



Patron: David Williamson

**2021**  
**NATIONAL ONE-ACT  
PLAYWRITING  
COMPETITION**

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

**PART 2:  
Judging, Official Entry Form, Synopsis**

**Entries Closing Date:**

**OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**

(Entries must be postmarked on or before October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020)

**Stage Presentation: 2021**

Noosa Arts Theatre Inc.  
PO Box 3, Noosa Heads 4567  
Ph: (07) 5449 9343

Email: [oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au](mailto:oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au)  
Website: [www.noosaartstheatre.org.au](http://www.noosaartstheatre.org.au)

## **PART 1:**

### **OBJECTIVES**

Noosa Arts Theatre holds this annual competition to foster and encourage playwrights, novice, emerging, or established. The scripts will be judged on the quality of the writing first and subsequently on its suitability for staging in a small, community theatre. The two-stage judging process is conducted anonymously; the first stage by a local panel leaving a shortlist of scripts, the second stage by a panel of three industry professionals.

### **AWARDS**

- The \$8,000 prize money sponsored by The Nimmo Family and Noosa Arts Theatre is divided between the playwrights of three best scripts, *The Eleanor Nimmo Prize* being \$5,000 for Best Play. The presentation of the awards and cheques is made after the final performance at the Noosa Arts Theatre One-Act Play Festival.
- The most popular play is judged by the audiences at all performances and The Nancy Cato Audience Choice Award, sponsored by the family of the late Nancy Cato, is presented after the final performance.
- Awards are also presented for Best Actress, Actor and Director after the final performance.

## 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:

- a) Must be new, original works of the playwright and not adaptations of longer plays.
- b) Must have not been published or publicly available for purchase or performance.
- c) Must not have the author's name appear anywhere on the manuscripts. The scripts are adjudicated anonymously.
- d) May be work-shopped prior to entry, but may **not** have a public performance or play reading for a paying audience (including donations).
- e) Once entered, must **not** be work-shopped or performed before the performance of the 3 finalists during the Noosa Arts Theatre One-Act Play Festival.  
*(Entrants will be notified mid-February whether their play has been selected as a finalist, and therefore continuing to be subject to this rule)*
- f) 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.)*
- g) Must be suitable for production on a community theatre stage of approximately 40 sq. metres, with a proscenium width of 8m, stage height of 2.5m and depth of 5m, and no fly tower or revolve.
- h) 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**.
- i) Plays should be capable of being performed within a **simplistic stage setting** (10 min bump in, 10 min bump out) 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.
- j) Will not be returned.
- k) Will be destroyed securely at the conclusion of the performances.

#### 2) To assist circulation for adjudication, please supply:

- a) **Three** copies of your script
- b) Printed on **one side** of A4 paper
- c) Each copy must **include a Synopsis**
- d) Each copy must be **secured in a folder or binder**. (lightweight if possible)

*(Please ensure they will not fall apart – a paperclip or staple is not sufficient)*

- 3) 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 in February.
- 4) Only shortlisted plays will receive adjudicators' comments and feedback.
- 5) Noosa Arts Theatre will not accept any responsibility for scripts lost or received late.
- 6) The **official Entry Form** with name of play, writer's full address, a **Synopsis**, and **\$A40 fee per entry** must be included with the scripts (*don't forget to include the Synopsis with each copy as well*). **NOTE:** Australian residents only may pay by cheque, money order or PayPal; international entries can only use PayPal, please contact the convenor.
- 7) There is no limit on the number of entries, but each one must include:
  - a) An Entry Form (**with synopsis attached**). (*Entry forms can be downloaded from the Noosa Arts Theatre's website, [www.noosaartstheatre.org.au](http://www.noosaartstheatre.org.au)*)
  - b) 3 bound copies of the script, each with synopsis bound within.
  - c) Fee of \$A40.
- 8) The eventual winner and runners-up will only be announced on the final night of the Festival.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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. This Festival includes a Best Unpublished Script Award for which your script would be eligible.
- 11) After the judging has determined the 3 finalists, and the adjudicator's comments have been sent to the playwrights, there is then an opportunity for the 3 finalists to make changes to the scripts, based on these comments, should they so choose. The amended script must be received by Noosa Arts Theatre within 2 weeks. No other alterations to the script will be allowed.

**The scripts are judged on the play as entered, and not by the quality of the production in the Festival, and the decision is not in any way influenced by the Direction or Acting.**
- 12) The three finalists will be required to supply a **professional** headshot and personal biography for publicity purposes.

## **Closing date is OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**

**(Entries must be postmarked no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> 2020)**

Please post entries to:

Noosa Arts Theatre Inc  
National One-Act Playwriting Competition 2021  
PO Box 3  
NOOSA HEADS QLD 4567

## PART 2:

### JUDGING OF THE ONE-ACT PLAYS

#### Stage 1:

A Reading Panel, made up of a number of community theatre practitioners, will assess each script independently and anonymously, taking into consideration the criteria set out below.

The convener may **not** be a member of the Reading Panel. All entries remain anonymous to the Reading Panel at all times.

The Convener coordinates the Reading Panel's assessment and a shortlist of 10 scripts is then produced.

#### Stage 2:

Three industry-recognised professionals will be invited to read the shortlisted scripts and select the final three, in the winning order.

Only the Convener knows the playwrights' names and the final order of winning scripts until 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
  
- E) **THEATRICALITY:**
  - Is this play written for the stage, or is it a "film or radio script, with many short scenes.

# Entry Form



## National One-Act Playwriting Competition 2021

(Please type)

I (Full Name):

Address:

Suburb:

State:

Post Code:

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?

Facebook – Which page? \_\_\_\_\_

Writers Group Newsletter: Which One? \_\_\_\_\_

Website:  Aussie Theatre  Australian Stage Online  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Qld Writers Centre – E-Newsletter

Stage Whispers Magazine

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKLIST:**

3 bound copies of manuscript with Synopsis (with NO reference to author's name)

Official Entry Form, with a copy of Synopsis

Cheque/Money Order for \$40.00 AUD (Australian residents only), or PayPal (available for all entries, please contact convenor at oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au)

**SCRIPT SYNOPSIS** (typed please)

(This **must** accompany your entry form **AND** must be inside **each** bound copy of the script)

**Script Title:**

**Plot Synopsis:**

**Genre:** (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 1 (e) )*

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