

## **The Kevin Elyot Award at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection**

### **The Kevin Elyot Award**

The Kevin Elyot Award is a new annual award of £3,000 given to support a writer in residence at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection. It is made in memory of Kevin Elyot (1951-2014) and the influence he has had on writing and the Arts. It is hoped that the award will enable a writer to be inspired by his work, which is now held at the Theatre Collection, and help them develop their own practice. The award has been generously funded by an endowment given to the University by members of Kevin's family.

The award will support a promising writer, practitioner or scholar to begin the process of creating a new written work. The award holder will use the Kevin Elyot archive as well as other holdings within the Theatre Collection to inspire a new dramatic work or other creative or academic outcome.

The £3,000 award covers a stipend towards living expenses during the residency, any materials, and other costs including basic dissemination activities. The residency (for up to four weeks) is to start the writing process off – it could be the beginning of a substantial undertaking or the opportunity to complete a shorter piece in the given timeframe. However, it is expected that the new work resulting from the award will be publically disseminated within a reasonable timescale (preferably within 12 months) following the completion of the award. The writer should be resident in the Theatre Collection during summer of 2016 (dates to be mutually agreed, timeframe expected to be between June- September).

In addition, the Theatre Collection staff will help support the award holder with the archival research process and the Department of Theatre will help with guidance and opportunities for dissemination. Dissemination activities supported may include the use of the Wickham or White theatres or events at the Theatre Collection.

### **The Kevin Elyot archive**

Kevin Elyot was a Bristol alumnus (Drama Department) who went on to achieve great success through his ground-breaking plays, adaptations and other work. The Kevin Elyot Archive is held at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection, and comprises scripts, correspondence, manuscript and publicity material detailing Kevin's working process from initial idea to finished product. His process for adapting novels for television is also well documented in the archive. Kevin also had an acting career before turning to writing and all aspects of this work are reflected in his archive. The content relating to his plays, including the seminal '*My Night with Reg*', demonstrates his creative process and his emphasis on the importance of style and form. It is hoped that through exploring his written work, the award holder will take inspiration from his approach and that Kevin's legacy will enable and inspire the creation of new work by new generations of writers.

### **The Application process**

Applications are open to all writers (over 18) who wish to apply for a residency in the Theatre Collection. The closing date for the first year's application is 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 and applicants will be notified of the outcome by 1st July 2016.

Applicants should submit the following documents

- A written proposal - including how and why you would like to respond to the archive, a very rough idea of the work you would like to produce, and its eventual form e.g. performed, published or otherwise exhibited (1,000 words maximum)
- A brief C.V. (2 pages max)
- A brief project plan giving a rough breakdown of budget, proposed timescale and dissemination plan explaining what you aspire to in terms of the outcomes resulting from your residency (1 page max)

Applications should be emailed to [theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk) with Kevin Elyot Award in the subject line by **5pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016**.

### **Assessment process**

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising at least six people, including two curators (including at least one member of Theatre Collection), two academics (including at least one member of UoB Theatre Department) and at least two others, who may be professional theatre practitioners or writers. This year, the award panel includes Lindsay Duncan (actor) and Catherine Johnson (playwright).

### **What we can offer**

The Kevin Elyot Award holder will be given a one-off award of £3,000. In addition they will be able to base themselves in the Theatre Collection throughout the residency and have the support of the TC staff. If required, they may also be able to have support from the Theatre Department in terms of advice and also the use of the Wickham or White theatres, and Theatre Collection spaces, for readings, performance or other dissemination activities.

### **What we require of the Award holder**

The award holder is required to credit the Kevin Elyot Award at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection in all future dissemination of the work produced as a result of the Award, including related publications, readings and performances and other publicity. The award holder may be requested to deliver a research paper (if the outcome is academic) or a work in progress/read (if the outcome is creative). This event may take place on a mutually agreed date within a reasonable timescale of completion of the award (ideally 18 months)

### **To find out more**

Applicants are welcome to find out more about the Kevin Elyot Award and the Theatre Collection. To make an initial enquiry please email [theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk)

Jo Elsworth,  
Director: Theatre Collection  
University of Bristol  
Vandyck Building  
Bristol BS81UP  
[Jo.elsworth@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Jo.elsworth@bristol.ac.uk)  
0117 3315086