**GUIDELINES FOR SCRIPTS**

Please keep in mind that your script will be part of a wider show therefore the ability of that script to ‘work’ within the wider show will be important. On this basis there are some MUST HAVES and GOOD TO HAVES.

**Must haves**

- Have running time of 10 minutes or less (this is usually equivalent to 9-10 pages of double spaced type but you should read the script through and time it to make sure);

- Have minimal or no physical set requirements (as a guideline, if the actors can’t carry it by themselves, it’s too much);

- Be for 4-6 actors maximum;

- Follow the theme of ‘Frenemies’ or contain characters who could be considered to be ‘Frenemies’ (i.e. people who are outwardly friendly to each other or are in a situation where they need to act as friends but inwardly dislike, are a rival to, do not trust or outright hate each other);

- Not have been performed in the UK before (if it has been performed as a staged reading or similar, this is OK).

**Good to have**

A mix of genders for your characters or characters that can be played by either men or women. Because of the gender balance in the other scripts already in place, we are looking for some solid female roles amongst the scripts to be selected.

**Genre**

Your script can be any genre, as long as it fits within the ‘must haves’ – be creative!

**GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION**

**Where do I submit it? –** The submission website will be accessible through the Sedos website and will be open in early January**.**

**What File Format should I submit? -** PDF. Makes sure you DO NOT put your name on the script itself or the document's filename but DO put your name and phone number in the cover email.

**What is the deadline for submission?** – The last date you can submit a script is Friday, 11 March 2016 – if requested we can offer special dispensation to extend this to Sunday 13 March on a case by case basis.

**Is there a submission fee?** – If you are a paid up member of Sedos, no. If you are not a paid up member of Sedos then there is a non-refundable submission fee of £5 per script.

**How do I pay the submission fee?** – You will be prompted to pay this at the time of submission of your scipt.

**Why is there a submission fee for non-members?** – Sedos is a member run amateur dramatic society and all members pay an annual fee to be a part of the society. In that sense, the members of Sedos have already paid their submission fee. In saying that, we always want to encourage and give opportunities for new members to join so if you are not currently a member, you may wish to become one please email membership@sedos.co.uk for more details.

**If my script is selected, will I have to become a fully paid member for it to be performed?** – Yes. The annual membership fee is £30 if paid via direct debit and £35 if paid otherwise.

**Do I get paid if my script is selected? –** Unfortunately no.No member of the production team or cast is paid. You, will, however, have the opportunity to have your script produced on stage in London and as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2016.

**Can I submit more than one script?** – Yes, this is fine however if you are not a member of Sedos, you will need to pay the submission fee for each script you enter. If you do not pay your submission fees for all of the scripts you enter, none of your scripts will be eligible for selection.

**How many scripts will be selected for the show?** – Most likely 2 scripts will be selected however depending on the running time of the selected scripts, 3 may be selected.

**Do I have to be resident in the UK to submit?** – No, but all of the rules and requirements will apply, including the submission fee and membership requirements.

**Script Font/Typeface** - Don’t worry too much about this. As long as it is clear for a reader it will be fine. As a general guideline, double space your work, use a font size of 11 or 12 and a typeface of Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman.

**Don’t put your name on it** - Scripts are assessed anonymously to ensure the fairness and objectivity of the selection process. In order for writers to remain anonymous to assessors they must NOT put their name anywhere on the script(s) they are submitting, including in the document's filename. DO put your name and phone number in the cover email that you send with the script. The producer (who is part of the production team but acts only as an advisor with regard to assessment of the scripts) will know the identity of the writer of each script but will not divulge this information to the other members of the production team until the successful scripts are selected. Your submission will not be disqualified if you put your name on it, but please make our producer’s life a bit easier by following this instruction.

**Will I receive feedback on my script?** – Unfortunately, no. It is already a large task to read through all of the scripts and to provide feedback for each one would be difficult. It should be kept in mind, however, that even if your script is unsuccessful, it does not mean it is bad. It may even be a better stand-alone script than the ones finally selected but it may just not fit within the wider show/staging restrictions. On that basis, we would encourage all applicants that are unsuccessful to seek out other opportunities online to submit their scripts (of which there are many).

**Can I get involved in the show in other ways?** – Absolutely! Submitting a script does not preclude anyone from auditioning for a part in the show or participating as part of the backstage crew. Please see sedos.co.uk for details on how to do this.

**TIPS FOR WRITING SHORT PLAYS**

**Don’t try too hard for a twist ending** – Sometimes, the tendency for short plays is to build them around a twist ending. Although this can sometimes be great, it is often prioritised over a well-crafted story. Overall the assessors are looking for an engaging and well written story throughout the whole play.

**Try to ‘show’ something rather than ‘relate’ something** – Often scripts fall into the trap of a character reciting exposition or relating events that do not occur on stage. This can be boring for an audience. Whilst this is sometimes necessary to advance the plot, try to avoid this.

**Don’t send in your first draft** – It can be tempting, once you have finished your script to just send it in. Don’t. It will require work. Even the best writers don’t hit gold on the first draft.

**Don’t send in your second draft** – Read your script through a few times yourself. Let it sit for a week and then revisit it, you will be surprised what you pick up and what you might want to tighten or change. Typos, although not fatal, don’t look great and distract a reader from the awesomeness of your script.

**Think hard before you send in your third draft** – Read it through with a friend. Revisit the submission guidelines to make sure you have complied with them. Make sure your submission gives you the best chance of being selected.

**CONDITIONS FOR THE ENTRY OF SCRIPTS**

By entering your script you are agreeing to the following:

1. You give permission and a non-exclusive license for Sedos to present the work during the period from the date of submission up until 30 September 2016. If you are not the writer/creator (or sole writer/creator) of the idea, story, script, theatre work or any material used in the creation of the work it is your responsibility to gain permission from all other contributors for Sedos to present the work.
2. Should your script be selected you understand you will receive no royalties for those performances but will be fully credited for your work.
3. If your script is selected, you give Sedos the right to film/record/photograph it for archival, marketing and publicity purposes. This also includes archival, marketing or publicity purposes in an unpaid public forum such as YouTube and/or the Sedos website.
4. Once selected for the production, you may not withdraw your script from production for any reason without the permission of Sedos.
5. Although Sedos aims to honor the writer/creator's intentions in staging their script, you understand that in order to have your script produced, your script may need to be altered by the actors and director producing it due to staging restrictions or the work running over 10 minutes.
6. Your entry will not be considered if you (a) are not a fully paid up member of Sedos for 2015 or 2016 at the time of entry of your script; OR (b) if you are not a fully paid up member of Sedos at the time of entry of your script, you have not paid your £5 submission fee for all scripts you have entered.
7. In order for your script be produced, you will need to become a full paid-up member of Sedos for 2016 if not already one.
8. Additional venue-based terms and conditions may be required on acceptance of your script for production.
9. If Sedos, for any reason, believes the above criteria have not been met then your play may be withdrawn and the submission fee forfeited.

**Privacy Statement**  
The personal information that you provided on your entry and your script will only be used by Sedos. Your personal information may be used to communicate with you about Frenemies and other Sedos related activities.