

Children and Young Persons Playwriting Award

Mad Apple Collective are proud to introduce the Children and Young Persons Playwriting Award! 2019 is the inaugural year and we are looking forward to reading all of the entries we receive!

There are **four categories**, with one award per category for 'Best Play'. In addition, there is a single award, which is our favorite play of all of the winning plays. The winner of each category will receive a small cash prize (we mean small, don't put a deposit down on a house or anything...), and perhaps more importantly, their play will be rehearsed and performed by Mad Apple Collective over 2 days in August 2019.

This is our attempt to get out there and discover the young writing talent in our midst, give them the opportunity to have their work recognised and performed publicly, and hopefully inspire them to go on and do more writing in the future.

The Categories

The categories into which all entries will be allocated are as follows:

Category One: **10yrs and Under**

Category Two: **11yrs – 12yrs**

Category Three: **13yrs – 15yrs**

Category Four: **16yrs – 18yrs**

The Awards

The following awards are available:

Best Play – Category One (Public performance + £20 prize money)

Best Play – Category Two (Public performance + £20 prize money)

Best Play – Category Three (Public performance + £30 prize money)

Best Play – Category Four (Public performance + £30 prize money)

Best Overall Play (Trophy Award)

The Best Overall Play will be selected from the winners of the four categories.

What we are looking for

We are looking for the plays that contain imaginative and original ideas, intriguing characters and brilliant dialogue. Make your play jump off the page and grab our attention!

Each category is themed, and entries must reflect the theme; how you choose to do that is up to you! There are also minimum/maximum requirements for each category in terms of the length of the play and the number of characters.

Themes

The themes for each category are as follows:

Category One: The Night of Adventures

Night-time is the right time for adventure! All sorts of things happen at night when the moon is high and the world has gone to sleep. From smugglers and ninjas to detectives and treasure hunters – all the interesting people seem to come out when the sun goes down! What is the adventure? Who is involved and what happens? We want big, bold adventures under the cover of darkness!

Category Two: The Journey

Journeys come in all shapes and sizes. From a 7-day mission on the Trans-Siberian Railway to space flights, seemingly ordinary journeys down the road and journeys of the mind. Who is taking the journey – and who are they with? What happens to them and, maybe more importantly, do they get to their destination – where or whatever that may be?

Category Three: The Discovery

There are two big questions when it comes to a discovery; what is it and is it good or bad? As with all of the best questions, there are no easy answers! What happens to the people making the discovery – and what is the impact of their great or terrible finding?

Category Four: **Tech Is Your Friend**

Are we so sure that technology is our friend? At what point can social media begin to be not so social? And how far is too far when it comes to tech? Charlie Brooker cornered the market in seeing into the near future with his *Black Mirror* series. Now we're looking for your visions of the future, in all their potentially terrible or enlightening glory. Robotics that have more in mind than just their programmes, apps which apply themselves a bit too much and wondrous scientific advances. What do you see in the future?

Play Requirements

Note: When we refer to plays being measured in 'sides of A4', we mean a side of A4 paper with text no larger than 14pt in size, or of average handwriting size and covering the majority of the page.

All writers should look at our example play before beginning their play to see our preferred layout.

Category One: **The Night of Adventures**

We are looking for plays which are approximately 5 sides of A4 long and involve at least 2 characters. Plays should be no longer than 15 sides of A4 and contain no more than 4 characters.

Category Two: **The Journey**

We are looking for plays which are approximately 10 sides of A4 long and involve at least 2 characters. Plays should be no longer than 20 sides of A4 and contain no more than 4 characters.

Category Three: **The Discovery**

We are looking for plays which are approximately 15 sides of A4 long and involve at least 3 characters. Plays should be no longer than 23 sides of A4 and contain no more than 4 characters.

Category Four: **Tech Is Your Friend**

We are looking for plays which are no shorter in length than 20 sides of A4 and involve at least 3 characters. Plays should be no longer than 25 sides of A4 and contain no more than 4 characters.

Submissions

We are anticipating a large response to this competition and, as such, we would urge everyone to carefully read the submission guidance below.

How to Submit

Submissions must be e-mailed to: **madapplecollective@gmail.com**

All submissions must include the following details:

- Writers Name
- Writers Age
- Writers current home postcode and e-mail address. If the writer lives outside of our postcode range but attends full-time education within our postcode range, they should also provide the postcode of their school/college.

All submissions must be received in one of the following electronic formats:

- Microsoft Word (or similar provided it can be opened using MS Word)
- PDF

We **will accept** scanned copies of handwritten plays; they must be scanned and sent electronically in one of the above-mentioned formats. No postal or hard copy scripts will be accepted.

Submissions from Under 16's

All submissions from those aged less than 16 years must include the name and contact details of their parent/guardian. We encourage all writers under 16 to seek permission to enter from their parent/guardian before entering.

The Deadline

All submissions must be with us by **9pm on April 7th 2019**. No late entries will be accepted.

Schools

If a school wish to submit multiple scripts on behalf of their pupils, please contact us directly to make arrangements via madapplecollective@gmail.com or 07891 197181.

Criteria

This competition is only open to people aged 18yrs and under at the time of their submission. There is technically no lower age limit.

Because we are particularly focused on discovering and developing children and young people in our area, we will only accept submissions from those living or attending full-time education in the following postal code areas:

CM--
CO--
CB--
RM--
SS--
IG--

How we will judge the competition

Each category will be allocated to a member of the Mad Apple Collective management team. They will read all of the plays and, depending on the number of entries, identify a 'long list' of finalists if necessary followed by a 'shortlist'. From the shortlist, a winning play will be chosen.

In determining which plays make it through to the shortlist and go on to win their category, we will be looking at the following:

- The quality of the idea and its originality; we are looking for ideas which jump off of the page and capture the imagination.

- The characters and their dialogue; we are looking for characters which intrigue us and dialogue which draws us into the story.
- The layout and approach to writing the script; although less important, we will be keeping an eye out for those scripts which are easy to read in their layout and which appear to have paid attention to our guidance notes.

Owing to the anticipated number of entries, we regret that we will be unable to offer any feedback on individual scripts or rationale for proceeding or not proceeding in the selection process.