



Patron: David Williamson

**2011
NATIONAL ONE-ACT
PLAYWRITING
COMPETITION**

**Part 1:
Objectives, Rules and Conditions of Entry**

**Part 2:
Notes for Adjudicators**

**Part 3:
Guidelines and Rules for Directors**

**Part 4:
Judging, Official Entry Form, Synopsis**

**Entries Closing Date: 15TH NOVEMBER 2010
Stage Presentation: Mid June 2011**

Noosa Arts Theatre Inc.
Weyba Road, Noosaville.
Ph: (07) 5449 9343

Email: oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au
Website: www.noosaartstheatre.org.au

PART 1:

OBJECTIVES

Noosa Arts Theatre holds this annual competition to foster and encourage playwrights, whether amateur or professional, who will be judged on the **quality of their written script, and on its suitability for staging in an intimate theatre** setting. These scripts will be judged anonymously and equally by an adjudication panel.

AWARDS

- Awards are presented for Best Actress, Actor and Director on the final Saturday night of the Festival.
- The most popular play is judged by audience vote and the award, The Nancy Cato Audience Choice Award, and cheques are presented to the playwrights after the final Saturday night's performance.
- The \$5000 prize money donated by the Macquarie Bank and Noosa Arts Theatre is divided between the playwrights of three best written scripts and the presentation of the awards and cheques is made after the final performance at the Noosa Arts Theatre Festival of One Act Plays.

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. Receipt of script will be acknowledged.

1. Scripts must be new, original works of the playwright and not previously commercially **published** or **publicly performed**. Also these scripts must not be **workshopped** or **performed** between the time of entry and the close of entry to the Noosa Arts Theatre One-Act Play Festival.
2.
 - a. To assist circulation for adjudication, scripts must be printed on **one** side of A4 paper and **three** BOUND copies must be submitted, accompanied by an **official entry form** and **synopsis**.
 - b. Each copy **MUST INCLUDE A SYNOPSIS** and **MUST BE SECURED IN A FOLDER OR BINDER**.
*(Please ensure they will not fall apart – A paperclip or staple is **NOT** sufficient)*
3.
 - a. SCRIPTS MUST CATER FOR A PERFORMANCE TIME OF **NO LESS THAN 30 MINS** AND **NO MORE THAN 45 MINUTES**.
(We suggest you read your script aloud, and time it.)
 - b. Scripts must be suitable for production on a theatre stage of **approx 30 sq.m.** with a **proscenium width of 8m, stage height of 2.5m and depth of 5m**.
 - c. **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.**
 - d. Plays should be capable of being performed within a **SIMPLISTIC stage setting** as the three finalist plays are performed each night. Plays should not involve more than one simple scene change and limited lighting, sound, special effects and props requirements.
4.
 - a. The judges' decisions are final and no communication or correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection or judging of the winning plays. Finalists will be notified.
 - b. Scripts will be returned only if **adequate postage** is supplied on a **stamped, self-addressed envelope**. Short-listed plays will receive adjudicators' comments.
 - c. Noosa Arts Theatre **will not accept any responsibility for scripts lost, received late, or are unable to be returned**, as stated above. All scripts remaining in Noosa Arts Theatre's possession, three calendar months after the

close of the Festival, will be destroyed, unless prior arrangements are made.

5. **THE AUTHOR'S NAME MUST NOT APPEAR ANYWHERE ON THE MANUSCRIPTS. The scripts are adjudicated anonymously.**
6. The **official ENTRY FORM** with **name of play, writer's full address**, a typed **SYNOPSIS** and a **CHEQUE** or **money order** for **\$A20 fee per entry** must be included with the scripts.

There is no limit on the number of entries but each one must include an **entry form, synopsis** and **fee of \$A20**. Entry forms may be photo-copied or downloaded from the Noosa Arts Theatre's website, www.noosaartstheatre.org.au.

7. The judging procedure means there is some delay before a decision is made on the plays to be staged. The eventual winner and runners-up will only be announced on the final night of the Festival.
8. Should any script be chosen as a Finalist, performing rights are granted to Noosa Arts Theatre Inc for the duration of the Noosa Arts Theatre Festival of One-Act Plays, without the need to pay a Royalty fee.
9. Noosa Arts Theatre retains the right to enter any of the final three plays in the Sunshine Coast Theatre Festival, of that same year only, without payment of Royalties.
10. **A public open playreading of the final 3 plays will take place after the judging process has been completed. The 3 finalists will be invited to attend this playreading, to glean valuable feedback from audience and actors alike. The playwright will then be given 1 week to make minor amendments to the script. (Strict conditions apply). (The amended script must be received by Noosa Arts Theatre within this timeframe, in order for auditions to take place, and Directors to familiarise themselves with the amended script.) No other alterations to the script will be allowed between time of entry, and the announcement of the finalists.**

Closing date is 15TH NOVEMBER 2010.

A copy of the judging criteria is included for your reference

SEND ENTRIES TO:
Noosa Arts Theatre Inc
National One-Act Playwriting Competition 2010
PO Box 3
Noosa Heads. Qld. 4567.

The three finalists will be required to supply a current photograph and a personal biography for publicity purposes.

PART 2:

GUIDELINES FOR ADJUDICATORS

All adjudicators are asked to make themselves completely aware of the rules and conditions of this playwriting competition.

Adjudicator - Best Actress / Actor:

It will be necessary to be familiar with the plays prior to viewing. An address, from the stage will be required giving the reasons why the judgement was made.

Adjudicator – Best Director:

It will be necessary to be familiar with the scripts prior to viewing. An address, from the stage will be required.

