

Bench Theatre – Supernova 9 Playwriting Competition



Supernova 9



INTRODUCTION

The Bench Theatre announces the 9th Supernova playwriting competition for short plays, with performances of the winning plays in September 2025. The first Supernova competition was run in 2000 and has been successfully repeated every few years since. This ninth iteration offers local playwrights the chance to have their works performed by one of the best amateur theatre groups on the South Coast.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Author Criteria

In order to be eligible for entry to Supernova, you must meet the following criteria:

1. You must be 18 years old or over.
2. You must be a UK resident with permission to work in the UK.

AND you must be one of the following:

1. A member of a drama or writing group that is based in the Havant, Portsmouth Chichester, Petersfield or Southampton areas.
2. A student studying at a university or college in the Havant, Portsmouth Chichester, Petersfield or Southampton areas.
3. A former member of the Bench Theatre.

Play Criteria

In order to be eligible for entry to Supernova, a play must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be no longer than 45 minutes in performance length. (There is no minimum length).
2. Require no more than 6 actors (doubling of actors may allow for more than 6 characters).
3. Be an original work, i.e. not be a translation or adaptation for the stage of work written by others.
4. Not have been previously performed publicly in its current or similar form.
5. Have rights exclusively owned and controlled by the author.

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6. Be practically performable by Bench Theatre at The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre during the Supernova festival.
7. Be submitted in accordance with the selection process.

Number of Entries

An author may submit a maximum of 3 plays for consideration to the competition.

Fees and Performing Rights

There is no entry fee to the competition. However, by submitting a play to Supernova 9, an author will be granting the company the right, if it is selected, to perform it without any payment for performing rights.

Submission of Entries

Competition submissions must be received by the Bench Theatre by **12.00am on Friday 28th March 2025**.

Plays are to be submitted using an on-line form that can be found at the address <https://forms.gle/2TDvgzr9epBPR2Ad8>.

Play scripts are to be submitted in pdf format and must not contain any indication of the author's name or contact information (to ensure anonymity in judging).

Receipt of entries will not be acknowledged by the Bench Theatre.

For any updates to these conditions check the Bench Theatre web-site at <https://benchtheatre.org.uk/>.

Selection and Announcement of Winning Plays

Plays will be judged by a selected panel of Bench Theatre members against the specified play criteria, rated on suitability for performance and then selected to create a balanced programme.

The intention is that plays selected for performance will be announced to the winning playwrights via e-mail by **Wednesday 18th June 2025**.

The Bench Theatre will not provide feedback on any submitted play.

Performances

The winning plays will be produced, directed and performed by members of the Bench Theatre at The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre in Havant between the **10th and 14th September 2025**.