

Kevin Elyot Award for Writer-in-Residence – call for submissions 2020

Award details

The Kevin Elyot Award

The Kevin Elyot Award is an 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, creative 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 in the Theatre Collection is flexible, and could be undertaken in blocks of weeks or spread over a number of months and is to be used to start the writing process. Due to the current closure of the Theatre Collection, the start of the residency may need to be postponed, and this will be discussed with the award winner.

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 publicly disseminated within a reasonable timescale (preferably within 18 months) following the completion of the award.

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 University of 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's acting career, prior to turning to writing is also 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 applications is 5.00pm on Friday 12th June and applicants will be notified of the outcome in July 2020.

Applicants should submit the following documents, in this order:

- 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 CV (2 pages max) and an example or extract of writing of up to 1,000 words
- 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)

Please submit these as word documents, or pdfs, with your name on the covering page, and preferably also in the header/footer of the documents.

Applications should be emailed to theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk with Kevin Elyot Award in the subject line by **5pm on 12th June 2020**.

Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a panel of at least six people, comprising curators, academics and others who may be professional theatre practitioners or writers.

What we can offer

The Kevin Elyot Award holder will be given a one-off award of £3,000. 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, in the form of advice, from the Theatre Department and 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/reading (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 contact the Theatre Collection to find out more about the Kevin Elyot Award and the Theatre Collection. To make initial enquiry please email theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk.

The catalogue of the Kevin Elyot Archive can be found on the Theatre Collection website: www.bristol.ac.uk/theatre-collection.

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