

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.

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

For the 8-10s, we are looking for plays of between **30-45** minutes. For our 11-14s, we are looking for plays between **30-60** minutes long. Each would be shown for **2** performances in **December 2023** at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

We vastly prefer our young people to play parts written for their age (e.g 11-14-year-olds playing characters aged 11-14) rather than pretending to be adults. There is of course some leeway around this in pantomime scripts (e.g the King and Queen in an 8-10s Panto would be fine) or in scripts with non-human characters (e.g magical creatures, monsters etc)

For our **December 2023** plays, we would like our writers to base their ideas around the theme of **Christmas Yet To Come**.

Playwrights must be available to attend a number of rehearsals in-person in Edinburgh in June and in September.

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:

- A short pitch (no more than 1 page) for a play for either the 8-10s or 11-14s
- 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. Examples of writing for performance by young people are preferred.
- A short bio/CV detailing your writing experience to date (no more than 2 pages)

Please send these to James at james@strangetown.org.uk by no later than **9am on Fri 14th April**.

Interviews requests will be sent out to successful applicants for the week commencing **Monday 17th April**, which will be either online or in-person. Please inform us during your application if there are dates you are unable to make during this week.

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

We strive to provide our young members with a variety of scripts and **avoid repetition**. Here is a brief description of recent commissions for all groups:

Friday 8-10s

Dec 22: *Dungeons & Flagons* – a fantasy comedy about two storytellers trying to rewrite the story of grumpy King calling off the Midwinter Fair

Jun 23: *Lola Is Alone (And She Likes It)* – a family adventure about a fox refusing outside help to reconstruct her destroyed home

Wednesday 11-14s

Dec 22: *A Christmas Michael* – a farcical Nativity-gone-wrong where the teachers have left the kids in charge with an inexplicable George Michael theme.

Jun 23: *Wild Tides of Clíodhna* – a murder mystery drama about sea monsters and pollution.

Friday 11-14s

Dec 22: *Needles*: a Christmas horror play about the tormented ghosts of a dark Christmas long ago.

Jun 23: *I Was Here*: a historical drama about the sinking of an evacuee boat during WW2 and the discovery of its wreck by a modern group