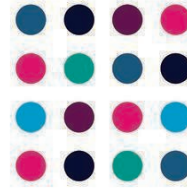


BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL



Bloomsbury Festival New Wave Theatre and Radio Opportunities 2024-2025

www.bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

in partnership with Bloomsbury Radio & Macready Theatre

<https://www.bil.ac.uk/bloomsburyradio/>

<https://macreadytheatre.co.uk/>



BLOOMSBURY RADIO

Bloomsbury Festival Theatre and Radio Opportunities 2024-2025

Bloomsbury Festival is seeking submissions from emerging theatre writers and companies (aged 18+) to produce new work as part of our 2025 festival, in response to the theme: *The Paths We Travel*.

This theme links to other creative projects Bloomsbury Festival will be producing in 2025.

Scripts and theatre productions on this theme might explore stories of migration, intergenerational cultures, emotional growth, physical journeys, place, food, music and culture, or whatever else our theme inspires for you as a writer about *The Paths We Travel*.

This opportunity will be open for scripts submissions and proposals until **Thursday 26th September at midnight**.

Final selections take place in early October 2024 and winners will be announced in October at Bloomsbury Festival 2024. Production opportunities will apply to the 2025 October festival.

Please note, if you are applying for the *Macready Theatre Writer Commission*, **you are required to be free on Friday 18th October 2024** for an initial workshop.

In 2024-2025 there are **three opportunities** for emerging writers and theatre-makers for the 2025 Festival.

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The opportunities for Bloomsbury Festival 2025 are:

1. New Wave Theatre & Performance
2. Bloomsbury Radio Play
3. Macready Theatre Writer Commission

Please **see below** for **Expanded Details** of the three opportunities and **How to Apply**.

Please note, this competition is aimed at London-based emerging artists at the beginning of their professional careers. More information on eligibility can be found at the end of this document.

Please email a .pdf copy of your application to
submissions@bloomsburyfestival.org.uk by midnight
Thursday 26th September

2024-25 OPPORTUNITIES - EXPANDED DETAILS

1. New Wave Theatre & Performance 2025 **£1000 Bursary for Production**

We are offering opportunities to emerging theatre writers/companies to present productions of new work that responds to the theme of *The Paths We Travel* at next year's festival.

We are looking for completed scripts or new works for theatre currently in development. The length should be approximately 50 minutes to 1 hour, and we welcome applications from new companies wishing to establish themselves through this process. You should include details of your training, theatre and professional experience as relevant.

One script will be selected as the winner. This production will receive £1000 bursary towards their production, as well as the offer of venue and some rehearsal space, marketing support and a box office share at Bloomsbury Festival 2025.

Selected runner-up companies will be invited to present their show in Bloomsbury Festival 2025, with venue, marketing support and Box Office share.

To apply, please see details below.

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2. Bloomsbury Radio 2025 £1000 Bursary

We are seeking submissions of completed new radio play productions in response to the theme *The Paths We Travel*.

The winning writer will be given the opportunity to record their play at Bloomsbury Institute, home of Bloomsbury Radio, in advance of the 2025 Festival. The radio play will then be included in the Bloomsbury Festival 2025 programme and broadcast on Bloomsbury Radio as part of the Festival coverage.

The winning writer will be awarded a £1000 bursary to support their own fee and any performer fees/expenses related to the recording.

Criteria:

- We are looking for a completed script of approximately 50 minutes in length, which should be suitable for broadcast to a general adult audience.
- The play will be recorded 'as-live' in one-take at the Bloomsbury Radio studio, so playwrights should take this into account when preparing their submissions.
- Given this, we recommend that the cast size of submitted plays be <4 actors.

This competition is specifically to support emerging radio writers, so plays submitted should be expressly written for radio or audio broadcast. We are not looking for plays adapted from theatre. As part of your submission, please include 50-100 words explaining why you have chosen radio as a medium to tell this story and/or detailing any previous experience writing for audio podcast or broadcast.

For Radio Competition 2025 applicants you also agree that, if selected, you allow Bloomsbury Radio a final say in production decisions.

To apply, please see details below.

3. Macready Theatre Writer Commission

We will commission an emerging writer to write a new play through a workshop and script development process with Macready Theatre Young Actors' Ensemble, responding to the theme *The Paths We Travel*.

We are seeking a writer who has previously developed a script through an improvisation or devising process, and who has experience working with young performers.

