



Patron: David Williamson

2027

**NATIONAL ONE-ACT
PLAYWRITING
COMPETITION**

Objectives, Rules and Conditions of Entry

Official Entry Form, Synopsis

Suggested Format

Opening Date: 20 July 2026

Closing Date: OCTOBER 31st 2026

(Entries must be in electronic mailbox

[**oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au**](mailto:oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au)

by 11.59pm October 31st 2026)

Stage Presentation of Finalists: 2027

Noosa Arts Theatre Inc.
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Ph: (07) 5449 9343

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

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 and suitability for staging in a small, community theatre. The two-stage judging process is conducted anonymously; the first stage by a local panel formulating a shortlist of scripts, the second stage by a panel of three industry professionals.

AWARDS

The \$14,000 total prize money is shared by the top three finalists in 1st, 2nd and 3rd placing as determined by the three industry professional judges. First prize of \$10,000 (the Eleanor Nimmo Prize) is sponsored by The Nimmo Family, 2nd Prize of \$3000 is sponsored by the EDYTHE COOPER TRUST and 3rd prize of \$1000 is sponsored by MCCORMICK LAWYERS. 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 as judged by the audiences at all performances, with prize money of \$500, is presented after the final performance.

Awards are also presented for **Best Actress, Actor, Director** and **Ensemble** after the final performance. In some years other awards may be presented.

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. Our receipt of your script will be acknowledged.

SCRIPT PREPARATION – WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

- Script must be a new, original work of the playwright and not adaptations of other plays. Script must not have been published or publicly available for purchase or performance. The author's name or any identifying marks must not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure anonymous adjudication.
- Scripts may be workshopped prior to entry but not have been publicly performed or read to a paying audience (including donations).
- Plays must cater for a performance time of **no less than 30 minutes and no more than 45 minutes**. (It is suggested playwrights read their script aloud, do the actions, and time it)
- While there are no restrictions on subject matter, theme or style, plays 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. There is limited access to special effects in community theatres. A video link on our website explains the theatre's boundaries within which the play must be performed at Noosa Arts Theatre.
- Plays should be capable of being performed within a simplistic stage set (10 minute bump in and 10 minute bump out) as the three finalist plays are performed each night during the Festival. Plays involving simple scene changes and limited lighting, sound, special effects and props requirements are preferred.

FORMAT FOR/AND SUBMISSION

- Scripts are to be prepared for submission in a word-processing package or PDF for electronic submission. Font should be readable in a 12 point font (no *Comic Sans* or *Brushscript* type). If a word is to be emphasised use *italics*. Please refer to the suggested script format in terms of setting out. **No hard copies will be accepted.**
- Please save your document by the **play name only** (not draft, final or v32 etc).

- First page/s should be the Synopsis completed under the following headings:
 - **Script Title**
 - **Plot Synopsis** (approximately 50 words and should act as a 'teaser')
 - **Genre** (ie Drama, comedy etc)
 - **Setting**
 - **Place**
 - **Time**
 - **Stage sets and props** (refer to the video link in Script Preparation – this is a community theatre comprising volunteers)
 - **Estimated running time** (ensure it complies with Script Preparation)
 - **Cast List** (gender/age/specific requirements or description)
- **A fee of \$A60.00 per play applies.** Payment can be made by:
 - Bank Transfer,
 - BSB 633 000 Account No: 144 748 993
 - Account Name: Noosa Arts Theatre Inc
 - Reference: OAP followed by your family/surname eg OAPShakespeare
 - Money Order – payable to Noosa Arts Theatre Inc
 - Cheque - payable to Noosa Arts Theatre Inc
 - Credit Card - by phoning Box Office on +61 754499343 during office hours.
 - PayPal - payments can also be made by **PayPal** but there will be a **\$2 fee so the total will be \$A62.**
- The official One-Act Play Entry Form on the Noosa Arts Theatre website must be completed in full (including details of entry fee payment), scanned and accompany the script as a separate document. **Both documents should be submitted (emailed) to: oapcomp@noosaartstheatre.org.au**
- Entries can be submitted at any time from the Opening date of the new competition until the closing date (see website for details). Note that the One-Act Play Festival may not run at the same time each year so entry dates can change. Late entries will not be accepted.
- A playwright may submit more than one entry, however each submission must be accompanied by the required documentation and further entry fee.
- Each entry will be acknowledged by email as soon as practicable upon receipt. If not acknowledged within 2 weeks, the playwright should contact the Box Office at: **boxoffice@noosaartstheatre.org.au**

JUDGING PROCESS

- All scripts remain anonymous throughout the entire judging process and only the Convenor has access to each play's playwright.
- Scripts are judged on the following criteria:

- Plot
 - Characterisation
 - Dialogue
 - Play Overall
 - Theatricality
- All scripts will be read (anonymously) by a Panel of Readers (not including the Convenor) who have extensive theatre experience and a shortlist determined. All playwrights are then notified of their inclusion in the shortlist or otherwise. Once notified of not being shortlisted, unsuccessful playwrights are free to workshop or have their plays performed elsewhere.
 - If notified of being shortlisted, scripts must not be workshopped or performed before the performance of the 3 finalists (this is in case one of the top 3 falls through and another one from the shortlist is needed).
 - The shortlisted plays are then provided to a Panel of Industry Professionals in Australia who determine the top 3 places. This decision remains with the Convenor until the conclusion of all performances in the Festival where the awards ceremony takes place. Plays are performed in random order at the Festival for convenience of staging, they do not denote placings.
 - The three finalists have an opportunity to make minor changes to their scripts within one week following the feedback from the Panel of Industry Professionals before directors are selected.
 - Another industry professional will sit through two performances of the plays to determine Best Male Actor, Best Female Actor, Best Director and Best Ensemble Awards. At the conclusion of each performance the audience will vote (by secret ballot) for what they considered as the best play. Votes will be tallied by the Convenor only and the Convenor will reveal the Audience Choice Award at the Awards Ceremony following the final performance.
 - At the conclusion of the Festival, all plays other than the 3 finalists will be deleted from Noosa Arts Theatre computer storage.

GENERAL

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.

Noosa Arts theatre retains the right to enter any of the final 3 plays in regional theatre festivals of that same year only, without payment of Royalties.

The 3 finalists will be required to supply a professional headshot and personal biography for publicity purposes.