



NEW PLAYWRIGHTS PROGRAMME 2019

BACKGROUND

The Lyric Theatre's mission is to produce high-quality professional theatre that is alive to our complex cultural experience, and to use the power of live theatre to empower, inspire, engage and educate. We're always on the lookout for exciting new work to produce, and we're passionate about supporting and developing emerging talent.

With this in mind, we're now accepting submissions for our New Playwrights Programme 2019. Aimed at new and emerging playwrights, this six month programme provides intensive, hands-on dramaturgical support for four writers, with an opportunity to showcase new work in the Naughton Studio in November 2019.

The aim of this programme is to provide meaningful support and development for those who aspire to be professional writers. We aim to equip writers with the knowledge, insight and experiences that will prepare them for a successful writing career in theatre.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The programme will take place over six months from May to November 2019. The programme is cohesive and intensive, with regular development meetings between the writers (individually and as a group) and the Literary Manager.

The writers selected for the programme will be offered a range of support and opportunities:

- Regular feedback and one-to-one development meetings with the Literary Manager;
- Invitations to press nights for all Lyric productions;
- Free access to Lyric spaces for writing, where available;
- Participation in the Lyric's New Playwrights masterclass series and exclusive access to speakers, which will include established playwrights, directors and dramaturgs;
- The opportunity to work with an established director and professional actors to workshop their play;
- One rehearsed reading of their script at the mid-point of programme to aid further development;
- A public rehearsed reading of their new work presented in the Naughton Studio at the end of the programme, open to audiences and industry professionals.

Ultimately, the success of the programme relies on the focus and commitment of the writers involved, so participants must be able to commit to the full programme of activity at the outset and make themselves available to meet writing deadlines and to attend meetings and workshops at the Lyric as required.

APPLICATIONS

Applications are welcomed from new and emerging playwrights. By that we mean, writers over the age of 18 who have had fewer than **two professional productions** of their work (this excludes professional rehearsed readings). We're looking for work that is fresh, original and inherently theatrical from writers with a unique voice. Scripts can be about any subject matter or written in any style.

You do not need to be resident in Northern Ireland to apply, but you must be willing and able to commit to attending meetings, workshops and readings at the Lyric Theatre in Belfast for the duration of the programme (travel to and from the Lyric is unfortunately not covered as part of the programme).

We welcome submissions from writers of all backgrounds, and would particularly encourage submissions from voices which are currently under-represented in Irish theatre.

To apply, you must submit two documents:

- Your script (Word or PDF)
- Your completed equality monitoring form (Word or PDF)
- Your completed and signed application form (Word or PDF)

The deadline for submissions is **12 noon on Monday 11th February 2019.**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Should you have any queries about the below guidelines, please contact the Literary Manager.

- All submissions should be submitted to the Lyric Theatre's Literary Manager **by email only:** rebeccamairs@lyrictheatre.co.uk
- You must also complete and submit the below application and monitoring form
- Please submit only full length scripts i.e. a running time of at least 60mins
- We can only accept one script per writer
- Please ensure your script is clearly typed and formatted

Guidance on formatting:

- Please include a title page and a list of characters
- Your name and contact details should appear on the title page only
- Pages should be numbered
- 12pt font size
- Stage directions must be in italics
- Please submit your script **in PDF or Word only**

The Lyric's commitment to writers:

- The Lyric will formally acknowledge all script submissions
- All scripts will be read in full
- Shortlisted scripts will be read by a panel with extensive industry experience
- All submissions will be given due consideration, but, regretfully, we can't provide feedback on every script
- Successful writers will be notified at the end of April 2019

The Lyric regrets that it cannot accept:

- Poems, novels or short stories
- Television, film or radio scripts
- Musicals
- Unfinished plays, or short plays
- Plays that have already received, or currently programmed to receive, a full production

Good luck, and thank you for your application!

Rebecca Mairs, Literary Manager, December 2018



NEW PLAYWRIGHTS PROGRAMME 2018 APPLICATION FORM

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

Current employment / Education

BIOGRAPHY including any writing / theatre experience (Max. 150 words)

Please note that previous experience is not a requirement

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TITLE & SYNOPSIS OF YOUR PLAY (Max. 150 words)

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WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THE PROGRAMME? (Max. 150 words)

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WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD BRING TO THE PROGRAMME? (Max. 150 words)

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Signed

Date

Deadline for applications is **Monday 11th February 2019**. Please return this form, along with your script, **by email only** to: rebeccamairs@lyrictheatre.co.uk