

DENVER POST SURVEY: THE 10 MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN PLAYS

This columns are rankings, not total points. So a 1 is best.

The first column shows in what place each play placed among all voters. The second column shows how each play fared among men, the third among women, the next among voters under age 30 and finally, among voters aged 30 and over. Because 68 percent of the respondents turned out to be men, they voted for a larger number of plays.

The overall top 10 are in bold.

AGGREGATE RANKINGS, LISTED ALPHABTICALLY	Overall	Men	Women	Under 30	Over 30
1001, Jason Grote	72	45	-	-	62
1776, Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone	163	-	95	-	144
1918, Horton Foote	181	137	-	-	163
365 Days/ 365 Plays by Suzan-Lori Parks	241	173	-	-	219
The Adding Machine, Elmer Rice	46	55	49	79	43
Agnes of God, John Pielmeier	119	-	65	30	-
Ah! Wilderness, Eugene O'Neill	223	-	134	-	204
All in the Timing, David Ives	163	-	95	-	144
All My Sons, Arthur Miller	15	22	12	-	14
All the Way Home, Tad Mosel	132	-	73	-	114
Almost, Maine, John Cariani	132	-	73	37	-
The America Play, Suzan Lori Parks	37	45	30	63	34
American Buffalo, David Mamet	20	15	148	57	20
The American Dream, Edward Albee	104	196	65	-	86
Angela's Mixtap, Eisa Davis	241	173	-	-	219
Angel City, Sam Shepard	132	95	-	-	114
Angels in America, Tony Kushner	2	3	1	1	3
Antigone or Frankenstein, The Living Theatre	241	173	-	-	219
Antigone, Mac Wellman	181	137	-	-	163
The Arkansas Bear, Aurand Harris	119	84	-	-	104
Arsenic and Old Lace, Joseph Kesselring	89	61	160	87	80
As Is, William M. Hoffman	265	196	-	-	240
Assassins, Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman	265	-	160	-	240
August: Osage County, Tracy Letts	11	11	13	12	11
Aunt Dan and Lemon, Wallace Shawn	241	173	-	-	209
Awake and Sing, Clifford Odets	46	173	21	57	49
The Bad Infinity, Mac Wellman	163	125	-	-	144
Balm in Gilead, Lanford Wilson	265	-	160	87	-
The Baltimore Waltz, Paula Vogel	60	95	51	-	52
Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, Rajiv Joseph	223	-	134	-	204
Bent, Martin Sherman	89	67	148	-	144
Betty's Summer Vacation, Christopher Durang	223	163	-	71	-
Beyond the Horizon, Eugene O'Neill	163	125	-	-	144
Big Love, Charles Mee	78	53	57	-	96
Biloxi Blues, Neil Simon	206	151	-	-	190
Bird Bath, Leonard Melfi	181	137	-	-	163
Birdy, Naomi Wallace	119	84	-	30	-
Blackbird, Adam Rapp	241	173	-	79	-
Black Elk Speaks , John G. Niehardt	67	151	44	-	56
Blue Window, Craig Lucas	241	-	148	-	219
Bobrauchenbergamerica, Charles Mee	223	163	-	71	-
Book of Days, Lanford Wilson	163	-	95	-	144
Boys in the Band, Mart Crowley	89	60	-	-	78
Brace Up!, The Wooster Group	132	95	71	-	163
Breath, Boom, Kia Corthron	223	163	-	-	204
Brighton Beach Memoirs, Neil Simon	67	95	56	-	56
Bug, Tracy Letts	241	173	-	79	-

