

PLAYER-PLAYWRIGHTS

Getting your Act together

Our overriding aim

The overriding aim of **Player-Playwrights**, as constituted in August 1948, is to help aspiring playwrights and scriptwriters to have their work performed in public. We therefore meet on Monday evenings at the **Phoenix Arts Club, 1 Phoenix Street, Charing Cross Road, Tottenham Court Road, WC2H 0DT**. The readings start at 7.45 p.m, but the bar is open much earlier, so you can easily get yourself a drink before going into the room through the bar, where members' plays and scripts are given a (slightly) rehearsed reading by our professional actors and discussed and appraised by us all. This is a private reading but its purpose is to assist the writer in preparing his or her work for sale, production and public performance.

Managing the programme

The Programme Secretary, **Mark Lindow**, produces 3 programmes a year in consultation with the writers and they cover three terms: Spring (January to March), Summer (April to July) and Autumn (September to December). Writers with a script to submit for a reading need to plan ahead and to submit a completed booking form as soon as the script is ready. If you do not have a mentor, submit a copy of the script at the same time. This should be done by email to Mark Lindow at writing@playerplaywrights.co.uk or hand him a hard copy and booking form on a Monday night.

The mentoring scheme

For the writer to derive maximum benefit from the reading it is important that the script should be in as good a state as possible, as scripts which are plainly unready are unfair on the actors and tedious for the audience. We therefore have a mentoring scheme whose essential feature is that no script will be read on a Monday evening unless a mentor has signed and submitted a form confirming that the script is ready at least 4 weeks before the reading date. The task of the mentor is to give wise counsel and to save the writer from obvious criticism. The mentor should not sign it off until satisfied that the script is ready for performance: the mentor may be expected to justify this decision in the discussion on the night. All members are eligible to act as mentors.

In-house competitions

We arrange one competition each term (for 5 to 10 minute plays on a given theme).