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Play writing competition 2022

Information for entrants

Calling all budding playwrights and Shakespeare wannabes!

The Wateryard Group are announcing an exciting new playwriting competition for new and amateur writers young and old. There are different categories for writers aged 8 upwards.

The aim is to perform the winning plays in the Spring of 2023. We hope this will be as a full performance; but if health and safety guidance does not permit, then a rehearsed reading will be performed instead.

Dates

Competition opens on Friday 17th June 2022

Closing date for submissions is 4.00 pm Saturday 10th September 2022

Winners will be contacted by Friday 16th December 2022

Submitting your entry

Send your entries to wateryardplaycomp@outlook.com along with your completed entry form, which [you can download here](#). Entrants must be resident in the UK.

Please ensure all entries are submitted in the correct format. For details about the correct format together with further entry guidelines, please see our [Competition 2022 Terms and Conditions](#) on pages 3 and 4 below.

If you have any questions about the competition, please contact us at info@wateryard.org.uk.

Competition theme

All pieces should be on the theme of ENVIRONMENT. Please feel free to interpret this theme in any creative way you would like.

Competition categories

Ages 8-12: short drama piece to last approximately 5 minutes' performance time. It can be a single scene or series of linked scenes to form a single continuous performance piece. The staging should be simple and achievable using simple props and furniture. The piece can be a monologue or performed by up to 5 actors.

Ages 13-17: short drama piece to last approximately 10 minutes' performance time. It should take the form of a short one-act play and should tell a story with a clear beginning, middle and end. The staging should be simple and achievable using simple props and furniture. The piece can be a monologue or performed by up to 5 actors.

Ages 18+: short drama piece to last approximately 10 minutes' performance time. It should take the form of a short one-act play and should tell a story with a clear beginning, middle and end. The staging should be simple and achievable using simple props and furniture. The piece can be a monologue or performed by up to 5 actors.

Judging Panel

We will be announcing our Judging Panel shortly – keep watching this page!

Judging process

The Judges will select a short list of 10 entries from each age category, from which 1 Winner and 2 Runners Up will be awarded per category.

Tips on Formatting and Play Length:

Estimates of stage time will be approximate, as much depends on the speed of the dialogue – is it quick witter banter or slow and tense, with lots of pauses? So, with that said, what's the best way to approximate the length of your play?

Page count: The most common way of estimating is page count, with the usual approximation being one minute per page. The basic flaw in this is that it assumes that everyone uses a standard page layout.

So, if you are using this way of estimating length, it is important that you format the play correctly.

Here is a guide on how we would like you to format your plays:

<http://www.comedyplays.co.uk/cpv5/scripts/spf.pdf>

Word count: The other way to estimate play length is using a word count – generally 100 to 200 words per minute.

Some short blogs on writing short 10-minute plays

<https://pwcenter.org/playwriting-toolkit/how-write-10-minute-play>

https://www.10-minute-plays.com/how_to_write_a_10_minute_play.html

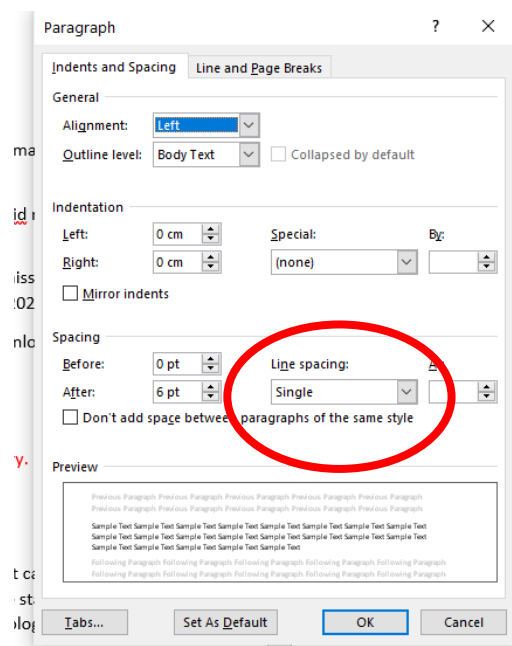
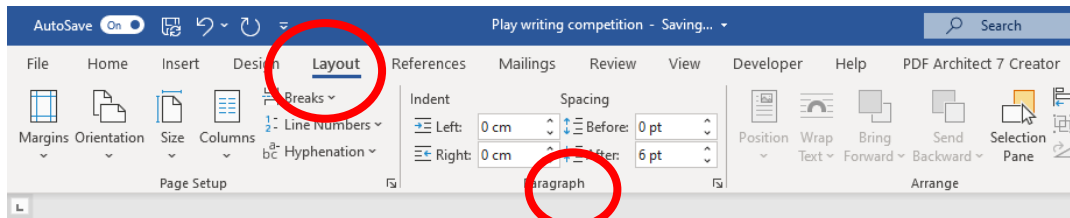
<https://ktcraig.com/2014/01/13/how-to-write-a-10-minute-play/>

<https://www.bbcmaestro.com/courses/jed-mercurio/writing-drama-for-television>

The Wateryard Group Playwriting Competition 2022 Terms and Conditions

1. The competition is organised by the Wateryard Group.
2. Submissions must be on the theme of ENVIRONMENT. Please feel free to interpret this theme in any creative way you would like.
3. Submissions must not exceed the performance time stated for each category. If in doubt, try reading your entry aloud and check how long it takes.
4. Entrants must be resident in the UK. Entrants aged 18+ will be asked to provide their name, age and contact information. For entrants younger than 18 years, a parent or guardian will need to provide this information.
5. Entrants may illustrate their submission, but entries will be judged on written work only.
6. It is a condition of entry that all decisions are accepted as final and submission of an entry will be taken to mean acceptance of these terms and conditions.
7. Entry opens on Friday 16th June and closes on Saturday 10th September 2022 at 4pm. Submissions after this date and time will not be considered.
8. Entrants can enter individually or may collaborate with another person or persons. However, all persons collaborating on a submission must be within the same age category.
9. More than one entry per person is permitted.
10. Entries must be submitted in electronic format as a Word or text file. Please use Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman Font, size 12. Line spacing should be double spaced.

(To select double spacing in Word, click on Layout, then Paragraph – expand button, then Line spacing. Use the dropdown box to select ‘double’ then click Okay.)



For more detailed guidance on how to format a play script, go to:

<http://www.comedyplays.co.uk/cpv5/scripts/spf.pdf>

11. Unsuccessful entrants will be contacted to let them know they have not been successful. However, no feedback on any entry will be provided.
12. All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must be submitted in English. Entrants aged 18+ will be asked to certify that the submission is entirely their own work. For entrants younger than 18 years, a parent or guardian will need to sign on behalf of the entrant.
13. Entrants own the copyright to their works but grant the Wateryard Group a one-off right to publish the entry online on the Wateryard website. In the event that the entry is published, only the story title, entrant's name and the age category will be published with an entry.
14. The entries will be judged by a Panel whose membership is at the sole discretion of the Wateryard Group.
15. Winners will be contacted by Friday 16th December 2022.
16. The Wateryard Group's decision at each stage of this competition is final and no correspondence will be entered into on this matter.