Buried Child, Sam Shepard	13	14	17	25	15
Bus Stop, William Inge	76	15	13	63	80
Cabaret, Joe Masteroff and Fred Ebb	13	125	85	50	131
Cassanova, Constance Congdon	119	-	65	104	-
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Tennessee Williams	19	18	25	63	19
Ceremonies in Dark Old Men, Lonnie Elder III	265	196	-	-	240
Children of a Lesser God, Mark Medoff	181	137	-	-	163
The Children's Hour, Lillian Hellman	26	55	15	15	36
The Clean House, Sarah Ruhl	181	-	108	73	219
Come Back, Little Sheba, William Inge	151	-	85	-	131
Company, Stephen Sondheim	265	-	160	87	-
The Conduct of Life, Maria Irene Fornes	104	-	56	-	86
Cowboy Mouth, Sam Shepard	241	173	-	-	219
Crimes of the Heart, Beth Henley	206	163	160	71	240
The Crucible, Arthur Miller	9	9	8	6	9
Crumble: Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake, Sheila Callaghan	265	196	-	-	240
Crumbs from the Table of Joy, Lynn Nottage	181	-	108	163	-
The Cryptogram, David Mamet	265	196	-	-	240
Curse of the Starving Class, Sam Shepard	60	-	30	37	78
Dancing at Lughnasa, Brian Friel	223	-	134	71	-
Danny and the Deep Blue Sea, John Patrick Shanley	206	151	-	-	190
Danube, Maria Irene Fornes	223	-	134	-	204
The Dark at the Top of the Stairs, William Inge	223	163	-	-	204
A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, Peter Nichols	119	-	190	-	-
Dead White Males, William Missouri Downs	265	196	-	-	240
Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller	1	1	2	3	1
The Death of the Last Black Man ..., Suzan-Lori Parks	181	137	-	-	181
Die, Mommie, Die!, Charles Busch	181	-	108	57	-
A Delicate Balance, Edward Albee	104	73	-	-	86
Desire Under the Elms, Eugene O'Neill	265	196	-	-	240
The Diary of Anne Frank, F. Goodrich; Albert Hackett	67	55	119	-	56
The Distance from Here, Neil Labute	132	95	-	-	114
Dog Sees God, Bert Royal	19	-	65	30	-
Doubt, John Patrick Shanley	30	27	40	18	35
Driving Miss Daisy, Alfred Uhry	119	95	60	-	104
Dutchman, Amiri Baraka	37	73	19	17	56
Easy Virtue, Noel Coward	41	-	148	-	219
Edmond, David Mamet	163	125	-	50	-
Electricidad, Luis Alfaro	241	-	148	79	-
Elephant Man, Bernard Pomerance	223	-	134	-	204
El Paso Blue, Octavio Solis	241	173	-	-	219
The Emperor Jones, Eugene O'Neill	60	73	38	-	52
Eurydice, Sarah Rule	95	111	108	37	163
Eventide, Eric Schmiedl	241	173	-	-	219
Execution of Justice, Emily Mann	206	151	-	-	190
The Fantasticks, Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones	104	73	-	-	86
Fashion, Anna Cora Mowatt	181	137	-	-	163
Fefu and Her Friends, Matia Irene Fornes	72	45	-	-	62
Fences, August Wilson	10	10	10	10	10
Fiddler on the Roof, Joseph Stein and Sheldon Harnick	67	45	160	63	72
Fifth of July, Lanford Wilson	265	196	-	-	240
Fires in the Mirror, Anna Deavere Smith	60	-	30	16	-
Fool For Love. Sam Shepard	104	163	85	79	114
for colored girls who have considered ..., Ntozake Shange	72	67	95	-	62
The Foreigner, Larry Shue	100	137	95	-	84
The Front Page, Ben Hecht And Charles Macarthur	104	73	-	-	86
Frozen, Bryony Lavery	265	196	-	87	-
F***ing A, Suzan-Lori Parks	163	-	95	-	144
Funny Girl, Jerry Herman	181	-	95	-	163

