

This workshop was unlike any other writing course I have done. The opportunity to discuss and dissect plays, both the group's own work and published texts, was fantastic.

(Martha Loader, Bruntwood Prize Judges' Award Winner 2022)

Menagerie is the new writing theatre company based at Cambridge Junction. We seek out, support and nurture playwrights to produce exciting, original new theatre.

The Young Writers' Workshop is our flagship development programme for writers aged 18 – 30, living in the East and South East of England.

You will learn from experienced writers, receive feedback on your work, connect with peers and broaden your professional network. It is a space to risk, to extend horizons and discover new influences. There will also be opportunities to have work performed at the Hotbed Festival in July 2024 at Cambridge Junction.

The Young Writers' Workshop is for people who write for the stage. Whether you consider yourself a playwright, a performance writer, or a writer for performance, we welcome your interest.

Up to 8 places available and participation is by application only. Deadline: November 24th 2023

The YWW was transformative in the way I view my work. I got an incredibly frank look at my process through the eyes of writers so different to me. It reminded me about the focus of writing being the process and the questions asked. (YWW Graduate 2023)

Stage 1 - January 13th – April 8th 2024

- All participants will be tasked with writing a brand new one-act (40-50 minute) play.
- Participants meet in a series of 5 x 4-hour sessions, held every two weeks from January 13th to March 9th 2024, which feed into your writing process. The sessions involve tutorials and discussions with guest writers, feeding back on colleagues' work, and sharing questions & challenges about writing for the stage.
- The **guest writers** lead sessions on a play or performance text which inspired them. In sharing their experience and passion, participants explore and articulate their own influences and inspirations. Previous guests include Steve Waters, April de Angelis, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Fraser Grace, Chris Thorpe, Sudha Bhuchar and Caroline Horton.
- Sessions are facilitated by Patrick Morris, Menagerie's Co-Artistic Director who will also provide periodic feedback on the development of your new script.
- Throughout the three days of March 22-24th, each writer gets rehearsal time with actors and a director, in advance of a rehearsed reading of an extract from the piece you are writing. The readings take place on Sunday March 24th at Cambridge Junction.
- Stage 1 culminates in all writers submitting a draft of their 40-50 minute piece to Menagerie for feedback. Deadline is April 8th 2024.

Dates and Location

Sessions: 1-5pm, Saturday January 13th, 27th, February 10th, 24th, March 9th

Weekend of rehearsals and readings: March 22-24th at selected times.

Location: Cambridge Junction, Clifton Way, Cambridge CB1 7GX.

Travel bursaries available - see ['Application Guidelines'](#) on page 4.





Patrick was a fantastic creative guide - he incited nuanced critical thought to help our creative development... I really hope that others get the chance to experience this course.

(Magdalene Bird, 'Radio Waves' BBC Radio 4 Drama)

Stage 2 - Hotbed Festival

Following completion of Stage 1, we will select 2 pieces for performance at Hotbed, our annual new writing festival at Cambridge Junction. Menagerie will present these as rehearsed readings at Hotbed in July 2024. We will advise participants on inviting industry professionals to Hotbed. Those not selected will be invited to attend Hotbed with a free Weekend pass for the whole Festival. They will also receive feedback on a further draft of their play.

Previous participants have gone on to...

- Win the Bruntwood Prize Judges' Award
- Write for broadcast on BBC TV and Radio
- Be nominated for an 'Offie'
- Be shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award at Soho Theatre
- Be produced at Theatre503, Park Theatre, Hampstead Theatre & elsewhere
- Found their own company and begin touring



Application Guidelines

- Participation is BY APPLICATION ONLY.
- Please send a letter of interest (2 pages max) which addresses the following questions:
 - Why do you wish to be part of the Menagerie Young Writers' Workshop?
 - Which theatre writers or performance practitioners inspire you and why?
- Please attach/enclose a CV
- Please send a one-page idea for a 45-50 minute play you would want to write
- Please attach/enclose a sample of your writing – up to 50 pages.
- Your application must demonstrate a commitment to playing an active role in the sessions, through your writing, your willingness to propose and draft a piece for Hotbed, and through engaging with other people's work.
- Please send all materials to Patrick Morris at Menagerie by **Friday Nov 24th**: Email: patrick@menagerie.uk.com
- If you have any questions about the application or participation process, please address those to Patrick at the above email address.

Conditions of Participation

- You must be able to attend all sessions. If you cannot, please do not apply.
- You must be aged 18 – 30, living in the East or South East of England and identify yourself as a writer for the stage.
- You must be willing to complete any and all preparatory work, including but not limited to: sharing your work with the group; familiarising yourself with the guest writers' own work and their choices of text; reading work by fellow participants.
- The Young Writers' Workshop will be held in-person at Cambridge Junction. While we require all participants to attend in-person, we will not exclude anyone who, for medical reasons, is only able to attend virtually. Please indicate on your application if this is the case.

Travel Bursaries

Menagerie has bursaries of up to £125 each, available for participants who live further than 25 miles from Cambridge. The bursaries help towards covering travel expenses for the sessions. Please indicate whether you would like to be considered for the bursary.

