

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

CATEGORY 1: NEW PLAY

24TH OCTOBER – 6TH NOVEMBER 2016

Submission to **Category 1: New Play** is restricted to Australian citizens or Australian residents. To submit, you must be a Full Member of Melbourne Writers' Theatre (MWT). If you are currently an Associate Member, you must apply to upgrade to Full Member at the time of submitting your script. Likewise, if you do not hold Full Membership of MWT, you are welcome to join at the time of submitting. The criteria for Full Membership may be found at <http://melbournewriterstheatre.org.au/join-mwt/>

The Submission Guidelines are on Page 2 of this document. Please feel free to contact MWT with any queries you may have, by emailing: melbournewriterstheatre@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE: 15TH JUNE 2016

Please post your submission to:

Melbourne Writers' Theatre

PO Box 1049

Carlton, Vic. 3053

****Submissions will NOT be accepted by email.***

The fee per script is \$30.

Writers may submit up to 3 scripts.

Payment can be made by a **Cheque/Money Order** sent with your submission,

OR by **BANK TRANSFER** to:

Melbourne Writers' Theatre

BSB: 033-178

Account No. 118971

Please use your name as reference.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. The play must be an ORIGINAL, UNPRODUCED work on any theme, with a minimum running time of 50 minutes.
2. It must be submitted as a BLIND read - ie. an anonymous script on which your name does not appear anywhere. This is to ensure a fair and just judging process which is based on the script's merit. Scripts containing the writer's name in any form will not be considered.
3. It must be submitted as a HARD COPY. Please allow time for your script to reach us by mail. Scripts postmarked after 15th June cannot be considered.
4. Please ensure that your script follows a conventional layout which includes: title page (minus your name); character list; SCRIPT typed in 1.5 spacing, 12pt font, numbered pages, bound securely with a bulldog clip. Double-sided scripts are fine.
5. **You need to have a DIRECTOR interested in, or attached to, your script.** This person should be available to direct your script in the event that it is selected. Please supply us with their name, plus brief details of any plays they have worked on with you in the past. *If you don't currently have a Director interested in/attached to your script, or you would like to be put in touch with a Director, we'll do our best to help you. Please contact us ASAP at melbournewriterstheatre@gmail.com*

6. In a separate, sealed envelope please include your **PRODUCTION PLAN**. (Refer to p3 of this document for a description of the importance of being a Writer/Producer for the purpose of submitting for our 2016 Season.) Your Production Plan should show your name and contact details. It should be a carefully considered document (**max. 5 pages please!**) which demonstrates that, if your script is selected by our independent dramaturg for performance at La Mama Courthouse from 24/10 - 6/11, you will be able to achieve the following:
 - Approach your season as a skilled **Writer/Producer**, with all of the professionalism, responsibility for cast and crew and attention to detail that this role demands.
 - Effectively **budget** for your show. This includes paying for the rental of La Mama Courthouse (\$2000 for the two weeks of your season), sets, costumes, bar and publicity, plus payment to your director, actors and crew members. Your budget is really important. We want to see that you have thought in depth about how much your show will cost to produce.

- Create a **high quality** show. Please give us an idea of how your production will look, sound and feel when presented at the Courthouse. We don't need full details – just a snapshot of what audiences can expect, and how you and your team will achieve this.
- Assemble a **strong cast and crew**. If there are any actors/crew members who have expressed interest in working on your show, please supply their details. If it's currently just you and your director, that's fine, but it's never too early to start thinking about the creative team you want to build around you.

The information you supply in your PRODUCTION PLAN will not be seen by the independent dramaturg who reads your script. During the judging process, the dramaturg will not receive any details of who you are and will judge your script on its merit. Your Production Plan will remain with the committee of MWT until after the selection process has been completed. In the event that your script is selected for the two-week Season, we will then discuss your Production Plan with you as a way of commencing preparations for the Season.



HOW WILL MELBOURNE WRITERS' THEATRE

SUPPORT THE SELECTED WRITER/PRODUCER?

MWT has held its annual Season at La Mama Courthouse since 1982, so we have a thorough understanding of what it takes to mount a successful production. You want to attract good, enthusiastic houses each night, and a great script alone won't make this happen. To build a successful show across two weeks, you need an effective marketing campaign, technical theatre knowledge and the backing of a committed director, actors and crew.

We like nothing better than giving talented new playwrights their first big break, which is why we ask writers who are submitting for **Category 1: New Play** to do so with a "blind" script from which their names have been removed. This ensures that your script is judged fairly, and on its merit. However, before you submit your precious script, please ask yourself if you can give it the "life on stage" that it deserves. The most successful plays that we have had the pleasure of supporting have usually

come from Writer/Producers - writers who have the proven ability to mount a successful production, with all of the costing, marketing and business/technical expertise this entails. You will already have a **DIRECTOR** attached to your script, this being a requirement for all writers submitting for **Category 1: New Play**. You will have some **FINANCE** in place, so that you can afford to factor into your production budget the \$2000 required to rent the Courthouse for the two weeks of your production - and importantly, you will be in a position to offer a guaranteed fee to your Director and a fee above and beyond profit share to your actors. You will have **ACCESS** to actors and a rehearsal space in the months leading up to the production, and access to important crew members - eg. lighting designers, set builders, sound technicians. You will have come up with a **MARKETING PLAN** that you can use to effectively publicise your play.

MWT will provide you with a Stage Manager/Lighting Tech and front-of-house support for the two weeks of your season, and we'll be on hand with advice whenever you need it. We'll also promote your show on this website, in our e-newsletter PLAYBILL, and on our Facebook page. But as an unfunded, volunteer-run organisation, we are not in a position to offer more than this. This is your show, your chance to shine. We're just glad that we can give you the opportunity to make it happen.

We wish you the best of luck with your submission,

and look forward to receiving it by

15th June 2016.

mwt
melbourne writers' theatre

www.melbournewriterstheatre.org.au

