

A new programme of new play readings and theatre insider talks.

Date	Title	Author/guest	Type	Chair
Monday 23 September	Writers in discussion	Kevin Mandry	Discussion/seminar	Kevin Mandry
Monday 30 September	Play publishing	Tamara von Werthern	Talk	Tony Diggle
Monday 7 October	Spider	Jo Richards	First reading of new play	Peter Thompson
Monday 14 October	Silly Billy	Michael Sharp	First reading of new play	Lynne O'Sullivan
Monday 21 October	Situation Dog	Ian Reade	First reading of new monologue piece	Kevin Mandry
Monday 28 October	The Quarrel XQ28	Jane Weymouth Dan Horrigan	Two short plays readings	
Monday 4 November	Visiting time	Melville Lovatt	First reading of new play	
Monday 11 November	History As It Wasn't	Member short play competition	See below for full details of how to enter and deadline	
Monday 18 November	Annual general Meeting (AGM)		Members are welcome to attend	
Monday November 25	Germkillers in America	Ronald Fernee	Radio drama	
Monday 2 December	Work in Progress	Excerpts member's works in progress	See below for entry details	
Monday 9 December	Xmas Party		Including awards ceremony	

All events take place 7.30, Monday evenings

Upstairs, North London Tavern, 375 Kilburn High Rd, Kilburn, NW6 7QB

All events open to everyone: Members £2.50 on door (non-members £4)

Monday 23 September, 7.30pm

The writer's life

The autumn term will begin with an informal discussion for writers led by playwright Kevin Mandry.

Writing can be a rather insular occupation. This is a chance to interact with other writer members for an evening of shared ideas/experiences or just general chat over a drink.

Monday 30 September, 7.30pm

Talk with Tamara von Werthern

Tamara is Performing Rights Manager for Nick Hern Books, and a playwright in her own right. She will talk about working for a theatre publisher with a focus on the performing rights of the plays they publish, and also about the process of publishing and the environment surrounding it from the perspective of the playwright. There will be plenty of time for questions.

Monday 7 October, 7.30pm

Spider by Jo Richards

A story about a father and son; envy, competition and Sheffield snooker. Over 20 years, Terry and Jason Hands battle for supremacy in a world of smoke filled snooker halls and watch sponsorships- leading to one fateful night at the 2006 World Championship final.

This is Joanne's 5th play for PlayerPlaywrights. Last year she completed an MA in Dramatic Writing and has won competitions at Theatre 503 and Cast, Doncaster.

She is Casting Secretary for PlayerPlaywrights - which she loves and is constantly delighted at the acting talent in the group.

Monday 14 October, 7.30pm

Silly Billy by Michael Sharp

Billy, an ailing retired school teacher, and Molly, his long-suffering wife, spend much of their time locked in conflict, which is not without humour. The unexpected arrival of Denis, one of Billy's ex-pupils,

brings with it a dark cloud from the past and only the bizarre nature of a sudden death ends the sentence each character has been serving. Michael Sharp's work for theatre has been seen on the London Fringe, the Edinburgh Festival and in Paris. Several of his plays have also been produced on radio, both for the BBC and overseas. The radio version of his winning stage play, A VOID IN TIME, was included in the 2018 International Radio Drama Festival, and can currently be heard on Soundcloud.

Monday 21 October, 7.30pm

Situation Dog by Ian Reade

"Situation Dog" by Ian Reade is a one man show that was described by Papatango Playwriting Competition readers as, "a witty, compelling and at times shocking monologue. The speaker is a fascinating, layered character, whose voice is sustained well – always a difficult feat in this form – and who holds our interest throughout. The balance between gruesome detail and genuine reflection is maintained well; the play manages to be both gripping yet thoughtful....".

Tony Pitch, an anonymous office worker, undergoes a marital break up due to his own infidelity and we watch his life quickly spiral out of control on a helter skelter of hyperbole and alcohol-driven angst. His weakened psychology leads him to blame the innocent and the vulnerable for his own poor decisions; is there any possibility of redemption for this much-flawed anti-hero?

A black comedy which embraces a carefully constructed and relevant plea for tolerance.

Ian Reade, professional actor and drama teacher, will perform "Situation Dog" on 21st October, as a precursor to taking the show out on the road next year. Please come to give vital feedback and criticism.

Monday 28 October, 7.30pm

Reading of two new short plays

The Quarrel by Jane Weymouth

XQ28 by Dan Horrigan

Monday, 4 November, 7.30pm

Visiting Time by Melville Lovatt

Monday 11 November 2019

Player Playwrights competition: History as it Wasn't

Short original plays from our Members about how history *might* have turned out if a slightly different turn had been taken.

What if, say, Charles II had won the English civil war, or the plotters succeeded in killing Hitler in 1943, or Milliband won the 2015 general election so that the referendum never took place?

Reading time for each pieces is between fives and ten minutes. Pieces must have two to four characters.

An evening of fun, irreverent and thoughtful takes asking what if history had taken another turn.

And you the audience get to choose which one is the best.

Monday 18 November 2019

Germkillers in America by Ronald Fernee

GERMKILLERS IN AMERICA is the first instalment of two, 45 minute radio dramas, based on the almost forgotten, true story of the Oxford scientists who struggled to develop Penicillin in England, during the dark days of World War II. However, help is at hand with the still neutral Yanks, once our scientists can overcome the anti-British prejudices of the America First movement. The self interests of the Pharmaceutical Industry also prove an obstacle. And then, they hear of a woman, who is dying of infection. Perhaps, if they can save her life, then America will believe in Penicillin, too? It's a very human story that's full of colourful characters, drama, intrigue, humour and pluck.

Ron Fernee has been a professional actor for over 40 years, and has recently completed an MA in Scriptwriting at UAL. Earlier this year, he had a short play produced as part of the Get Over It Festival, at the Chiswick Playhouse. He wrote a one man play, **TREE!**, that he performed professionally in London, Edinburgh, and America. Ron has previously had other full length plays and shorts read at Player Playwrights and the Script Tank.

Monday 25 November 2019 – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday 2 December, 7.30pm

Works in Progress

Do you want to try out a scene from a script you are working on? It could be the first scene, though it doesn't have to be.

This is a chance to try out an extract from a work in progress of not more than 15 minutes.

We will perform the first five that come in. If we get too many, we will look at the possibility of arranging another work in progress evening

early next term. The five pieces will each have a rehearsed reading and then have a discussion about all of them.

Send in your entries to francisbeckett@virginmedia.com