



**Thursday 28 Nov - Sunday 1 December 2019**

Wednesday 27 March 2019

**Attention Playwrights! SCRIPTS: Ireland's Playwriting Festival seeks new works**

Calling the writers, poets, dreamers, and schemers. Scripts is seeking new plays to inspire, inject, invent, invoke, and incite. The theme this year is **GRATITUDE**. In a topsy turvy world where there is uncertainty and fear around every corner, we are interested in seeking out those glimmers of hope, those snapshots of smiles, and those glimpses of glory. Gratitude is found in grand gestures as well as in tiny moments of solitude, and often give us moments of pause. And what of the drama that ensues when gratitude is not shown? How does gratitude speak to you? Could you take on this theme and write a contemporary piece of drama that moves and shakes the senses?

Taking place in Birr, Co Offaly, Scripts Ireland's Playwriting Festival creates unique opportunities for playwrights to have their work developed and produced. The scripts most suited for development will be chosen by the selection panel headed by playwright **Eugene O'Brien**.

The selected playwrights receive a week of mentoring and script development, where the whole process of writing and rewriting is explored in a collaborative supportive environment. The festival supports three playwrights with a week's accommodation in beautiful surroundings and a team of artists to mentor, develop and produce the emerging script for a rehearsed reading of the new works at the festival finale. Industry professionals then judge the final versions and a winner is selected. Previous judges have included Jim Culleton of Fishamble, Jesse Weaver of The Abbey Theatre and playwright Deirdre Kinahan.

**Terms and Conditions:**

Playwrights (both established and emerging) are invited to submit original 15 minute plays on the theme "**Gratitude**."

Deadline for submissions is **Friday 14th June 2019**.

**Playwrights can submit plays through the online submission form at [www.scriptsireland.com](http://www.scriptsireland.com)**. Cost of submission is €7.

Plays should have no more than 3 characters, and there is a limit of one play submission per applicant.

Playwrights must be available to be in Birr from **Monday 25 November -Thursday 28 November 2019**, as well as attend the headline event at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre on **Sunday 1 December 2019** 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.

There will be an outright prize for "*Best Play*." There are also opportunities for winning playwrights to meet and engage with production and dramaturgy departments of professional theatre companies and network with production partners. The winning play may then go on to represent the festival in further opportunities and events, should production partners deem it appropriate.

While copyright of the play will remain with the playwright, Scripts 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.

For more information as well as the submission conditions, log on to [www.scriptsireland.com](http://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 inception in 2013, 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, Offaly Local Development Company*

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