Funnyhouse of a Negro, Adrienne Kennedy	83	111	85	-	72
Gem of the Ocean, August Wilson	181	196	119	-	63
George Washington's Boy, Ted Lange	163	125	-	-	144
Gin Game, D.L. Coburn	181	137	-	-	163
Girls Night Out, Dave Simpson	206	-	119	63	-
The Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams	7	8	7	8	7
Glengarry Glen Ross, David Mamet	12	12	11	11	12
The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?, Edward Albee	64	61	44	13	219
God's Country, Stephen Dietz	83	67	134	-	72
Golden Boy, Clifford Odets	265	196	-	-	240
Grapes of Wrath, Frank Galati	44	42	53	-	38
The Great White Hope, Howard Sackler	83	95	95	-	72
Gross Indecency: ...Trials of Oscar Wilde, Moisés Kaufman	78	137	56	25	163
Guys & Dolls, Abe Burrows, Frank Loesser et al ...	132	95	-	-	114
Hair, Gerome Ragni and James Rado	54	61	53	-	45
The Hairy Ape, Eugene O'Neill	132	111	-	-	114
The Heidi Chronicles, Wendy Wasserstein	83	125	73	-	72
Homebody/Kabul, Tony Kushner	206	-	119	-	190
Hot I Baltimore, Lanford Wilson	132	95	-	-	114
House of Blue Leaves, John Guare	28	32	21	-	24
How I Learned To Drive, Paula Vogel	23	23	21	18	26
How to Succeed in Business ...," Frank Loesser, et al	132	95	-	-	114
Hurlyburly, David Rabe	100	67	-	50	163
I Am My Own Wife, Doug Wright	89	173	53	37	163
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden, Walter Newton	241	173	0	-	241
The Iceman Cometh, Eugene O'Neill	14	13	19	87	3
Indians, Arthur Kopit	83	73	19	87	3
Inherit the Wind, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee	50	34	60	40	54
In Regard of Flight, Bill Irwin	119	84	-	-	119
The Internationalist, Anne Washburn	265	-	160	87	-
Into the Woods, Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine	151	111	-	-	131
It Can't Happen Here, Sinclair Lewis and John C. Moffit	151	111	-	-	131
Jails, Hospitals and Hip-Hop, Danny Hoch	151	111	-	-	131
Jeffrey, Paul Rudnick	265	196	-	-	240
Jitney, August Wilson	223	163	-	-	204
Joe Turner's Come and Gone, August Wilson	16	17	16	-	15
The Kentucky Cycle, Robert Schenkkan	58	45	119	-	51
Kid Simple, Jordan Harrison	181	-	108	57	-
The Laramie Project, Moisés Kaufman	32	30	36	50	30
The Last of Mrs. Lincoln, James Prideaux	241	173	-	-	219
Lemon Sky, Lanford Wilson	163	-	95	-	144
The Lion In Winter, James Goldman	206	151	-	-	190
The Little Foxes, Lillian Hellman	25	25	36	-	23
Lizard, Dennis Covington	132	95	-	-	114
Long Christmas Dinner, Thornton Wilder	104	-	56	-	86
The Long Christmas Ride Home, Paula Vogel	100	111	119	-	84
Long Day's Journey into Night, Eugene O'Neill	4	4	3	5	5
Look Homeward Angel, Ketti Frings	181	-	108	-	163
Loose Ends, Michael Weller	206	157	-	-	190
Lost in Yonkers, Neil Simon	52	42	95	50	56
Love Valour Compassion, Terrance McNally	132	151	119	-	114
Lydia, Octavio Solis	52	53	65	-	45
M. Butterfly, David Henry Hwang	46	38	73	87	44
Machinal, Sophie Treadwell	54	111	42	40	68

