

BLOOMSBURY
FESTIVAL
15 - 24 OCTOBER 2021



BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL 2021
Theatre Writing Opportunities

THE OPPORTUNITIES

A structured opportunity for current London-based vocational course theatre students, and undergraduate or postgraduate students following programmes in theatre writing, screenwriting, creative writing or other related disciplines, to create a brand-new play for workshop and performance. To apply, writers are asked to submit one fully scripted scene plus an outline of the complete play (duration c. 50 minutes) to be considered for a rehearsed reading at the 2021 Bloomsbury Festival followed by further production opportunities as outlined below.

The script should respond or relate to the 2022 Bloomsbury Festival theme, **BREATHE**. The theme can be interpreted in many contexts – environmental, personal wellbeing, freedom to speak – to give some examples. There are 3 opportunities arising from submission:

Three scripts will be shortlisted from the entries and one will be allocated to each production opportunity below. Between shortlisting and the time of the festival the shortlisted writers will complete a full first draft of their script.

With the support of a professional director each of the three shortlisted scripts will be given a private rehearsed reading, and one scene will be prepared for public performance, at an event to be held during the 2021 Bloomsbury Festival at the RADA Studios.

To enter please complete the accompanying application form and send it with the required materials as directed.

1. Workshop development and performance opportunities plus £1,000 bursary - supported by Macready Theatre, Rugby; sponsored by Cemex UK.

One script will be selected for development through a process of workshops prior to the 2021 Bloomsbury Festival involving the writer, a professional director and student performers age 16-18 from Macready Theatre Young Actors' Ensemble. A rehearsed reading and performance of one full scene will take place at the 2021 Bloomsbury Festival with the director and student performers. There will then be further development and performances at the Macready Theatre, Rugby before taking the production to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Summer 2022*. A subsequent full performance at the Bloomsbury Festival 2022 is anticipated but this may be with a different cast and production team, with venue and production management provided by the festival.

The writer offered this opportunity will be awarded a bursary payment of £1,000 (to include travel to workshops in Rugby and London) in order to fully develop the script. A further £100 towards travel and accommodation will be made available to the writer to visit the production if it is presented in Edinburgh. The bursary is supported by the Macready Theatre, its sponsor Cemex and Rugby School Department of Theatre & Performing Arts.

* Please note that plans to tour the production by Macready Theatre Young Actors' Ensemble to Edinburgh Fringe will be subject to the wider public health situation as well as the satisfactory development of the project in workshop.

2. Production of a Radio Play for the 2022 Festival with Bloomsbury Radio at the Bloomsbury Institute plus £300 Festival Bursary

A second script will be shortlisted for production as a radio play. The recording of the radio play will be supported by professional radio producers and recorded by Bloomsbury Radio for transmission in 2022 at the time of the Bloomsbury Festival.

3. A staging of a Production at the 2022 Festival plus £300 Festival Bursary

There is an option for a third script to be shortlisted for a rehearsed reading in 2022 with the possibility of your own staging at the 2022 Bloomsbury Festival.

THE SELECTED SCRIPT AND PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES

- This opportunity is aimed at current students 18 to 25 years of age. Older students currently enrolled on writing courses will also be considered.
- To enter you should be studying on a London based undergraduate, postgraduate theatre/playwriting course (or related courses/training programmes) and live within easy access of Bloomsbury (the eastern part of central London)
- All the shortlisted scripts will be offered a rehearsed reading with the writer present and the public presentation of one full scene to a wider audience as part of a Bloomsbury Festival event. This will take place during the Bloomsbury Festival 2021 (15-24 October). The presentation event will be at RADA Studios.
- The script selected for full theatre development will be offered a rehearsed reading, R&D workshop opportunities, a fully-staged presentation at Macready Theatre, Rugby and a 10-day run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2022* with the Macready Theatre Young Actors' Ensemble.
- The rehearsed reading and scene presentation of up to two other shortlisted scripts may be performed by the Performing Arts Scholars from Rugby School Department of Theatre & Performing Arts and/or may include students from other drama courses or other performers
- The 2021 presentation of the performed scenes for any shortlisted scripts will be advertised as part of the Bloomsbury Festival brochure and online programme.
- A press release about the selected script for full theatre development and the writer will be sent to local and theatre press, alongside a news feature on the Bloomsbury Festival website. Other shortlisted scripts/writers may also have PR opportunities at the festival.

This opportunity is being offered by the Bloomsbury Festival in partnership with the Macready Theatre, Rugby and its sponsor Cemex, Rugby School Department of Theatre & Performing Arts, and in association with RADA and Bloomsbury Radio (at the Bloomsbury Institute).

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION FORM AND SUBMIT WITH SCRIPT/OUTLINE TO ENTER.

ABOUT BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL - A WORLD-CLASS FESTIVAL FROM A LOCAL COMMUNITY

For hundreds of years Bloomsbury has been a catalyst for ideas that have impacted across the world. The Festival celebrates contemporary Bloomsbury; a hotbed of creativity and pioneering development with one of the youngest and most diverse populations in the country. Bloomsbury's strength lies in its vibrant diversity. Famous for its globally renowned academic and cultural institutions, it also includes areas of multiple deprivation, and it is home to 11,000 residents. The Festival is uniquely placed in relationship to residential communities, local institutions and businesses, and the UK arts infrastructure, and works across all three, uniting specialists with residents from all backgrounds and of all ages in an equal exchange of skills and experience

The link with the Macready Theatre in Rugby and Bloomsbury is through Rugby School's founder, Lawrence Sherriff, who invested in property in the Lamb's Conduit area of Bloomsbury 450 years ago, and thus Rugby has a special relationship with the area and with Bloomsbury Festival and is represented on the Board.

For more information about Bloomsbury Festival, please visit www.bloomsburyfestival.org.uk.