

Callout for Playwright – March 2025

LARGE PRINT VERSION

Strange Town is a charity that uses theatre and the arts as a creative catalyst to nurture talent and increase access to opportunities in the arts for children and young people based in Edinburgh.

The project

We are looking to commission a playwright to write a new play to be performed by our young company (ages 18-25). The new play will be directed by Strange Town Artistic Director, Steve Small, and will have **2** performances on 26th and 27th March 2025 at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

We are looking for a writer who is **keen to devise** with our members for several sessions and **then** create a play approximately **60** minutes long.

The group will contain between 20-22 members, and the play would need to have at least one part for all of them.

We prefer our young performers to play parts written for their age (i.e. 18-25 year-olds).

Theme

Things Can Only Get Better – working title

How did we go from the bright sunny optimism of 1997, Tony Blair and the New Labour government to the rain-soaked general election announcement by Rishi Sunak 27 years later? Growing up in a post covid world with a war in Europe, famine in Sudan, the threat of a second Trump presidency in the USA and a looming global climate crisis is it any wonder young people are depressed? So is everything hopeless? Or will love triumph like it does in the movies? Is there hope for our group of young people coming of age? Things can only get better ...

Dates

Playwrights must be available to attend devising sessions and readthroughs in-person in

Edinburgh, although we aim to offer flexibility if we can.

- A minimum of 3 out of the first 6 sessions (Wednesdays 7-9pm)
18th September, 25th September, 2nd October, 9th October, 16th October (no session on 23rd October) and 30th October
- First Draft to be submitted by 1st November
- First Draft readthrough Wednesday 6th November 7-9pm
- Second draft to be submitted by 2nd December
- Second draft readthrough on Wednesday 11th December 7-9pm
- Final Draft to be submitted on 6th January
- Final draft readthrough (attendance is optional) Wednesday 8th January 7-9pm

Fee

The playwright will be paid **£700** for their work. **We are aware this is not a full professional fee** but as a small charity, we have limited resources and unfortunately are unable to pay what we would like to. However, we are committed to a process of increasing our fee year-by-year to bring it more into line with the accepted standard.

We also endeavour to help develop writers fully and provide every assistance possible. This includes one-to-one dramaturgy sessions, additional opportunities to interact and devise with group members as desired, and a lot of flexibility to fit our deadlines and schedule around your existing work.

For more information about this and anything else you'd like to know before applying, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the details below.

To Apply

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

- **A short document (no more than 2 pages) of your responses to the prompt.**

This document should include **at least 1 story idea/starting point** but could include more and could also include other aspects you feel would be helpful. These might not be topics or stimuli for devising, sources of inspiration, photos, videos, music – it's entirely up to you!

- **A writing sample of a stage play no more than 10 pages in length.**

Whilst we accept samples written for all audiences, we **strongly** recommend your sample demonstrates your ability to write for the age group indicated (18-25). The sample does not have to be a finished play or have had a previous performance of any kind. It could even be a newly written sample.

- **A short bio/CV outlining your writing experience to date (no more than 2 pages)**

Please send these to Steve at steve@strangetown.org.uk by no later than **9am** on **Monday 29th July 2024**.

Interviews requests will be sent out to successful applicants for the week commencing **Monday 5th August**, which will be either online or in-person.

Additional Info

We strive to provide our members with a variety of scripts. Here is a summary of the most recent script for this age group:

Performed in March 2024

You Don't Know This Yet by *Katie Fraser* - 'We don't know what we don't know. Emily knows she failed first year, and things have to change. Sarah knows she has a terminal diagnosis but is going to university anyway. They don't know they'll meet, and they don't know what they'll mean to each other.'

The Drama Society are putting on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Or they are if the production team can come to an agreement. And if they get enough

people to sign up and audition. And if they can get through the rehearsals without arguments and break-ups. Though Shakespeare's words are supposed to be confined to the stage, some strange things start to seep out into the lives of the cast and crew.'

If you have any questions about the application, commission or Strange Town, please email Steve at steve@strangetown.org.uk