Man of the Flesh, Octavio Solis	223	-	134	-	204
A Man for All Seasons, Robert Bolt	163	125	-	-	144
The Man Who Came to Dinner, Kaufman and Hart	119	151	108	104	-
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, August Wilson	72	45	-	-	62
Mariela in the Desert, Karen Zacarias	223	163	-	-	204
Marisol, José Rivera	265	196	-	-	240
The Marriage of Bette and Boo, Christopher Durang	163	125	-	-	144
The Matchmaker, Thornton Wilder	223	-	134	-	204
Member of the Wedding, Carson McCullers	132	-	73	-	114
Metamorphoses, Mary Zimmerman	78	111	73	-	70
The Miracle Worker, William Gibson	181	173	134	-	163
Miriam's Flowers, Migdalia Cruz	181	137	-	-	163
A Moon for the Misbegotten, Eugene O'Neill	46	45	56	-	42
Moonchildren, Michael Weller	265	196	-	-	240
The Mound Builders, Lanford Wilson	265	196	-	-	240
Mourning Becomes Electra, Eugene O'Neill	64	73	65	30	86
Mud, Maria Irene Fornes	56	95	44	21	86
A Murder of Crows, Mac Wellman	223	-	134	204	-
My Head Was a Sledgehammer, Richard Foreman	95	61	-	79	86
My Three Angels, Samuel and Bella Spewack	241	-	148	-	219
The Mystery of Irma Vep, Charles Ludlam	104	73	-	-	86
'Night, Mother, Marsha Norman	40	67	25	30	45
Night of the Iguana, Tennessee Williams	76	84	85	-	68
The Normal Heart, Larry Kramer	29	35	-	-	25
The Odd Couple, Neil Simon	21	19	28	21	21
Of Mice and Men, John Steinbeck	34	26	65	63	32
Of Thee I Sing, George S. Kaufman and Ira Gershwin	119	84	-	-	104
Oklahoma, by Oscar Hammerstein II	50	45	65	30	62
Oleanna, David Mamet	95	173	56	25	240
On the Verge, Eric Overmyer	104	73	-	-	86
Once in a Lifetime, Kaufman and Hart	119	84	-	-	104
One Flea Spare, Naomi Wallace	132	-	73	87	131
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Dale Wasserman	58	60	73	25	86
One Third of a Nation: A Living Newspaper, Arthur Arent	163	-	95	-	144
Orphans' Home Cycle, Horton Foote	181	-	108	-	163
Other People's Money, Jerry Sterner	165	196	-	-	240
Our Town, Thornton Wilder	6	6	5	9	4
Paradise Now, The Living Theater	181	108	-	163	-
A Perfect Ganesh, Terence McMally	181	137	-	-	163
The Piano Lesson, August Wilson	18	38	14	87	18
Picnic, William Inge	241	173	-	-	219
Plainsong, Eric Schmeidl	104	84	160	-	86
Plaza Suite, Neil Simon	206	-	119	-	190
Polaroid Stories, Naomi Iizuka	78	163	51	21	204
The Price, Arthur Miller	223	-	134	-	204
The Prince of Parthia, Thomas Godfrey	265	196	-	-	240
Proof, David Auburn	40	38	44	30	45
Rabbit Hole David Lindsay-Abaire	95	61	-	-	80
Radio Golf, August Wilson	163	125	-	-	144
Ragtime, Terrence McNally and Lynn Ahrens	265	-	160	-	240
Rain, Some Fish, No Elephants	206	151	-	-	190
The Rainmaker, N. Richard Nash	151	111	-	-	131
Raised by Lesbians, Leah Ryan	104	-	56	86	-
A Raisin in the Sun, Lorraine Hansberry	8	7	9	7	8
Rashomon, Fay and Michael Kanin	181	-	-	-	-
Red Light Winter, Adam Rapp	206	151	-	63	-
References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot, José Rivera	265	196	-	265	87

