

Strange Town Writer Development Programme 2025/26

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 very pleased to announce the launch of our second **Writer Development Programme** after the success of our inaugural intake.

This programme is a **free opportunity** to take part in a series of workshops and devising sessions with our young people to learn how to write a play or a film for young performers (mostly aged 8-14) alongside developing your own writing skills.

Each writer selected to join this year's programme will be guided in writing **one 10-minute short play or film** for a group of up to 8 young performers, which will then be performed or screened as part of our **Spark Showcase** in **June 2026**.

This opportunity is open to anyone over the age of 18 who has not previously written for Strange Town. You may be an established writer looking to write for young performers for the first time, or you might have no experience of writing yet but are keen to take your first steps.

The programme includes:

- A chance to showcase your writing in a public performance
- An opportunity to gain experience in writing for young performers, assisting with any future applications to our large-scale Strange Town commissions
- A supportive environment and network of fellow up-and-coming playwrights

- Ongoing dramaturgical support from award-winning playwright James Beagon and the rest of the Strange Town team.
- **Free tickets** to attend our December 2025 productions between Friday 12th – Sunday 14th December
- **Up to 5** supported devising sessions between January – February 2026 (either 1.5- or 2-hour workshops on Wednesday evenings 5-7pm or Friday afternoons sometime between 2-6.30pm)

The exact dates of these devising sessions would be finalised with you. You won't need to lead these sessions as the director and dramaturg will be present, but they can be shaped however you like according to your needs!

- A first draft readthrough the last week of February/first week of March 2026.
- A second draft readthrough in March 2026.

In addition to all of the above, all successful applicants will also receive up to £100 to support any expenses occurred whilst taking part in the development opportunity.

Our young people **must** play parts written for their age (e.g 11–14-year-olds playing characters suitable for those aged 11-14s) rather than pretending to be adult humans.

Note that there is plenty of leeway here. Scripts with non-human characters for instance (spirits, gods, choruses, ghosts, magical creatures, animals etc) are definitely doable – we're not saying that all your characters need to be humans aged 11-14, just playable by them!

Successful applicants must be available to attend devising sessions and readthroughs in-person in Edinburgh between **November 2025 and March 2026**, although we aim to offer as much flexibility as we can and amended deadlines are also possible. Some feedback sessions will also be run remotely via Zoom.

If you are interested, please complete the following application form:

<https://forms.gle/6r1c9UpHeSzzcpWu5>

The form will ask you a few questions to tell us why you'd like to take part, as well as asking you to upload a short writing sample and also the option of adding a Writing CV if applicable.

The application deadline is **Wednesday 22nd October at 10am.**

If you have any questions, please contact james@strangetown.org.uk

Interview requests will then be sent out to successful applicants for the week commencing **Monday 27th October**, which will be either online or in-person.