

Callout for Playwrights

Strange Town offers opportunities in the performing arts to young people aged 5 to 25 in Edinburgh.

As a company, our aim at Strange Town is to enable young people to fulfil their creative potential. Whatever your background or experience, we believe everyone has creative and artistic abilities. We help young people to recognise and develop these abilities through peer and professional encouragement, participation, and example.

We are looking to commission up to 3 early-career playwrights to write short plays to be performed by our youth theatre groups.

They would be between 30-60 minutes long and would be shown for 2 performances in December 2022 at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

These plays will be performed by our **8-10s** class and two of our **11-14s** classes. Each class typically contains 20 members, and the plays would need to have at least one part for all of them.

We vastly prefer our young people to play parts written for their age (e.g 8-10-year-olds playing characters aged 8-10) rather than pretending to be adults. There is of course some leeway around this in pantomime scripts or in scripts with non-human characters.

For our December 2022 plays, we would like our writers to base their ideas around Christmas themes.

Each playwright will be paid a small fee for their writing. As a small charity, our resources are limited and unfortunately do not allow us to pay a fully professional rate.

However, we endeavour to help develop our writers fully and provide every assistance possible, particularly for those for whom this may be the first time they have ever been paid for their writing. We hope that by working with us, we can be the first step that helps these writers go on to lead fully professional writing careers of their own.

If you are interested, please send us the following things:

- At least 1 short pitch (no more than 1 page) for a play for either the 8-10s or 11-14s (you are welcome to send more than one).
- A writing sample from a stage play of no more than 10 pages that you think best showcases your ability. This does not have to be a finished play or have had a previous performance. It could also be a newly written sample of one of your pitches.
- A short bio/CV detailing your writing experience to date (no more than 2 pages)
- A short (approx 1 paragraph) answer to the question: *what interests you most about writing for young people?*

Please send these to James at james@strangetown.org.uk by no later than **Monday 9th May, 5pm**.

Interviews will be week commencing **Monday 16th May**. Please inform us during your application if you are unable to make this date.

If you have any questions or enquiries, please contact James at the same address.