



Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 July 2021

January 2021

Attention Playwrights!

SCRIPTS: Ireland's Playwriting Festival seeks new works for stage.

Calling all writers; Scripts is seeking new plays to inspire and incite. The theme for 2021 is **Emergence**. In a year when there was a cover of darkness, we are beginning to see the glimmer of light ahead of us. As we tiptoe towards a hopeful reawakening, we find ourselves reflecting on new beginnings, new perspectives, and the want for connection. What will emerge as we head into 2021? From big societal changes to small internal evolutions, how does emergence speak to you? Could you take on this theme and write a contemporary piece of drama that moves and shakes the senses? Emergence can mean different things from the very personal stories to broader strokes. While this year's theme is certainly a nod to our times, we welcome plays that look imaginatively at how characters can emerge from all of life's challenges.

Taking place in Birr, Co Offaly, Scripts Ireland's Playwriting Festival creates unique opportunities for playwrights to have their work developed and produced. Three scripts most suited for development, will be selected through a rigorous shortlisting process.

These selected playwrights, then receive a week of mentoring and script development under the guidance of Playwright and Screenwriter **Eugene O'Brien**, where the whole process of writing and rewriting is explored in a collaborative supportive environment. The festival supports three playwrights with a team of artists to mentor, develop and produce the emerging scripts for a rehearsed reading of the new works at the festival finale. Industry professionals then judge the final versions and a winner is selected. Previous judges have included Jim Culleton of Fishamble Theatre, Jesse Weaver of The Abbey Theatre, playwright and theatre director Phillip McMahon, and playwright, director, and performer Gina Moxley.

Terms and Conditions:

Playwrights (both established and emerging) are invited to submit original 15 minute plays on the theme "**Emergence.**"

Deadline for submissions is **Friday 5 March 2021, 5pm.**

Playwrights can submit plays through the online submission form at www.scriptsireland.com. Cost of submission is €7.

Plays should have no more than 3 characters, and there is a limit of one play submission per applicant.

Playwrights must be available to be in Birr from **Monday 5 July -Thursday 8 July 2021**, as well as attend the headline event at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre on **Sunday 11 July 2021** where the plays will be presented as staged readings. For planning purposes, we will be following Covid safety guidelines and will have procedures in place to comply with the safety protocols at the time of the festival. This can include moving the mentoring and performances to an online medium if necessary.

The judges' decision is final and Scripts will not enter into correspondence concerning the judging or merits awarded.

There will be an outright prize for "*Best Play*" which may include opportunities for winning playwrights to meet and engage with production and dramaturgy departments of professional theatre companies and taking part in professional development courses. Previous prize sponsors have included The Abbey Theatre and Fishamble. The winning play may then go on to represent the festival in further opportunities and events, should suitable situations arise.

While copyright of the play will remain with the playwright, Scripts reserves the right to arrange the first performance of the selected work if deemed appropriate and to use the play for publicity for the festival.

For more information as well as the submission conditions, log on to www.scriptsireland.com

What is Scripts?

This innovative playwriting festival features a host of exciting events for lovers of theatre - those who want to create, perform, and watch live new theatre in beautiful surroundings. Since its establishment in 2013, by Jasango Theatre and Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Scripts has established collaborative links with key organisations including The Abbey Theatre, Fishamble Theatre, Listowel Writers Week, Irish Writers Centre, RTÉ Drama On One, Culture Night, #Waking The Feminists & more. As well as winning a PPI Radio Award for Drama with Midlands 103, *Scripts* has created incomparable opportunities for playwrights, actors, directors & producers to continually strive for excellence in the craft of Playwriting & Drama. From workshops and panel discussions to children's theatre and site-specific works, Scripts constantly strives to expand the scope of the festival while keeping the ultimate focus on what *Scripts* is most passionate about - nurturing new writing.

SCRIPTS is supported by Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Jasango Theatre, Offaly County Council, Arts Council of Ireland, Offaly Local Development Company

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