

## **ONE ACT PLAYWRITING COMPETITION 2009 - 10 THE GEORGE TAYLOR MEMORIAL AWARD**

The results of the One Act Playwriting Competition, judged in 2010 -11 and administered by the National Drama Festivals Association, are as follows:

The winner of the George Taylor Memorial Award is  
***THE DELICATE ART OF KEEPING IN TOUCH*** by Matthew Wilkie, 47 West Avenue, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 0RB

The runners up are  
***THE COLOURS OF KENNY ROACH*** by Rebecca Russell, 23 Kings Road, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, HP4 3BH,  
and  
***TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES*** by David Hart, Croft House, 21 Chantry Road, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 8BE

Highly Commended:  
***PRELUDE TO MACBETH*** by James Chalmers, 61 Greenfield Drive, Little Neston, CH64 0UL

There were fifteen entries in total.

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**

##### ***THE DELICATE ART OF KEEPING IN TOUCH* by Matthew Wilkie**

This is a fascinating and deeply emotional drama about loss, obsession and the search for identity.

The play spans 95 years, moving backwards and forwards in time, and across a variety of settings. It's well structured and certainly a page turner, and has its own sense of theatre. The language is evocative and powerful, and the dialogue is sharp and truthful, occasionally searing.

The scenes are short and so the play needs an astute and creative director to ensure seamless transition between each scene, and clarity to the text. The drama also offers a tremendous acting challenge, as the three female roles, Daughter, Wife and Mother, should be played by the same actress. But certainly both actors' versatility would be demonstrated by playing a considerable number of ages. It is an ideal play for Festivals.

**GT 1M 1F,**

## **Runners Up**

### ***THE COLOURS OF KENNY ROACH* by Rebecca Russell**

This is an absorbing two hander which takes a couple on a roller coaster relationship, as Ken, an artist in his late 30s descends into alcoholism.

It's a rich drama, enhanced by the creative use of music and painting, and that certainly reflects the deep emotions of the piece.

Characters are well drawn and the dialogue is crisp and direct. Two strong roles in Ken and Lisa, and they draw us into their fast moving, chaotic and poignant world. This is a strongly original script.

**GT 1M 1F,**

### ***TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES* by David Hart**

This is an imaginative and creative play reflecting the loss of individuality and the growth of the surveillance society. It is most relevant to today's society, and the playwright takes a fresh look at these ideas.

Five interesting and challenging characters and the strong dialogue builds the play's tensions seamlessly. The structure is strong, and there are moments of ironic humour which effectively punctuate an otherwise bleak scenario.

**GT 3F 2M**

## **Highly Commended**

### ***PRELUDE TO MACBETH* by James Chalmers**

This is a prequel to Shakespeare's *MACBETH*, telling the story of how Macbeth becomes Thane of Glamis and how he meets Lady Macbeth. It's an intelligent piece of writing, all in blank verse and has a great sense of theatre, with its detailed use of sound and lighting effects. Certainly a creative director would enjoy exploring this play's strong dramatic potential.

**GT: 1F 7M**