

NDFA ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

The results of the 2007-08 One Act Playwriting Competition, administered by the National Drama Festivals Association, are as follows:

The winner of the George Taylor Memorial Award is **MAZ DIX ZERO TO SIX** by Vincent Eaton, recommended by FEATS.

The runner up is **BEST BEFORE END** by Anni Rhodes, recommended by Leatherhead.
Highly Commended: "**MAY WE...? OUI, MAIS**" by Wilf Hashimi, recommended by Woking.
And **HALF A PERSON** by Jamie Frier and Richard Maslin, recommended by Elmbridge.

We are indebted to our three voluntary Judges, Colin Dolley GODA, the Playwright Gillian Plowman and Angela Heslop NDFA.

We also thank the One Act Festival Organisers for the time and trouble they have taken in making the recommendations. Festivals are asked to put forward scripts which they believe show a high standard of writing – **they are recommending the written work not the performance seen at their Festival**. The object of the competition is to encourage new writing for the theatre.

NDFA ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION SYNOPSES

Winner of the George Taylor Memorial Award

MAX DIX ZERO TO SIX

This is an original, highly creative and imaginative script, which has its own sense of theatre, and looks at the first six influential years of life. From birth, Max is wittily articulate in his observations of childhood and family life. He watches and comments on those around him with a wit and perception beyond his years. It's certainly most revealing about childhood and family life. The style is sparky and sharp, with an American comic book delivery, yet there are many almost poetical moments in the play.

The playwright suggests that, other than Max, the fourteen roles be played by four actors, and this provides an exciting challenge for any company. The staging too has its challenges, with a large slatted screen for video projection, but this should appeal to an innovative group and it's a strong dramatic piece with many twists and turns along the way.

GT 2M 3F , 50mins. Recommended by FEATS Festival.

Vincent Eaton, 136 Rue de L'Agriculture, 1030, Brussels, Belgium

Runner Up

BEST BEFORE END

A fascinating play with people, caught in a modern three way dance of death. Their characters, backgrounds and past histories are gradually developed in a subtle way. The opening pages suggest that this might be a play about dirty dealings in the business world, but it becomes increasingly evident that the plot might be concerned with dirty dealings of a more personal nature. Food and drink is cleverly utilised and adds to the dramatic tension.

It is an intriguing drama with many twists and turns, and plenty of creative scope in the staging and acting of this piece.

GT 2M 1F, 55mins. Recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

Anni Rhodes, 15 Ralliwood Road, Ashstead, Surrey, KT21 1DD.

Highly Commended:

“MAY WE....? OUI, MAIS....”

This is an enigmatic and imaginative drama, with themes of interdependence, manipulation and a fear to face the future. Two middle aged characters, Walter and Dolly, - and Walter tells Dolly stories which become metaphors for their lives and what they can make of them. Some strong theatrical moments, and thought-provoking writing.

GT 1M 1F & 1 either M or F, 45mins. Recommended by Woking Festival.

Wilf Hashimi, School House, 15 Esher Green, Esher, Surrey, KT10 8AA

Highly Commended:

HALF A PERSON

Edward and Damo play cards, and their game is an emotional and intellectual battle being played out. This thought-provoking drama has many layers and is both imaginative and challenging. Two strong roles, offering skilled actors and director, an opportunity to explore the various questions posed by the script and present to the audience an intriguing story.

GT 2M, 35mins. Recommended by Elmbridge Festival.

Jamie Frier & Richard Maslin, 42 Woodthorpe Road, Egham, Surrey, TW20 8AA.

Remaining Entries:

A LIFE SENTENCE

A love story depicting the emotional challenges and eventual loss facing a family affected by Dementia.

GT 1M 1F, 38mins. Recommended by Avon Festival.

Mark Seaman, 31 Vicarage Road, Coalpit Heath, Bristol, BS36 2RT.

YOU'RE IN ROOM EIGHT

A broad comedy set in a rather run down guesthouse where chauvinistic Roger and his meek wife Edna, having lost their way, spend the night.

GT 2M 2F. 45mins. Recommended by Somerset Festival.

Les Clarke, 23 Highfield Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, BH9 2SE.

THE FURIES

A play for six women, putting the rehabilitation of the criminal into a mythological setting. The Furies have individual personalities but also act as a chorus.

GT 6F. 50mins. Recommended by FEATS Festival.

Elena Kaufman, Grasweg 15, Hamburg 22200, Germany.

MAYBE

Parents are drawn into the world of computers, particularly internet dating, and it's how teenagers view this.

GT 3M 1F. 28mins. Recommended by Southend-on-Sea Festival.

Jenny Harrison, c/o 36 Mayfield Avenue, Hullbridge, Essex, SS5 6JG.

YOUNG BLADES

Topical play for teenagers focussing on the current increase in knife crime.

GT 4M 7F (with doubling of roles and you could mix them). 32 mins.

Recommended by Welwyn Youth Festival.

Andra Bishop, 66 Park Leys, Harlington Road, Beds. LU5 6LZ.

VALENTINE'S NIGHT

The lives of five people in a restaurant become entangled and progress to an amusing conclusion.

GT 3M 2F. 50mins. Recommended by Sawston Festival.

Paul Crossley, 13 Mill Street, Cambridge, CB1 2HP.

SWEET HARMONY

A theatre dressing room is the setting for an extraordinary reunion between two lovers who turn out to be brother and sister.

GT 1M 2F. 35 Mins. Recommended by Waltham Forest Festival.

Nicholas Wilkes, 148 Grosvenor Drive, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 1PG.