

FAQs:

- Can I submit if I have a play that I think is ready to perform?

Yes, absolutely. Please make sure you select only a 10-15 minute extract to submit initially - we will not be accepting full drafts for the first round.

- Do I have to be able to attend the New Writing Night on 30th March in order to submit?

We do not normally require our writers to attend the New Writing Nights (though it's strongly recommended!), but for the Showcase Scheme, we can only consider those submissions that will have the writer in attendance on 30th March. In order to get the full benefit from this process, you should be directly involved in rehearsals, meetings with actors/directors, and the performance itself whenever possible, and we need to see that our Showcase writer is committed from the outset. Nothing helps to develop playwriting like seeing it on its feet!

- Will being involved cost me anything?

Absolutely nothing (say it again!). Blackshaw will take on all production costs and responsibilities (NB: this does mean we set the budgets, select the venue etc). The only costs you may have to bear is travel to any meetings/rehearsals you attend, as we are unlikely to be able to reimburse for this.

- What does it actually mean when you say Blackshaw will 'produce' my play?

It means that Blackshaw will assemble the necessary cast and creatives, select and liaise with the venue, publicise the show, sell tickets - anything that needs to happen for the show to go on, we will do. We will also cover all production costs - venue hire, technical equipment, artist's fees, set, costume, etc.

- How long will I have to develop my play?

We will announce the chosen Showcase writer by Monday 11th April 2016. You will have from this point, until 1st November 2016, to produce your complete, rehearsal-ready, script.

- Is there a limit to characters and length of my play?

Both your extract for the special shortlist New Writing Night (30th March) and your finished piece should require no more than 4 actors. For the shortlist New Writing Night (30th March) your extract should be a max of 15 mins. For the final showcase script, no longer than 1h15mins.

- Can I be involved in the selection of actors and rehearsals for my play?

For the special shortlist New Writing Night (30th March), we will follow the usual casting protocol for New Writing Nights (we select the cast from applicants on Casting Call Pro), and assign you a director. You can though, provide your own cast and director if you prefer. We do encourage writers to be actively involved in the rehearsal process though - it's integral to developing work. For the full showcase in Jan 2017 - Yes please! We want the Showcase writer involved as much as possible - casting decisions and artistic direction will be down to the Director, but the showcase writer should have plenty of input. This will be a collaborative process.

- Will I be paid anything for my involvement in the Showcase?

Afraid not - but it costs you nothing, and is a fantastic development opportunity for emerging writers.

