



# **Carnival Hour Plays**

*PLAYWRITING COMPETITION FOR  
AUSTRALIAN PLAYWRIGHTS*

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

**Entries Closing Date:    30<sup>th</sup> September 2017**  
(Entries must be received by day 30<sup>th</sup> September)

**Stage Presentation:      24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018\***

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](http://www.toowoombarepertorytheatre.com.au)

\*Actual dates subject to confirmation

## 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,
- Development and workshopping of the two winning scripts, led by a professional dramaturge, and
- Staging of the two winning plays at the Carnival of Flowers.

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 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

**Script Development:** The two winning scripts will undergo a review process led by a professional dramaturge appointed by Rep. Theatre. The intention is to assist the playwrights to fully realise the potential of their scripts and to ensure their stage-readiness. Key points of this process are:

- The dramaturge and the playwright will meet in person or via phone or skype to discuss the work in detail. The number of meetings will be determined by the nature of the work and its needs.
- The direction of a script's development is always determined by the playwright and his/her vision. A revised draft will be due in mid-May.

As part of the process, the scripts will be workshopped over a full weekend at the Repertory Theatre, one script on each day. Attendees for each day will be the dramaturge, the playwright, the convenor and the production team, i.e. the director and actors. The goals of the workshop will be to:

- Review the new drafts of the plays to assess their development and plot a way forward to the rehearsal draft.
- Introduce everyone who will be involved in the production to the playwright and his/her script to support a greater understanding of the work in the lead up to rehearsal.
- Ensure that the script is 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.

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

Competition entries close	30 <sup>th</sup> September
Completion of shortlisting by reading judges	30 <sup>th</sup> November
Completion of review by professional judges	1 <sup>st</sup> January
Selection of two winners	Mid-January
Review by Dramaturge commences	Mid-January
Workshop draft due	Mid-May
Weekend workshopping of scripts	16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> June (one day per script)
Rehearsal draft due	1 <sup>st</sup> 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-January.
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. 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 2018 Carnival of Flowers, without the need to pay a royalty fee.
16. Each director of the plays, while working as harmoniously as possible with the playwright to realise his/her vision for the play, will have the final responsibility for production decisions. The directors shall be appointed by Rep. Theatre and the cast and crew shall be sourced by the Rep. Production committee.
17. 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](http://www.toowoombarepertorytheatre.com.au) Alternatively, we will mail a copy of the rules and entry form if required.
18. The two finalists will be asked to supply a professional headshot and a short personal biography of 150 – 200 words for publicity purposes.
19. 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.
20. **Closing date is Saturday 30th September 2017.** Entries must be **received** no later than the 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 2018  
PO Box 471 Toowoomba, Qld 4350

# Entry Form

Toowoomba Repertory Theatre

## Carnival Hour Plays

Playwriting Competition 2018

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 2018.

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)**