



Carnival Hour Plays

*PLAYWRITING COMPETITION FOR
AUSTRALIAN PLAYWRIGHTS*

*Prizes: Best Play \$4000
 Second \$2000
 Entry fee \$40 per script*

Entries Closing Date: 31st January 2017
(Entries must be received by day 31st January)

Stage Presentation: 18th – 23rd September 2017

Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Society
PO Box 471, Toowoomba, Queensland, 4350.
94 Margaret Street, Toowoomba.
Convenor: Mike Taylor Ph. 0422 514 183
Email: rep.playwriting@yahoo.com
Website: www.toowoombarepertorytheatre.com.au

OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of the competition is to foster and encourage new and experienced Australian playwrights, whether amateur or professional. More specifically, the competition aims to provide:

- Professional written adjudication of the work of the shortlisted playwrights,
- Professional-led workshopping of the two winning scripts, and
- Staging of the two winning plays.

The competition also aims to foster the growth and experience of our theatre members in the staging of new work, as well as enabling the Society to bring an innovative and interesting theatrical event to Toowoomba.

An important objective, contained within our processes, is to protect the intellectual property rights of the submitters.

JUDGING OF THE PLAY SCRIPTS

A panel of three experienced reading judges will assess each script independently and anonymously, taking into consideration the criteria set out below. This panel will determine a shortlist of approximately ten submissions for further professional consideration.

Three industry professionals will be engaged to evaluate the shortlisted plays, and will prepare written feedback on each for the benefit of the authors. The two winning submissions are selected according to the professional judges' decisions and comments.

The Convenor coordinates the judging but will not be a member of the reading panel. All entries will remain anonymous to the reading judges and professionals at all times.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT:

PLOT:	Structure Originality of plot idea and creativity of plot development
CHARACTERISATION:	Development of characters Believability of characters and avoidance of stereotypes
DIALOGUE:	Economy of language Relevance to plot Relevance to characters Dialogue flow
PLAY OVERALL:	Audience appeal Practicality of staging

AWARDS

Playwrights' awards total \$6000, divided as follows:

- Best play** - Certificate plus cash prize of \$4000
- Second best play** - Certificate plus cash prize of \$2000

PROCESS FOR WINNING SCRIPTS

Workshopping:

The winning scripts will be workshopped over a full weekend at the Repertory Theatre, one script on each day, under the leadership of a professional Dramaturg who reports to the Convenor, to develop the draft scripts to the stage of being production-ready. Attendees will be the playwrights, the Convenor and the production team, i.e. the directors and actors. The goals of the workshop will be to ensure that:

- Everyone who will be involved in the production is fully understanding of the intent of the plays and therefore the interpretation of the characters, scenes, etc.
- The design and presentation of the productions are consistent with the authors' original intent.
- The scripts are able to be practically staged at the Rep Theatre.

If the playwright is unable to attend the workshop due to distance, other commitments, etc. then it may be possible to take part remotely, e.g. via Skype or conference call, at appropriate stages within the process.

The workshop will agree on what changes are needed to the script to ensure that the above goals are achieved. A cooperative approach will be taken with the playwrights to ensure that the integrity and character of the winning plays are preserved. The production team will not impose ideas for change, but it is expected that the playwrights try to be receptive to suggestions that will be aimed at achieving practical staging goals as well as perhaps fine-tuning the structure and style of the dialogue, movement, etc. The Dramaturg will have the responsibility to assist the writer in this regard, but the writer is the final arbiter of the script.

Each director, while working as harmoniously as possible with the entire team to realise his/her vision for the play, will have the final responsibility for production decisions.

Playwright's Review:

The playwrights will review and rewrite if necessary their scripts to incorporate the results of the workshopping process. The degree to which the writer chooses to alter the text is up to him/her. If extensive changes are planned, then the writer should discuss the planned changes with the Convenor early in the process.

Production:

The plays will be performed during the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers in September on six consecutive nights. The directors for the production shall be appointed by Rep. Theatre and the cast and crew shall be sourced by the Rep. Production committee.

Timeline:

The timeline for the process of judging and review is as follows:

Competition entries close	31 st January
Completion of shortlisting by reading judges	1 st April
Completion of review by professional judges	1 st May
Selection of two winners	7 th May
Weekend workshopping of scripts	17 th /18 th June (one day per script)
Completion of playwright's script review	1 st August

The above timeline will be adhered to as closely as possible. Any variations will be negotiated as circumstances dictate.

RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY

AS ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

NB: Failure to comply with any of these rules will mean disqualification from the competition.

