

PLAYWRIGHT SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Presented by the Summerseat Players at the Theatre Royal Ramsbottom



ABOUT THE NEW WRITING FESTIVAL

Welcome to the Summerseat Player's New Writing Festival 2027! The Summerseat Players **New Writing Festival** (NWF) is a two-day weekend event, 17th - 18th July 2027, featuring twelve (12) new short plays from novice and established Northwest playwrights. The Festival's mission is to promote new Northwest writing talent while also providing the means for more established writers to mentor new talent.

Performances will happen in a block schedule format with a new novice play/playwright paired with an established play/playwright. All plays are 30 to 45 minutes in length. For novice writers, their short plays will serve as an “elevator pitch” with the structure and potential to be fully developed into a 70 to 90 minute production. One of the six (6) novice works officially selected for the Festival, will be chosen for the “Best of Festival” award and will receive a year+ of mentorship, R&D, workshops, and a performance slot in the 2028/2029 Summerseat Players season as a full length production.

EVENT PURPOSE

In alignment with the Summerseat Players' charitable mission and its motto of “by the community, for the community”, the New Writing Festival aims to develop and showcase new writing from up-and-coming Northwest based playwrights with the support of the charity's 170+ core of volunteers. .

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

ENTRY CATEGORIES

CHILDREN'S THEATRE SELECTION

Two festival selection slots (one established, one novice) will be reserved specifically for children's theatre pieces (i.e. plays suitable for children under 14 years of age). Content and language **MUST** be age appropriate to be considered.

GENERAL SELECTION

The ten remaining festival selection slots are open to all other topics. *Please note that topics and language should be suitable for a wide audience.*

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

NOVICE PLAYWRIGHTS

- One entry per person – *Please note that if multiple scripts are submitted, the jury will only read the first script received (this includes resubmission of the same script due to changes/edits by the playwright).*
- Participating playwrights **MUST** be 18 years of age or older.
- Participating playwrights **MUST** be residents and/or attending university in the Northwest of England including: Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, West Yorkshire, etc.)
- Professionally produced playwrights will not be accepted, novice slots are for amateur playwrights only. *Professionally produced playwrights are encouraged to join the festival as an established playwright and mentor.*
- Submissions must be original, unproduced, and not attached to any other theatre. *The use of AI is strictly prohibited.*
- Translations and adaptations of existing work are **NOT** acceptable.
- Submissions must be between 30 to 45 minutes in length (no more than 50 pages) – *Please note, longer scripts received will not be read.*
- Submissions should require no more than three (3) actors.
- Submissions should feature minimal tech and scenic requirements – *Please note that submissions heavily featuring effects and large set changes may not be automatically declined.*
- The submission must be owned by the submitting playwright.
- The Applicant playwright must **NOT** have won a playwrighting award in the previous year.
- All scripts are to be submitted as a PDF and should feature a professional, clean, and easy to read font (example: Calabri, Arial, etc. sizes 11-12). *Please note that handwritten scripts, scripts submitted in symbols, or scripts saved as a non-universal file type will not be accepted.*

- All submissions should have clear intentions and ideas that could be lengthened into a full length 70 to 90 minute piece of work (if selected for “Best of Festival”).

HOW TO SUBMIT

To **SUBMIT** a script to the New Writing Festival 2027, please complete our Playwright Application Form (digital form) and **EMAIL** a copy of your script to nwf@summerseatplayers.co.uk.

- Per the Playwright Application Form, remember to create a Pseudonym/Alias for yourself which should be printed on the title page of your submission. Please remove all other name/contact information from your submitted work. Your Pseudonym/Alias in your application and on your script **MUST** match.
- Remember to EMAIL a PDF copy of your script AFTER completing the Playwright Application Form to nwf@summerseatplayers.co.uk. Application Forms received without an emailed script, will not be processed.
- Please include “NWF27 Script Submission” and your Pseudonym/Alias in the subject line of your email.
- Please note that all submissions must have a valid email address and phone number for the applicant.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MONITORING FORM | At the end of the Playwright Application Form, a link to our Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be available. This Form is optional but we would greatly appreciate it if you could complete this form. It aids our organisation with the collection of important data about our community and participants.

