



The 11th Annual Ernie DiMattia Emerging Young Artist Awards

ATTN STUDENTS:

The Application and the Play must be received on or before end of business day (5pm) February 2, 2026

3 high school students will win monetary prizes for their writing of an original
Fifteen-Minute, One Act play.

Renowned playwrights, actors and directors have written the criteria and the applicants must meet the following requirements:

Criteria for the Play

1. Students must be in grades nine through twelve.
2. The play needs to be written by one person.
3. It must be written for **four characters or fewer** between the ages of 15-25 years old.
4. It **must take place at one time and be set in one location.**
5. **Plays are rewarded if they are original, imaginative, moving and/or funny.** Strong language is acceptable if the circumstances of the play and the characters demand it.
6. Plays may not be overly divisive, or hateful.
7. Plays are best when the dialogue stays mostly in the **present tense**. Try to avoid characters telling each other what happened before the scene. Make the action about what happens NOW.
8. The play cannot be an adaptation; it must be your own original idea.
9. The play should have a beginning, middle and end. It should not be an excerpt from a longer work.
10. **Be certain your play is actable, and not written as a screenplay.**

Submit your play in a form that clearly distinguishes between characters speaking, their dialogue, and the stage directions. If you are in doubt, copying the format of a published play should be acceptable.

The winners will each receive \$500!

**Email play and application to: cbryan@palacestamford.org. Plays Will Not be accepted if
unaccompanied by an application.**

THE PALACE

61 Atlantic Street, Stamford, CT 06901
P: 203-358-2305 | F: 203-358-2313 | Box Office: 203-325-4466
www.PalaceStamford.org