The selected writer will be awarded a £1000 bursary payment for the development of a full script, supported by Macready Theatre and its sponsors Cemex and Rugby School

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Department of Theatre & Performing Arts. Bloomsbury Festival is able to facilitate any costs incurred travelling to workshops outside of London.

The winning writer will work with a professional director and student performers aged 16-18 from Macready Theatre Young Actors' Ensemble. The script will be developed through four workshops across the academic year 2024-25.

The first workshop day with the director and student performers will take place during this year's festival, on **Friday 18th October 2024 - the writer must be available to attend.**

Further development will take place across the academic year 2024-25 at the Macready Theatre in Rugby, with the possibility to take the production to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2025, and/or return to Bloomsbury Festival 2025.

The writer is expected to co-facilitate a small number of workshops between October 2024 - March 2025 with Macready Theatre Young Actors' Ensemble, which will be used to generate subject material for the script. The writer will be expected to write in between these workshops and later workshops will involve workshopping the written material.

A further £100 contribution to the writer will be made available to visit the production if it is presented at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2025. Please note that Macready Theatre's plans to tour the production will be subject to satisfactory development of the script alongside workshops.

To apply, please see details below.

Eligibility:

1. **Entrants must be emerging artists.** We adopt an inclusive definition of Emerging Artists and we welcome both young emerging theatre writers/companies and more mature entries who are starting their professional careers. You may have recently been part of professional or academic development programmes in theatre or similar disciplines, or have had some prior experience producing your own work.
2. **Entrants must have a connection to London through their home base or studios.** Bloomsbury Festival is a local festival based in central London so the production opportunities we offer are focused towards writers/companies with a connection to London through their home base or studios. We are therefore unable to offer travel or accommodation support for successful participants.

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3. **Entrants must live in the UK.** We cannot not accept applications from people who live outside the UK for this call-out, although the festival may be able to provide a venue (but no funding except 50:50 box office share) for professional international performances with their own funding who will be touring the UK in October 2025.

Please Note:

Whilst all UK entries are welcome, Bloomsbury Festival would like to encourage applications from people who are currently underrepresented in the arts, and are particularly interested in hearing from global majority, lower socio-economic background, d/Deaf and disabled, LGBTQ+ writers. We are a festival based in the London Borough of Camden, and will pay particular attention to the work of writers with connections to the local and surrounding areas.

By applying for this opportunity you guarantee that your script is entirely your own original work, and does not infringe on the copyright of any other writer or artist.

HOW TO APPLY:

Please email the following documents for each opportunity, along with the **below requested details** in the accompanying email.

New Wave Theatre & Performance 2025: Please submit:

- 1 script, or description of devised project and process, of approximately 1 hour in length in response to the theme *The Paths We Travel*
- A short (maximum 150 words) supporting statement explaining the play's relevance to the Festival theme.
- An outline of the writer's/production company's previous experience including earlier script where available. This can be a CV or other format.

Bloomsbury Radio 2025: Please submit:

- 1 script for radio approximately 50 minutes in length in response to the theme *The Paths We Travel*
- A short (maximum 150 words) supporting statement explaining the play's relevance to the Festival theme
- A short (maximum 150 words) explanation of the play's suitability for radio.
- An outline of any previous experience or interest writing for radio. This can be a CV or other format.

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Macready Theatre Writer Commission: Please submit:

- 1 script that you have **previously developed** through a workshop or R&D process. This does not need to be linked to the theme *The Paths We Travel*.
- A description/outline of your past experience working with young performers.
- A CV

In the **subject line of your email**, please note which opportunity you are applying for: New Wave Theatre & Performance 2025, Bloomsbury Radio 2025, Macready Theatre Writer Commission. Please state if you are applying for more than one opportunity.

In the accompanying email, please include:

Name:

Age:

Email:

A 50-100 word synopsis of your script/play:

Production company/producer contact:

Phone Contact:

Contact Address:

Home location/artistic base:

Any recent writing courses (not essential) – course name and institution:

Any other relevant information or experience you would like us to be aware of.

Please email a .pdf copy of your application to submissions@bloomsburyfestival.org.uk by midnight Thursday 26th September 2024.

Entries close at **Midnight Thursday 26th September 2024**, and the selected writers and theatre companies will be publicly announced during Bloomsbury Festival 2024 (18 - 27 October).