Rent, Jonathan Larson	181	151	160	-	163
Requiem for a Heavyweight, Rod Serling	241	173	-	-	219
Route 1 & 9, The Wooster Group	241	-	148	-	219
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead, Tom Stoppard	132	-	73	-	114
Ruined, Lynn Nottage	151	-	85	-	131
Runaways, Liz Swados	163	125	-	50	-
Sailor's Song, John Patrick Shanley	41	-	148	79	-
Salvation Nell, Edward Sheldon	151	111	-	-	131
Seascape, Edward Albee	265	-	160	-	240
Seven Guitars, August Wilson	265	196	-	-	240
Sex, Mae West	63	-	95	-	144
Sexual Perversity In Chicago, David Mamet	132	-	73	-	114
The Shadow Box, Michael Cristofer	265	196	-	87	-
Showboat, Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein	45	29	-	-	40
The Show-Off, George Kelly	151	-	85	-	131
The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa , Luis Valdez	265	-	160	-	240
Sincerity Forever, Mac Wellman	151	-	85	-	131
Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You, Chris. Durang	206	173	148	-	190
The Sisters Rosensweig, Wendy Wasserstein	241	-	148	-	219
Six Degrees of Separation, John Guare	43	73	30	-	36
The Skin of Our Teeth, Thornton Wilder	31	32	28	21	33
Small Craft Warnings, Tennessee Williams	104	73	-	-	86
A Soldier's Play, Charles Fuller	65	-	160	-	240
Songs of the Dragons Flying To Heaven, Young Jean Lee	265	196	-	-	240
Soul of a Whore, Denis Johnson	265	196	-	-	240
The Sound and the Fury, Elevator Repair Service	104	-	56	86	-
The Sound of Music, Oscar Hammerstein II, et al	181	137	-	-	163
South Pacific, Oscar Hammerstein II, Joshua Logan	104	111	49	-	86
Speed-The-Plow, David Mamet	100	67	-	40	190
Splitting Infinity, Jamie Pachino	65	-	160	-	87
Spring Awakening, Stephen Sater and Duncan Sheik	63	125	-	-	144
Stop/Kiss, Diana Son	223	-	134	71	-
Streamers, David Rabe	206	-	119	-	190
A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams	3	2	4	4	2
suburbia, Eric Bogosian	241	173	-	79	-
Summer and Smoke, Tennessee Williams	7	-	38	-	56
Sweeney Todd, Hugh Wheeler and Stephen Sondheim	132	173	95	-	114
Swimming To Cambodia, Spalding Gray	241	173	-	-	219
Talk Radio, Eric Bogosian	151	111	-	40	-
Talley's Folley, Lanford Wilson	241	-	148	-	219
Take Me Out, Richard Greenberg	89	84	119	40	144
Terminal Hip, Mac Wellman	132	95	-	-	114
Three Tall Women, Edward Albee	51	-	85	-	131
Thom Paine, based on nothing, Will Eno	265	196	-	-	240
The Time of Your Life, William Saroyan	56	42	119	-	49
Tiny Alice, Edward Albee	181	137	-	-	163
To Kill a Mockingbird, Christopher Sergel	36	37	30	-	30
Tooth of the Crime, Sam Shepard	119	84	-	-	104
Tea and Sympathy, Robert Anderson	265	-	160	-	240
Topdog/Underdog, Susan Lori Parks	27	28	25	13	40
Torch Song Trilogy, Harvey Fierstein	95	61	-	-	80
The Transfiguration of Benno Blimpie Albert Innaurato	206	15	-	-	190
Trifles, Susan Glaspell	83	55	-	37	144
The Trip to Bountiful, Horton Foote	181	173	134	-	163
True West, Sam Shepard	24	24	30	21	27
Twelve Angry Men, Reginald Rose	223	163	-	-	204
Uncle Tom's Cabin, George Aiken & Harriet Beecher Stowe	33	21	-	-	28
Urinetown, Greg Kotis	265	196	-	-	240

Venus, Suzan-Lori Parks	206	-	119	63	-
The Vietnamization of New Jersey, Christopher Durang	151	111	-	-	131
A View From The Bridge, Arthur Miller	78	95	85	-	70
The Voice of the Turtle, John Van Druten	163	125	-	-	144
Waiting For Lefty, Clifford Odets	21	20	24	40	22
The Waiting Room, Lisa Loomer	132	-	73	-	114
We Keep our Victims Ready, Karen Finley	181	-	108	57	-
Wedding Band, Alice Childress	223	134	-	-	204
Well, Lisa Kron	132	95	-	-	114
West Side Story, Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim	42	55	40	20	62
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Edward Albee	5	5	6	2	6
Wings, Arthur Kopit	119	84	-	-	104
Winterset, Maxwell Anderson	119	84	-	-	104
Wit, Margaret Edson	34	44	-	-	29
The Women, Clare Boothe Luce	241	173	-	-	219
You Can't Take it With You, Kaufman and Hart	16	16	18	50	17
Zoo Story, Edward Albee	39	35	43	40	38
Zoot Suit, Luis Valdez	64	38	-	-	54

Overall: Ranking from among 296 plays

Men: Ranking from among 219 plays

Women: Ranking from among 176 plays

Under 30: Ranking from among 98 plays

30 and over: Ranking from among 266 plays

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