

David MacLennan Award 2023/24

The David MacLennan Award aims to uncover new writing talent by providing first time writers with the opportunity to have their work professionally developed and produced.

In honour of David MacLennan, founder of A Play, a Pie and a Pint (and Scottish theatre legend), this award aims to celebrate his generosity of spirit, his faith in the magic of theatre, his encouragement of others, his excitement about collaboration and an unrelenting belief that anyone could give theatre a go, no matter their previous experience.

Quick Ref: (more detail below)

What: £1850* licence fee and play produced at PPP in November 2024

Who: A Scottish based writer, 18+, who has never had their work professionally produced

Application: 2 page treatment and 5 page play extract

When: 8th January 2024

How: Email info@playpiepint.com Subject 'David MacLennan Award'

Call Out:

We want to uncover new writing talent. This prize is an opportunity for **anyone living in Scotland** aged **18+** who has **never written a professionally produced play** before.

Each longlisted writer will receive a free ticket to a PPP show and an accompanying writing workshop delivered by award winning playwright, Douglas Maxwell.

The three finalists will receive an annual pass to see every A Play, a Pie and a Pint show in the Autumn 2024 season and a one day R&D workshop with a professional director and actors.

The winner will have their work developed and presented as part of the world famous A Play, a Pie and a Pint Autumn 2024 season.

At the heart of this prize is the principal that anyone can enter – entries are read anonymously, and judged purely on the quality of their work, and its suitability for A Play, A Pie and A Pint's programme. We hope that this award will serve as a starting point, for a new writer to find their voice and have their work seen by the public in a professional production.

About A Play, a Pie and a Pint

Founded by David in 2004, A Play, a Pie and a Pint is now the most prolific producing theatre company in Europe and North America, if not the world. After 19 years, the core principles remain steadfast: to present a new play every week at lunchtime which lasts for under an hour with a pie and a pint included in the price of every ticket.

We produce more than 30 new plays a year, across two seasons and are based at Òran Mór in the West End of Glasgow. We regularly work in association with many other theatres across the length and breadth of Scotland, sharing our work with a variety of audiences. Having begun as an experiment, the organisation has grown considerably, and it is now widely considered to be an established part of the Scottish theatre industry:

- We have produced the first professional theatre productions of many first-time playwrights including: David Ireland, Daniel Jackson, Alan Bissett, Gerda Stevenson, Jenny Knotts, Aodhan Gallagher, Lesley Hart, Aye Tunes, Taqi Nazeer and Áine King (last year's winner).
- Many of our previous plays have gone on to have other lives such as Fringe runs or developed into larger pieces. *Spuds*, *My Doric Diary* and *SCOTS* and David Ireland's recent Sky Drama series *The Lovers*, started life as a PPP production.
- We have featured many well-known actors on our stage such as Robbie Coltrane, Blythe Duff, David Hayman, Elaine C. Smith, Karen Dunbar, Sam Heughan and Bill Paterson as well as launching the careers of many new performers.

Key dates

Stage One: October - February

- Open for submission w/c 30th October 2023
- Closed for submission Monday 8th January 2024
- Reading phase Jan/Feb
- Longlisted writers contacted and publicly announced w/c 5th February

Stage Two: February – July 2024

- Open for submission [invite only] w/c 5th February
- Workshop with Douglas Maxwell (March, date TBC)
- Closed for submission w/c 3rd June
- Reading and selection phase
- 3 finalists announced w/c 1st July

Stage Three: July – August 2024

- Mentoring/R&D period (July)
- Winner announced as part of our Autumn programme

Stage Four: November 2024

- Winning Production produced November 2024

How to enter

Stage one:

We welcome submissions in the form of a treatment (max 2 A4 pages) of a new, as yet un-performed play idea, along with 5 pages of sample script – ideally the first five pages of the play idea you are pitching. Submissions are open to anyone aged over 18, based in Scotland and has never had a play produced professionally before.

Keep in mind that the plays we produce are around 50 minutes in length [this equates to 8000 – 9000 words or 45-55 pages] and are presented with no more than 3 performers.

We aren't asking for submitters to write to a theme or specific provocation, but are looking for brilliant stories, and ask people to consider what makes this a story for now.

Please do not submit a complete script at this stage as this will not be considered. We are actively asking for a less labour intensive first submission stage. Submissions should not have been published or produced anywhere before and should be written for live performance. Submissions should not have previously been submitted to PPP. Please also look at other play texts, or the resources readily available from BBC writers room, for reference of how to best format your play. Pantomimes, adaptations or translations of other works or plays for young audiences will not be eligible.

The deadline is 8th January at 10.30am, at which point treatments and sample texts will be read and considered by members of the PPP team. Successful submissions will be longlisted and contacted in the w/c 5th February. The longlist will be made public later that week.

All submissions should be made to info@playpiepint.com subject header: David MacLennan Award

Stage two:

Longlisted candidates are invited to submit a full 45 - 55 minute play, using the treatment they submitted in stage one as the basis of the play – this will be the idea we are interested in hearing more about. On a date to be confirmed, longlisted candidates will be invited to join award winning Playwright Douglas Maxwell for a workshop to help further develop their idea and work towards a full draft. While there is an opportunity to further develop the work in stage 3, we are giving stage 2 a slightly longer time period to ensure people have time to realise their idea in full play form as much as possible. Deadline for submission of the full play is 3rd June.

Submissions will then be read anonymously by a first and a second reader, from our panel of readers, to give each play the best chance of success. This will be followed by a panel discussion with recommended plays. Three finalists will be announced in the w/c 1st July.

Stage three:

In July our three finalists will be invited to participate a day of script development with professional actors, director and a dramaturg to further develop their piece. No re-writes will be required in advance of this session, but we expect the R&D to stimulate further re-drafting before the production is produced later in the year. A winner will be selected from the final three and announced as part of our Autumn '24 season launch. The other two candidates will be offered feedback on their play, based on their submission and the R&D process. All three finalists will receive a seasonal pass to see all A Play, a Pie a Pint productions in the Autumn 2024 season.

Stage four:

The winning production will be produced as part of A Play, a Pie and a Pint's 2024 Autumn season, in November 2024. **Access**

As a written opportunity it is not possible for us to accept submissions in any other format. However, spelling, punctuation and grammar will not form part of the decision-making process (beyond the obvious that syntax and phrasing form part of your expression as a writer). You will not be penalised for proof

reading mistakes that do not impact the clarity of your writing. If you require this call out in an alternative format, please email info@playpiepint.com to discuss.

* represents a minimum license fee. If the production goes on to another venue, an additional fee will be paid

Glossary of Terms

Treatment

This is a document which provides a summary of your play, covering the main plot points, character descriptions, notes on tone, and any other salient details that will give an idea of the script you intend to write. There is no set format for a treatment but many examples can be found online.

Professionally Produced

We define 'professionally produced' as being any public performance where the creatives involved (including actors) were paid professional rates for the work.

R&D

Research and Development – time dedicated to investigations of the text, its characters and themes without the pressure of a realised production for public performance.

BBC writersroom templates

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/resources/medium-and-format/>