

*Player Playwrights accepts script submissions all year round. Selected scripts will be given a Monday night reading, and playwrights will receive feedback from our members. To be considered for a Player Playwrights' reading, writers are required to join Player Playwrights. Please read the following information before submission.*

## **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 give a (slightly) rehearsed reading on new plays by our professional actors and discussed and appraised by us all. The purpose is to assist the writer in preparing his or her work for sale, production and public performance.

### **Managing the programme**

The Programme Secretary, Francis Beckett, produces three programmes a year in consultation with the writers and they cover three terms: Spring (January – Easter), Summer (Easter to July) and Autumn (September – December). Writers with a script to submit need to plan ahead and contact Francis as soon as the script is ready. Send a copy of your script by e-mail to [francis@francisbeckett.co.uk](mailto:francis@francisbeckett.co.uk). He will arrange for a mentor to assess it, and for a reading if the mentor and the writer agree that it is ready.

### **The mentoring scheme**

In order 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. Also scripts which are plainly unready are unfair on the actors and tedious for the audience. We therefore have a Mentoring scheme. Its 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 for a P-P reading at least 4 weeks before the reading date. The task of the mentor [following the role of Mentor in Homer's *Odyssey*] is to give wise counsel and to save the writer from criticism for obvious flaws in the work. The mentor should not sign it off until satisfied that the script is ready for performance and may be expected to justify this decision in the discussion on the night. All members are eligible to act as mentors.

### **Preparing the scripts for the cast**

Each member of cast must receive a hard copy of the script in font size 12 or 14 with pages numbered. Here are three further tips:

- Avoid loose pages. Preferred options are for scripts to be spiral bound or tagged

- Actors prefer to have their character's name centred in bold above the dialogue
- Someone needs to read "directions". We suggest casting that person as Narrator

### **On the night**

Please prepare a short programme note with a cast list and your email address for distribution on the night; and try to get your cast together for a pre-reading at 6pm.

***PLEASE REMEMBER: To be eligible to have your script mentored and considered for a reading you must be a paid up member of Player Playwrights. See above on how you can join.***