an emerging playwright that will premiere in the Bay Area in the coming season.

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## **ABOUT THIS GRANT**

The Rella Lossy Award aims to celebrate and advance emerging writers for the theatre. The program solicits **unproduced full-length scripts from professionally-oriented Bay Area theatre organizations that will be presenting the world premiere of a play by an emerging playwright**. The award goes to the playwright and the producing company.

## **AWARD**

Playwright: \$2,500

Company: \$1,000

## DEADLINE

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE by **5PM on Friday, May 9, 2025.**

## ELIGIBILITY

### COMPANIES

- Must be located in one of the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, or Sonoma.
- Must have an active company membership with Theatre Bay Area that's maintained through the granting period (April 1, 2025 - July 1, 2026)
- Must be committed to producing a full-length world premiere work by an emerging playwright that opens on or after April 1, 2025 and closes on or before July 1, 2026
- Must commit to development of the piece with the playwright (as described below)

### YOUR COMPANY IS INELIGIBLE IF:

- It's primarily a presenter or performance venue
- It's an academic institution or training program
- A member of your company leadership or board member at your company is serving on the Rella Lossy granting panel for this round

### PLAYWRIGHTS

- Must be "emerging." For the purposes of this award, "emerging playwright" is defined as a playwright who has not had a prior full production on Broadway or in a LORT member theatre. LORT member theatres are eligible to apply for this award as long as the playwright has not had a full production at a LORT or on Broadway prior to the opening of this production.
- Playwrights do not need to be based in the Bay Area.
- Playwrights do not need to be TBA members.

### A PLAYWRIGHT IS INELIGIBLE IF:

- They have had a previous full production on Broadway or at a LORT member theatre.
- They are currently a Theatre Bay Area employee or board member.
- They are serving on the Rella Lossy granting panel for this round.

## DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The company must commit to developing the script with the playwright in ONE (or more) of the following ways:

1. The playwright is an active part of the rehearsal process, attending at least two weeks of rehearsals.
2. The company holds a developmental reading with the playwright, with professional/professionally-oriented actors and a professional/professionally-oriented dramaturg.
3. The company commits to a workshop process with the playwright, the director, professional/professionally-oriented actors and a professional/professionally-oriented dramaturg before rehearsals begin.
4. Any other development process the playwright and the company find productive and necessary.

## HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

A panel of three theatre professionals, including at least one playwright, will be recruited to review applications. Decisions will be made by the panel, whose names and bios will be released when the awardees are announced.

## TIMELINE

Awardees will be contacted by July 1, 2025.

## APPLICATION

The application is available online here: [Rella Lossy Award Application 2025](#)

**Applications must be submitted by 5PM on May 9, 2025.**

**You will need to upload the following as PDFs:**

1. REDACTED SCRIPT: A PDF copy of the script with **the name of the playwright, the title of the play, the name of the producing company, and any other identifying markers removed.**
2. PLAYWRIGHT RESUME: This will not be shared with the panel. It will be used to establish eligibility only.
3. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION: A PDF document with a brief description of the development process the playwright and company have committed to using. We

anticipate that this will be no longer than a paragraph, but you will not be penalized for writing more. **Please do not include the names of the play, playwright, company, director, or any other identifying markers**, as this PDF will be shared with the panel.

**PLEASE NOTE that all written materials MUST be in PDF format. Uploading documents in any other format could disqualify your application from consideration.**

#### REDACTION CHECKLIST

Make sure ALL the following are removed from the script and development description:

- Playwright
- Play title
- Name of theatre
- Name of venue
- Name of director
- Name of any other production or company personnel

#### QUESTIONS?

Contact Programs Officer Melissa Hillman at [melissa@theatrebayarea.org](mailto:melissa@theatrebayarea.org)