

NDFA ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2008-09

The results of the 2008-09 One Act Playwriting Competition, administered by the **National Drama Festivals Association**, are as follows:

The winner of the George Taylor Memorial Award is ***THE DOOR*** by Tony Earnshaw, recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

The runner up is ***IMMACULATE*** by Stefan Dubois, recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

Highly Commended: ***REMEMBRANCE DAY*** by Bev Clark, recommended by Leverhulme Festival.

And ***THE GARDEN OF FALLEN TALES*** by Tom Penn, recommended by Cambridge Festival.

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

***THE DOOR* - Winner of the George Taylor Memorial Award**

This is an original, imaginative and powerful script, which has its own sense of theatre. It is a fascinating drama which subtly reveals its secrets, drawing us into the world of the two male protagonists and their very different backgrounds. The setting is a waiting room where the two men prepare to go before an investigation into a wartime incident. It is an intriguing and shifting relationship between the ex Corporal and the ex Captain, and the mind games they play grip throughout. The repeated banging of the door reflects the repetitive gun fire of war and its effect on soldiers.

The dialogue is sharp and real, and the characters are extremely well drawn. There are some punchy examples of black humour, and the politics of war are not far from the two men's minds. As ex army Captain Ryan says "it's not politics Boyd, it's life."

The tension builds slowly and powerfully to an explosive climax. This is a tautly written drama, which is both thought provoking and never contrived.

GT 2M, 50mins. Recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

Tony Earnshaw, Fonthill Cottage, Coldharbour Lane, Dorking, RH4 3BN

***IMMACULATE* - Runner Up**

This well structured drama explores in a most human way, the psychological effects of grief. The writer links the past and present in an effective and powerful way, and there are many twists and turns before the moving denouement is revealed.

The characters are strongly drawn and the dialogue is sharp. There are other themes which are explored in the play, including Parenthood, Conception and Religion, but never does the drama hammer home points or preach.

The writing is creative and original and the play has clearly been written with great understanding.

GT 2M 1F, 50mins, Recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

Stefan Dubois, 8 Dunwood Court, Boyn Valley Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8JE

THE GARDEN OF FALLEN TALES - Highly Commended

This is an unusual and imaginative piece of writing, with its own unique style. The playwright has created a fable on the subject of the power of stories to fire the imagination and help us through the dark times of life. The simplicity of the script is part of its appeal, yet behind that simplicity are quite complex themes. There are many touching moments and some lovely lyrical passages.

This thought provoking drama could appeal to an adventurous company and skilled director.

GT 3M 2F, 45mins, recommended by Cambridge Festival.

Tom Penn, 43 The Brook, Sutton, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2QQ

REMEMBRANCE DAY - Highly Commended

This story of fathers and sons sees five generations of one family explore their inner demons against a background of global conflict, from World War One, to the present day.

The writer uses clever flashback scenes to bring the characters together; and through their attitudes to war, look at the male relationships in this family. There are some touching moments.

GT 5M, 50 mins, recommended by Leverhulme Festival.

Bev Clark, 23 Nelson Street, Wallasey, Merseyside, CH45 1NG

Remaining Entries:

BAD RECEPTION

A two hander comedy set at the scene of a recent wedding reception.

GT 1M 1F, 39mins, recommended by Avon One Act Festival.

Len Colbourne, 22 Squires Court, Longwell Green, Bristol, BS30 7ED

WILL THE REAL JONATHON DAVIS PLEASE STAND UP?

This drama explores identity and how we present different aspects of our characters depending on the situation we're in.

GT 3M 2F, 25mins, recommended by BFAME Birmingham Festival.

Peter Bridges, 94 Jerry's Lane, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 5PA

RAGS TO RICHES

An amusing drama set in a shop where the clothes have a life of their own.

GT 15, 40mins, recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

Richard Roberts, 96 Beeleigh Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5JW

JUST THE TICKET

A humorous play about a dysfunctional family in a permanent state of warfare.

GT 3M 4F, 45mins, recommended by Thurrock Festival.

Carol Hayes, 189 Trinity Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4HW

GOODBYE FOR NOW

Set just after a funeral this is a drama about relationships with some twists and turns along the way.

GT 2M 1F, 35mins, recommended by Leverhulme Festival.

Phyllis Brighouse, 31 Grosvenor Road, Prenton, Wirral, Merseyside, CH43 1TJ

ROXY KRASNER AND THE CASE OF THE DANCING GERMAN AVIATOR

A stylish and exuberant comedy set in New York in 1937, where a Private Investigator's PA dreams of being a theatre or movie star.

GT 3M 3F, 42mins, recommended by Waltham Forest Festival.

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

SEASONS

A journey through a marriage from the early joys of passion to more turbulent times and finally reconciliation.

GT 2M 1F, 45mins, recommended by Leatherhead Festival.

Maria Holden, 61 Hart Road, Byfleet, Woking, Surrey, KT14 7NL

IT'S ALL IN THE MIND

A play offering creative opportunities for youth drama groups, and tackling the powerful subject of mental disability.

GT 6M 6F, 38mins, recommended by Bedfordshire Festival.

Andra Bishop, 66 Park Leys, Harlington, Bedfordshire, LU5 6LZ

A DOCTOR BY PERSUASION

A play inspired by Moliere's one act classic 'A Doctor In Spite of Himself'. Comedy through the farcical humour and rhyming couplets.

GT 5M 4F, 48mins, recommended by Glamorgan Festival.

Graham J. Evans, Charnwood, Underwood Avenue, Maescwmmmer, Hengoed, Mid Glamorgan, Wales, CF82 7PT

THE BIG WORLD OF LITTLE DON CARLOS

A larger than life comedy with a certain Latin sparkiness, set in a village in the Italian countryside that is suffering from a recession.

GT 8, 40mins, recommended by Glamorgan Festival.

Jo West, 1 Cardiff Road, Llandaff, Cardiff, Wales, CF5 2DN

OUR AMY

Set in 1974, this drama uses flashback to tell the story of Amy's experiences in the war years where the fun and laughter were not on ration.

GT 5M 12F, 50mins, recommended by Leverhulme Festival.

Jacqueline Miles, 21 Fernlea Road, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 5SH