JURY SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE

For Novice Playwrights

PHASE 1 | SCRIPT AUDITING (AUGUST 2026)

All scripts will be audited to ensure they meet the basic submission requirements listed above (PDF, no more than 50 pages, etc.)

PHASE 2 | LONG LISTING (OCTOBER 2026)

A committee of readers will read, review, and select an initial twenty-five (25) plays, otherwise referred to as the “long list”. This phase will focus on subject matter, language, and delivery.

PHASE 3 | SHORT LISTING (NOVEMBER 2026)

A fresh committee of readers will read and review the long list of twenty-five (25) plays and will narrow the selection down to ten (10). This phase will focus on audience, stage-ability, and nuance. *Only short listed playwrights will receive feedback due to staff capacity.*

PHASE 4 | OFFICIAL SELECTION (DECEMBER 2026)

A fresh (and final) committee of readers will read and review the short list of ten (10) and will select the six (6) official selections for the festival. This phase will focus on craft. The official selections will also be assigned their established playwright pairing and mentor. Official selections and established works will be notified alongside a social media announcement. *The Best of Festival selection will be announced in a special ceremony on Sunday night of the Festival.*

AWARDS

OFFICIAL SELECTION & CONTRIBUTIONS

All Playwrights will receive a Festival “Official Selection” certificate and will receive a contribution to aid with transportation costs to rehearsals and time spent on rewrites during the rehearsal process. Contribution amounts are determined by the category they were selected in/the number of performances. Fees are:

CHILDREN’S THEATRE SELECTION – £625.00 | The one official selection for the Children’s Theatre category will each receive a contribution of £625.00 and will receive one Saturday performance during the Festival.

ALL OTHER TOPICS – £825.00 | The five official selections for the All Other Topics category will each receive a contribution of £825.00 and will receive two performances (one on Saturday and one on Sunday) during the Festival.

FESTIVAL WINNERS

BEST OF FESTIVAL SELECTION

Of the six novice plays officially selected, one will be awarded “Best of Festival”. As part of this Award, the Summerseat Players is committed to supporting the playwright in the creation of a full length version of their work (70 to 90 minutes) for presentation in the 2028/2029 season. The playwright’s R&D, workshops, and rehearsals time will be supported with grant funding and by Summerseat Players. The Festival will also work towards officially publishing the completed work as part of this process. *The Best of Festival selection will be announced in a special ceremony on Sunday night of the Festival.*

MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE

At the heart of the Festival is the playwright mentorship initiative. Each Festival pairing will feature an established playwright and a novice playwright. Novice playwrights are encouraged to attend at least two rehearsals with their mentor to observe the rehearsal process, take notes, and discuss any potential rewrites with their mentor and director. Additional mentor meetings outside of rehearsals may take place at the discretion of the mentor/mentee. The goal of

this initiative is to build lifelong connections between one generation of creatives and another - strengthening the future of the sector in the Northwest and beyond.

To further strengthen the mentorship initiative, each block pairing will share the same director in order to ensure an overall creative vision for the block but to also act as a connecting bridge between playwriting pairs. Playwrights are encouraged to meet with their shared director and work together as an overall creative team.

Festival contributions are provided to cover transportation costs to rehearsals, time and coffee for mentor/mentee meetings, and time used for rewrites (if applicable).

BEYOND THE FESTIVAL | For the novice playwright officially selected as “Best of Festival”, the Summerseat Players is committed to supporting the playwright in the creation of a full length version of their work for presentation in the 2028/2029 season. The playwright’s R&D, workshops, and rehearsal time will be supported by the Summerseat Players across the 2027/2028.

IMPORTANT DATES

Script Submission Process CLOSES	MONDAY, 3 AUGUST 2026
Official Selections Announcement	TBD, DECEMBER 2026
Rehearsals BEGIN	MONDAY, 31 MAY 2027
New Writing Festival 2027	SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, 17-18 JULY 2027
“Best of Festival” Announcement (During Festival)	SUNDAY 19 JULY 2027