

COMMUNITY BAKE-OFF

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Bake-Off?

Created by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, the Bake-Off is a communal writing event in which writers are given a random list of “ingredients” to incorporate into a play (for example: a kitchen sink, a front porch, and a withheld secret) to help inspire creativity and give writers permission to play. Hudson Valley community members are invited to submit short plays to be considered as part of the *HVSF Community Bake-Off*. Between 5-7 of these plays will be selected to be performed by professional actors online on Saturday, July 18.

Who is eligible to participate?

Anyone who has attended any of the bake-off workshops is eligible to submit a play.

When are submissions due?

Play submissions should be emailed as a Microsoft Word PDF file to BakeOff@hvshakespeare.org by MIDNIGHT on Sunday, June 21. They will then be reviewed by a team of readers.

When will I find out if my play has been selected to be part of the performance?

We'll notify you by Friday, July 3.

When will I need to be available if my play is selected?

The performance will be held online on Saturday, July 18. You will also be invited to a virtual rehearsal the day before to give feedback to the actors and director.

How will I know what the ingredients are?

We will generate ideas for ingredients during the HVSF Community Playwriting Workshops, and final ingredients will be emailed to you by Friday, June 5. You should include at least three of these ingredients in your play.

How long does my play have to be?

You should aim for around 10 pages, but if your play is a bit longer or shorter, that is okay.

What information do I need to include with my submission?

On the first page, be sure to include the title, your name, and your phone number and email address. You should also include the setting (time and place) and a list of characters and short descriptions (including age or age range, and any other basic information you think is important to understand your play). For example: *HAROLD – male, 50s. Jeannie's father.*

How do you format a play?

See the following page for a sample scene format.

Have questions?

Write Christine Scarfuto: BakeOff@hvshakespeare.org.

Scene 1

*Lights on the living room.
Astrid sits by the fire with her gun in her lap. Mack and the men sit arranged around her in a semi-circle. They all keep a wary eye on her as Mack—very gingerly—pours her tea.*

It's hot.

ASTRID

Tea is hot.

MACK

It's strange to drink hot things.

ASTRID

It's because it's cold here.

MACK

That's strange too.

ASTRID

A long awkward beat as she sips.

WILEY
(abruptly, explosively)

Now see here. I object. I object to this, you see. You can't just march in here and drink our tea. We don't know who is drinking our tea and that is an insult. Do you understand? If we knew you, we might have invited you. But *I* don't know you.

I don't know you.

PETAH

I don't know her. Either.

MACK