

Radius playwriting competition 2018

Rules and guidelines for entrants



1. The competition is open to all, both members and non-members of Radius, but is restricted to UK residents. Entries must consist of original and previously unpublished works. The script should not have been performed within a professional theatre context nor published in any other way than personally by the author e.g. shared by email, or included on a blog or writer's forum.

2. Entrants should bear in mind the aims and objectives of Radius. This includes the encouragement of all drama which throws light on the human condition, especially from a Christian understanding. Religious themes need not be mentioned explicitly, and a play about the transformative power of love, for instance, would fall within Radius's remit.

3. Submissions should be emailed to info@radiusdrama.org.uk. An accompanying email should contain the writer's name, address and a contact telephone number.

4. The competitor's name and contact details must not appear anywhere on the script. Names will not be revealed to the judges until after the final adjudication.

5. Scripts should be formatted so that lines of dialogue are fully indented and double spaced, and stage directions distinguished with italics.

6. Competitors can submit one script only. It must be at least 60 minutes and not longer than two hours in performance.

7. An outline of the plot, of no more than 300 words, is required and should be placed at the beginning of the script. An example follows:

A.

Provide a short, economical summary of the plot. No more than three sentences.

Prince Hamlet believes that his uncle has murdered his father. He must do something about it. But what?

B.

Say what sort of drama it is and the sort of things it deals with.

Hamlet is a large-cast drama exploring notions of revenge, madness and personal identity. It is a tragedy written in verse and prose and is set in and around the castle at Elsinore, in Denmark. Some of its key moments are to be found in passages of direct address to the audience. It has a ghost, a duel and a love story.

C.

Outline the bare bones of the story

Hamlet is told of the murder by the ghost of his father. His uncle, Claudius, is the murderer - and is now married to Hamlet's mother. Hamlet

believes the ghost but feels he needs more proof before he can act, so he persuades a group of travelling players to perform a drama of the murder. He intends to watch Claudius to see how he reacts.

Meanwhile the court, under the influence of Polonius, the chief minister, is becoming anxious about Hamlet's increasingly strange behaviour. Attempts are made to spy on him, to see what he's planning. Polonius tells his daughter, Ophelia, to help with this. Hamlet was once in love with Ophelia and the strain of this situation drives her out of her senses. Hamlet kills Polonius by accident and is sent to England by Claudius. While he's out of the country Ophelia takes her own life.

On the way to England, Hamlet foils a plot to have him killed. He then returns to Denmark, determined to set matters right. He learns of Ophelia's death and is confronted by her brother Laertes who blames Hamlet for what has happened. Hamlet's revenge is finally brought about during a duel with Laertes. Hamlet manages to kill Claudius but only when his own life is ebbing away.

8. Radius reserves the right to withhold awarding a prize in the event of entries not reaching a sufficiently high standard.

9. The judges' decision on all matters is final. Judges cannot enter into any correspondence nor is it possible to provide any feedback to authors on their work.

10. It is understood that the copyright of plays submitted remains with the author but that Radius is granted first option on the right to publish, as an e-script, the winning entry.

11. The prize, to be awarded at the discretion of the judges, is £500. In addition, the winning script will be guaranteed a staged reading performance at **Vibrant 2018 – A Festival of**

Finborough Playwrights (for which no royalty will be paid) held at the Finborough Theatre, London in October 2018. The winning playwright will be required to work with a dramaturg prior to this staged reading.

12. All entries must be received by 5 pm on 1 May 2018. The winner will be announced on 23 July 2018.

The Judges

Neil McPherson trained as an actor at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and the National Youth Theatre. He has been Artistic Director of the Finborough Theatre, London, since 1999, and has twice won the Best Artistic Director Award in the OffWestEnd Theatre Awards. His award winning first play, *I Wish to Die Singing – Voices from The Armenian Genocide* was presented at the Finborough Theatre in 2015, and an excerpt was also performed concurrently in Los Angeles. His second play *It Is Easy to be Dead* sold out at the Finborough Theatre, and subsequently transferred to the West End where it was nominated for an Olivier Award.

Sue Healy is Literary Manager at the Finborough Theatre and associate lecturer in playwriting at the Universities of Lincoln and Portsmouth. She also tutors Creative Writing at CityLit. Her latest play *Imaginationship* premieres at the Finborough Theatre in January 2018. Previously, *Cow* (2017) showed at the Etcetera Theatre and *Brazen* (2016) ran at the King's Head. Her work has been performed at the Arcola, Criterion, Hackney Attic, Claremorris Festival (New Writing Award winner), Brighton Festival (the Sussex Playwrights' Award Winner) and Sterts Theatre, and has been developed by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

For more information about the Finborough Theatre go to www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk.