TS Eliot Commissions 2014 – Brief

Now in its second year, the TS Eliot Commissions offers exceptional emerging writers the opportunity to write a contemporary new play, supported and mentored by Old Vic New Voices.

We are not looking for completed scripts, but want to hear your ideas for the play you would write should your application be successful. This year we are commissioning under the following two categories:

Play for Young People – one commission available

We're looking for one talented writer to write a contemporary, accessible play appropriate for 10-14 year olds for a touring production of London Schools. We want to hear a bold and engaging story that addresses one or more of the following themes:

- Mental health
- Communication
- Transitions

As with The Old Vic's main house shows, all Old Vic New Voices productions aim for outstanding quality and our schools tours in particular are crafted to inspire young people, engage with the issues relevant to their lives and encourage debate in a style that feels authentic and exciting. The winning proposal will uphold these aims and reflect the diversity of the urban communities it will visit.

The final script should be no longer than 45 minutes and will be performed by a maximum of 3 actor/facilitators.

The play should have the potential to lead into a post-show workshop or discussion (the framework of which will be written by the Old Vic New Voices education team) and led by the actor/facilitators.

Play for Adults – two commissions available

As well as a play for young people, Old Vic New Voices is looking to commission two further exceptionally talented emerging writers as part of the second year of the TS Eliot Commissions.

We are not looking for completed scripts and are looking for a range of contemporary and socially relevant ideas, styles and topics that tell a bold story that can unfold over no longer than 70 minutes for a maximum of 6 characters.

Those writers that we finally commission will be supported and mentored throughout the writing process and, subject to funding, will receive a reading of their play performed and directed by the most exciting emerging talent in the theatre industry.

All three of the writers we select will have a unique opportunity to create new work and hone their craft whilst being supported by one the industry's leading talent development programmes.

Please also refer to our FAQ's for further information