PART 3:

GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR DIRECTORS

1. The choice of Directors is at the discretion of Noosa Arts Theatre.
2. It must be noted by all Directors that **no alteration to the script will be allowed** even with the playwright's permission. This would contravene Rule 10 of the 'Rules and Conditions of Entry'. Therefore **the play will be disqualified from receiving any performance awards.**
3. Noosa Arts Theatre will appoint a liaison person to the directors, an overall Stage Manager for the Festival and a Lighting and Sound Technician. They will need to know the requirements of the Directors and have a marked working script 14 days prior to the Dress Rehearsal.
4. All Directors are asked to make themselves familiar with Rule 3C (page 3) with regard to sets and scene changes, and the fact that there are three plays performed each night.
5. **Noosa Arts Theatre reserves the right to place restrictions on production expenditure.**

PART 4:

JUDGING OF THE ONE-ACT PLAYS

The panel of judges will assess each script independently and anonymously, taking into consideration the criteria set out below.

Their assessments are coordinated by the convener and a shortlist of plays is then re-judged. Only the convener knows the playwrights' names and the final order of winning scripts until they are announced after the final performance at the Festival.

CRITERIA

- A) **PLOT:**
 - Structure
 - Creativity of plot development
 - Originality of plot idea

- B) **CHARACTERISATION:**
 - Development of characters
 - Empathy of characters

- C) **DIALOGUE:**
 - Economy of language
 - Relevance to plot
 - Relevance to characters
 - Dialogue flow

- D) **PLAY OVERALL:**
 - Audience appeal

Entry Form



National One-Act Playwriting Competition 2011

(Please type your entry)

I (Full Name):

Address:

**Suburb:
Code:**

State:

Post

Phone:

Mobile:

Fax:

Email:

Make application for entry of my original script, entitled

(SCRIPT NAME):

in the Noosa Arts Theatre - National One-Act Playwriting Competition.

PLEASE READ THE RULES CAREFULLY!!

I herein after agree to abide by the conditions and rules:

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

How did you hear about this competition?? _____

Checklist:

- 3 bound copies of manuscript with Synopsis (no reference to author's name)
- Stamped, self-addressed LARGE envelope for return of scripts
- Official Entry Form
- Cheque/Money Order for \$A20

SCRIPT SYNOPSIS (typed please)
(This **must** accompany your entry form and scripts)

Script Title:

Plot Synopsis:

Category (ie Drama, Comedy etc):

Setting:

Place:

Time:

Stage sets and props:

Estimated Running Time:

(Please read your script aloud, time it, and make sure it complies with RULE #3)

Cast List (gender, age, specific requirements or description):

THE HISTORY OF THE NOOSA ARTS THEATRE NATIONAL ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

In 1978 The One-Act Playwriting Competition was instigated for residents of the Sunshine Coast to encourage aspiring playwrights, by giving them a chance to see their plays performed and to provide original scripts for the Noosa Arts Theatre. This Competition was the first of its kind in Australia.

The first winner was Nancy Cato's *Travelers Through The Night* and heads the Awards Board in the theatre's foyer.

In 1983 the Competition went 'National' when the Literature Board of the Australian Council granted \$500 for the winning playwright.

The prize-money, now donated by Macquarie Bank and Noosa Arts Theatre, stands at **\$5,000** and is divided between the three winning authors.

The Competition now attracts numerous entries from throughout Australia and overseas.

The 3 finalist plays are performed at Noosa Arts Theatre as part of the Noosa Longweekend 10 day festival.

During the six days of the Festival, judging takes place for Best Actor, Actress and Director, and the audience each night are asked to vote for 'Audience Choice Award', with the prize-money (donated by Nancy Cato's family) going to the author.

The script which wins the **Audience Choice Award** wins a publishing contract with Maverick Musicals and Plays and a small cash prize.

The presentations are made on the final night followed by a supper.

**PAST WINNERS OF
THE NOOSA ARTS THEATRE NATIONAL
ONE-ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION**

- 1978 *Travellers Through the Night* - Nancy Cato
1979 *Island Sanctuary* - George Smith
1980 *The Generation Gap* – Emma Freeman
1981 *That Special Day* - Emma Freeman
1982 *Up With the Larks* - Emma Freeman
1983 *A Day in the Life of Norman* - Pamela McManus
1984 *Nineteen Eighty-Three* - Bronley Norman
1985 *For Richer for Poorer* - Mona Brand
1986 *Call of the Gypsy'* - Ian Austin
1987 *We Need Shadows Too* - Adrian Zupp
1988 *Ingrid's Kids* - Ann Whitehead
1989 *A Goat Song* Mary-Ann Baartz,
1990 *The Inquiry* - Heather Jones
1991 *Tinsel & Ashes* - Anna Maria Dell'oso
1992 *F' Lack o' Felucca* - Ian Austin
1993 *A Message To Magda* - Patricia Harris
1994 *Travellers* - Bronley Norman
1995 *Out on a Limb'* - John Burls
1996 *Actors Equity* - Allan Kelley
1997 *Five Candles for Danny* - Yvonne Old
1998 *The Casemoth* - Yvonne Old
1999 *Welcome Home* - Carrolline Rhodes
2000 *Tears in the Eye of the Storm* – Carrolline Rhodes
2001 *Waiting to Happen* - Andrea Baldwin
2002 *Footsteps In The River* - Michael Olsen
2003 *Between Floors* - Nerina Smith
2004 *Three Chairs* - Roger Gimblet
2005 *Love or Nearest Offer* - Hugh O'Brien
2006 *Man of Snow* - Cerise de Gelder
2007 *Love and Other Flushes* - Hugh O'Brien
2008 *Decline and Hall* - Roger Gimblett
2009 *Outside the Window* - Xavier Toby