

PROPOSE A FIRST LOOK READING

Thank you for your interest in proposing a program at The Studios of Key West. This page provides an overview of the program and the materials you'll need to prepare before submitting a proposal.

Quick Notes

- The proposal period is open January-June annually. Selections are made in the summer with notifications sent out in mid-August for the following season.
- Our First Look season runs January-April.
- There is no fee to submit. Submissions are accepted via [slideroom.com](https://www.slideroom.com) only.
- Performances take place in the Helmerich Theater only.

About the First Look Program

The First Look Staged Reading Series offers playwrights and creative teams the opportunity to workshop and present new plays to a live audience at a formative moment in their creation. This initiative supports the development of innovative theatrical voices and invites Key West audiences to experience the artistry of bringing a play to life.

Goals

- Support the development of new plays not yet fully produced.
- Connect playwrights with a live audience in a supportive, developmental setting.
- Introduce Key West audiences to bold new American voices and ideas.

Eligibility & Submission Guidelines

- Open to new American plays that have not yet received a full production.
- Plays with small casts (2-4 actors) are preferred, though larger ensembles will be considered.
- We encourage proposals that foster collaboration between local and visiting artists, partner with other organizations, or aim to reach new or underrepresented audiences.

Productions

- Four plays will be selected.
- Each play is allotted 25 hours of rehearsal and 2 public staged readings.
- All rehearsals and performances take place in the Helmerich Theater.
- Readings are lightly staged with music stands, stools, and minimal props.
- A lighting designer and sound engineer will be available for basic cues and effects.

Logistics & Support Travel

- Participants must be available to be in Key West for 7–8 days, during one of the months between January–April
- Roundtrip coach airfare will be arranged by The Studios.
- Reasonable travel expenses (e.g., transport to/from home airport) will be reimbursed.
- Transportation within Key West will be on foot, by bike (provided), or by other arrangement.

Housing & Compensation:

- Out-of-town artists will be housed in The Studios' Artist Housing or in a community host home (private bedroom and bathroom included).
- Playwright, director, non-Equity stage managers, and non-Equity actors will each receive a \$500 honorarium.
- Equity actors and stage managers will be paid according to the Actors Equity Association Category 2, Tier A Single Engagement Agreement standards.

Performance Proposal Details

The information below is a preview of the questions and materials you will be asked to provide in the online proposal form.

- Title & Brief Synopsis of the play
- Why this play now? What makes it timely, and why is The Studios a good fit?
- Number of actors and creative team members
- Brief bio of playwright
- Complete script

Questions?

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Ready to submit?

Visit: <https://tskw.slideroom.com/#/Login>



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