

Play on Words 2026 Playwriting Competition



The Scottish Community Drama Association was founded in 1926. Over the past century, we have worked to promote all aspects of community theatre in Scotland. For over 30 years, our regular 'Play on Words' competitions have brought many new writers to the theatre.

The competition

The competition is for new one-act plays by playwrights based in Scotland.

The winning script will be selected in spring 2027.

The winning script will have a rehearsed reading at the Scottish One-Act Festival in Greenock in April 2027 and receive a prize of £500. Copies of the top three plays will be held in the SCDA National Library in Stirling and receive publicity in the SCDA's magazine SCENE.

Judging

All plays will be read by at least three assessors from a panel appointed by SCDA to determine a short list of the best plays. These will then be reviewed by a professional judge to select a winner. All short-listed entrants will receive a brief basic feedback on their script. The top three will receive detailed written feedback from the final judge. The judge's decision will be final.

Rules

Entries must be one-act plays with a running length of at least 20 minutes and not more than 55 minutes. They must have at least two speaking characters.

Entries must not have been previously published or publicly performed. Copyright stays with the author. If a play is intended for young performers, (under-18), this should be specified.

Scripts must be typed and legible. They should contain a cast list and synopsis and be anonymous. Scripts should be submitted in A4 portrait format, using a plain 12pt font, with headings and numbered pages.

Entries should be emailed to POW@drama.scot with the script and completed entry form attached as separate pdf files. Receipt will be acknowledged by email with details of how to pay the entry fee.

Entry fee for SCDA Individual Members : £20 for first script, £10 for subsequent scripts
for non-SCDA Members : £30 for first script, £15 for subsequent scripts

The closing date for receiving entries is **31st October 2026**.

Enquiries to POW@drama.scot or visit our website at drama.scot



Scottish Community Drama

Hon. President : Richard Wilson

Scottish charity SC021397

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Entry Form

I would like to enter a script in SCDA's Play on Words competition.

Name			
Address			
		Postcode	
Email		Phone	
If the play is intended for performance by young people, (under 18)	☐	Please tick	
Title of play			
I confirm the play has not been published or publicly performed.	☐	Please tick	

Please complete this entry form and send it with your script as separate pdf files to **POW@drama.scot**. We will acknowledge receipt and provide details of the competition's judging criteria and on how to pay the entry fee.

While we prefer email entries, we accept that these are not accessible to everyone. Paper entries will be accepted and should be sent to -

Scottish Community Drama Association
1st floor, Argyll Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TY.

Please include a S.A.E. if you wish an acknowledgement by mail.



Entries must be received by **31st October 2026**.

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