Scripts
Ireland's Playwriting Festival

Thursday 1 – Sunday 4 April 2027

November 2026

Attention Playwrights!
SCRIPTS: Ireland's Playwriting Festival, in partnership with Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, seeks new works for stage.

Calling all Writers

Scripts invites playwrights to craft stories that ignite, provoke and linger.
The theme for **2027** is **DARE.**

Dare

Some dares are whispered. Others change everything. A leap of faith. A reckless decision. A challenge thrown down. A line crossed. *"Dare"* invites playwrights to explore the moments when courage, curiosity, temptation or sheer foolishness push us beyond what feels safe. What happens when we take a chance? When we challenge authority, confront our fears, break the rules or risk everything for something we believe in? From small acts of defiance to life-changing decisions, from outrageous comedy to extraordinary courage, the possibilities are endless. ***Go on. We dare you!***

Taking place in Birr, Co Offaly, **Scripts Ireland's Playwriting Festival** creates unique opportunities for playwrights to have their work developed, mentored and brought to life on stage.

Three scripts, most suited for development, will be selected through a rigorous shortlisting process.

These selected playwrights will receive a residency week of mentoring and script development with professional guidance and mentorship, where the whole process of writing and rewriting is explored in a collaborative and supportive environment.

The residency supports three playwrights with a team of artists to mentor, develop and produce the emerging scripts for a rehearsed reading of the new works by professional actors at the festival finale. Industry professionals then judge the final versions and select a playwright for the award.

We are excited that the 2027 panel will include the Scripts team as well as a representative from The Abbey Theatre. Previous panels have included judges such as Jim Culleton of Fishamble Theatre, Phillip McMahon, David Horan (Bewley's Cafe Theatre), Gina Moxley and Mark O'Rowe.

Conditions of Entry and How to Submit your Play:

- Playwrights (both established and emerging) are invited to submit an original 15 minute play on the theme **Dare.**
- Plays should have no more than 3 characters
- **Only original plays that are unpublished and unstaged will be considered.** As the play that is submitted, will be the text worked on during the mentoring process, the submitted play should not be developed further during the assessment period.
- The link below must be used - no email/post submission.
- Plays must be in a .PDF or .DOCX/.DOC format and no bigger than 15MB
- Scripts are read blind by a selection panel - therefore **do not** have your name on your script file (our admin team will have your details with your submission form).
- Cost of submission is €10.
- Limited to one play per person.
- Applications accepted from anyone resident in Ireland/and/or Irish citizens living abroad, with the means to travel to Birr for the festival, if successful.
- Playwrights must be available to be in Birr, county Offaly for the residency period - **Monday 29 March – Saturday 3 April 2027,** as well as attend the headline event at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre on **Sunday 4 April 2027** where the plays will be presented as staged readings.
- The judges' decision is final and Scripts will not enter into correspondence concerning the judging or merits awarded.
- Requests for feedback: due to the volume of entries received and demands on our evaluation panel, we are unable to provide individual feedback. Thank you for your understanding.

Deadline for submissions is
Monday 21 December 2026 @ 12 noon

Playwrights can submit plays through the online submission form at
www.scriptsireland.com

There will be an award for "*Best Play*" which includes:

- Dramaturgy support with the literary department at The Abbey Theatre;
- a scholarship with Fishamble, the New Play Company;
- a Theatre Residency at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre in 2028.

While the copyright of the play will remain with the playwright, **Scripts** and **Birr Theatre & Arts Centre** reserves the right to arrange the first performance of the selected work, if deemed appropriate, and to use the play for publicity for the festival.

Any of the three finalists who go on to develop their play further are asked to acknowledge Scripts Ireland's Playwriting Festival and Birr Theatre & Arts Centre in their credits.

For more information as well as the submission conditions, log on to www.scriptsireland.com

What is Scripts?
This innovative playwriting festival features a host of exciting events for lovers of theatre - those who want to create, perform and watch live new theatre in beautiful surroundings. Since its establishment in 2013, by Jasango Theatre and Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Scripts has established collaborative links with key organisations including The Abbey Theatre, Fishamble Theatre, Listowel Writers Week, Irish Writers Centre, RTÉ Drama On One, Culture Night, #Waking The Feminists & more. As well as winning a PPI Radio Award for Drama with Midlands 103, *Scripts* has created incomparable opportunities for playwrights, actors, directors & producers to continually strive for excellence in the craft of Playwriting & Drama. From workshops and panel discussions to children's theatre and site-specific works, Scripts constantly strives to expand the scope of the festival while keeping the ultimate focus on what *Scripts* is most passionate about - nurturing new writing.

SCRIPTS is supported by Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Jasango Theatre, Offaly County Council, Arts Council of Ireland, The Abbey Theatre and Fishamble

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