



**BLINDSPOT COLLECTIVE SEEKS NEW PLAYS & MUSICALS FOR *FRESHMAN FIFTEEN*
A WORLD PREMIERE IN COLLABORATION WITH LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE**

Blindspot Collective, a San Diego-based theatre company dedicated to radically inclusive new work and diverse emerging artists, seeks new short plays and musicals to be featured in an immersive theatre production titled *Freshman Fifteen*.

Developed in collaboration with La Jolla Playhouse, *Freshman Fifteen* is a collection of short plays and musicals set on a college campus — and premiering on the campus of UC San Diego. Each piece offers a window into the lives of students navigating a pivotal chapter: one defined by newfound independence, shifting identities, intellectual awakening, and the occasional existential spiral between classes.

Audiences will chart their own path through campus, choosing which stories to follow and which doors to open — encountering moments that are hilarious, intimate, awkward, revelatory, and unmistakably of this time. *Freshman Fifteen* will be developed in 2026 and presented as part of a future Without Walls (WoW) Festival.

As part of this upcoming production, Blindspot Collective seeks new short play and musical submissions that meet the following criteria:

- Must be a short play or musical that is 12-15 minutes in length
- Must be set on a modern college campus in the United States (more specifically, the publicly accessible parts of a campus - not a dorm room)
- All characters must be college-aged students
- The piece should be flexible in specific institutional details (e.g., school name, mascot, geography) to allow for adaptation to the UC San Diego campus

In addition to the criteria above we recommend the following:

- The most successful pieces typically feature 2–5 characters (though there is no required minimum or maximum)
- A serio-comic tone is strongly encouraged; works that blend humor with emotional depth tend to resonate most in this format
- Pieces that unfold in a single continuous scene (rather than multiple locations or time jumps) are strongly preferred
- Work that could be considered PG-13 is favored, as immersive performance often heightens audience sensitivity to explicit content
- We encourage stories that engage with timely themes relevant to contemporary college life, including but not limited to identity, belonging, mental health, climate, technology, activism, economics, intimacy, ambition, burnout, and beyond

- Narratives and characters that challenge expectations or reflect experiences outside the dominant culture are especially encouraged, as we aim to capture a wide-ranging and authentic portrait of today's student experience

10-15 plays and musicals will be workshopped and produced as part of *Freshman Fifteen*. Selected writers and composers will receive an honorarium of at least \$250 for plays and \$500 for short musicals, and will collaborate with Blindspot Collective on final drafts. Directors, music directors, and performers will be selected by Blindspot Collective. Writers and composers are not expected to attend rehearsals but are welcome to participate as available. **Writers will grant Blindspot Collective a license to produce the work exclusively for *Freshman Fifteen* while retaining full ownership and copyright of their material.**

During the submission period, Blindspot Collective's artistic staff will be available to provide feedback on initial ideas, concepts, synopses, or character outlines. While not required, we encourage writers to take advantage of this opportunity to develop work aligned with the project's goals and to avoid overlap with other submissions. Please feel free to reach out via email with any initial materials. A panel of theatre artists and Blindspot staff will review and score all submissions as part of the selection process.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

- Complete drafts must be submitted by **Sunday, May 24th at 9pm EST**
- Please include a cover page with your name, phone number, and email address
- Select writers may be asked to participate in a second round of development and selection based on the number of submissions
- Notification of selected works will occur no earlier than August 23rd, 2026
- All questions and submissions should be sent to submissions@blindspotcollective.org

As an organization, Blindspot Collective is committed to radical inclusivity. As our name suggests, we prioritize the voices and perspectives of individuals and communities that are historically underrepresented in the arts — including people of color, immigrants, women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and individuals with disabilities. We strongly encourage submissions written by or featuring characters from these and other marginalized communities.