1. **SCRIPTS MUST BE WHOLLY THE ORIGINAL WORK OF THE PLAYWRIGHT AND NOT COMMERCIALY PUBLISHED.** Any quotations from another source included in the script must be fully acknowledged within the dialogue.
2. This competition is for **AUSTRALIAN PLAYWRIGHTS ONLY** who are normally resident in Australia and who will be available to attend the scheduled weekend workshop. If attendance at the workshop is not possible, then alternatives such as Skype shall be considered. It would be most beneficial, however, if the playwright can attend in person.
3. The submitted script must not have been previously performed or workshopped, and performance or workshopping of the script must not occur prior to the announcement of the winners. This announcement is expected to be made by mid-May.
4. Scripts must not have received any prize in any previous script competition.
5. To assist circulation for adjudication, hard bound copies of the scripts are required. Scripts must be printed on one side of A4 paper and three bound copies must be submitted. (Please ensure they will not fall apart – a paperclip or single corner staple is not sufficient.) A synopsis sheet (see below) should be included as the first page of each bound copy.
6. Scripts must cater for a performance time of no less than 50 mins and no more than 75 minutes. (We suggest you read your script aloud, and time it.)
7. Scripts must be suitable for production on a theatre stage with a proscenium width of 7 metres, stage ceiling height of 3 metres and depth of 5 metres.
8. While there are no restrictions on subject matter, theme or style, it must be remembered that this is a stage production, not a film, TV or radio play.
9. Preference will be given to plays with smaller cast sizes. Plays should preferably have a cast of fewer than eight.
10. Plays should be capable of being performed within a simplistic stage setting (10 min bump in, 10 min bump out) as the two finalist plays are performed each night during the Carnival. Plays should not involve multiple scene changes and should have limited lighting, sound, special effects and props requirements. The acting area is bound by black curtains, which can be adjusted to permit entry points at various locations.
11. The judges' decisions are final and no communication or correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection or judging of the two winning plays.

12. Scripts will be returned only if adequate postage is supplied on a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Only the shortlisted plays will receive the professional judges' comments and feedback.
13. Toowoomba Repertory Theatre will not accept any responsibility for scripts lost, received late, or are unable to be returned, as stated above. All scripts remaining in Toowoomba Repertory Theatre's possession, three calendar months after the close of the Festival, will be destroyed, unless prior arrangements are made for their return.
14. **THE AUTHOR'S NAME MUST NOT APPEAR ANYWHERE ON THE MANUSCRIPTS.** The scripts are judged anonymously.
15. For each winning script, performing rights are to be granted by the playwright to Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Society for the duration of the performances at the 2017 Carnival of Flowers, without the need to pay a royalty fee.
16. The official entry form with name of play and writer's full contact details must be included with the scripts. There is no limit on the number of entries but each one must include an entry form, which may be photocopied or down-loaded from the Toowoomba Repertory Theatre's website, www.toowoombarepertorytheatre.com.au
Alternatively, we will mail a copy of the rules and entry form if required.
17. The two finalists will be asked to supply a professional headshot and a short personal biography of 150 – 200 words for publicity purposes.
18. The entry fee of \$40 is payable for each entry. Alternatives for payment are:

Bank transfer: Account name: Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Society
Bank: Heritage Bank
BSB 638-080
Account number 5856647 (Your name in the reference field please)

PayPal: Use email address rep.playwriting@yahoo.com

Cheque or money order payable to Toowoomba Repertory Theatre.
19. **Closing date is Tuesday 31st January 2017.** Entries must be **received** no later than the 31st. An entry that is delayed in delivery may be considered for inclusion provided that it is postmarked at a date which would have resulted in delivery by the deadline under normal conditions.

PLEASE POST ENTRIES TO:

Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Society
Carnival Hour Play Writing Competition 2017
PO Box 471 Toowoomba, Qld 4350

Entry Form

Toowoomba Repertory Theatre

Carnival Hour Plays

Playwriting Competition 2017

I (Full Name): _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

make application for entry of my original script, entitled

(SCRIPT NAME): _____

in the Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Carnival Hour Playwriting Competition for 2017.

I agree to abide by the conditions and rules:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

How did you hear about this competition?

Past submitter Writing Association Newspaper/ other media

Internet search Facebook Word of mouth

Other (please specify) _____

CHECKLIST for Inclusion:

- 3 bound copies of manuscript with synopsis sheet at the front (with NO reference to author's name)
- Stamped, self-addressed large envelope (only if you require the scripts to be returned)
- Entry Form, with synopsis sheet attached
- Print out of bank transfer or PayPal payment, or Cheque/Money Order

SCRIPT SYNOPSIS SHEET

This must accompany your entry form and should be the first page of each bound copy of the script. The synopsis should be in the following format.

Script Title

Plot Synopsis

Genre (i.e. Drama, Comedy etc.)

Setting

Place

Time

Stage sets and props

Estimated Running Time (must be between 50 and 75 minutes)

(Please read your script aloud, time it, and make sure it complies with the requirements of rules)

Cast List (gender, age, specific requirements or description)