

## Supporting Information - Kevin Elyot Award 2026

### The Kevin Elyot Award

The [Kevin Elyot Award](#) is an annual award given to support a writer-in-residence at the University of Bristol Theatre Collection. This year the award amount will be £5,000. 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 and help them develop their own practice. The award has been generously funded through philanthropic funding including 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, but it is not a specific playwrighting commission. The award holder will use the Kevin Elyot Archive to inspire a new dramatic work or other creative, curatorial or academic outcome.

The £5,000 award covers a stipend towards living expenses during the residency, any materials, and other costs including basic dissemination activities. The time to be spent at the Theatre Collection is flexible; it could be undertaken in blocks of weeks or more days spread over a number of months as appropriate, and this time is to be used to start the writing process.

It could help support the beginning of a substantial undertaking or provide 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, usually within 12-18 months following the completion of the award. Other dissemination activities are expected to take place during the residency.

The Theatre Collection staff will help support the award holder with the archival research process, and additional support may be offered on writing by a professional writer. Dissemination activities may be supported with the use of space and facilities at the Theatre Collection, as appropriate.

### 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, manuscripts, 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, alongside documents reflecting Kevin's acting career, prior to turning to writing. 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 catalogue for the [Kevin Elyot Archive](#) is available online (click on 'KE' under Ref No to see the full catalogue, then click the + buttons to browse the collection). If you need any assistance navigating the catalogue, please [contact us](#).

## Application process

Applications are open to all writers (over 18).

Applications are to be submitted to [theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk) with 'Kevin Elyot Award 2026' in the subject line, by **midnight on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026**.

Applications must include the following information:

1. **A written proposal for the residency** - including how and why you would like to respond to the Kevin Elyot archive, a 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)
2. **A 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 (2 pages maximum)
3. **A CV** (2 pages maximum)
4. **Writing sample/extract** (1,000 words maximum)

Please submit these as word documents or pdfs (either as individual files or all as one file) with your name and page numbers in the header/footer of the documents.

## Assessment process

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising a mix of curators, academics, archivists and professional theatre practitioners/writers. A shortlist will be agreed by all panel members which will then be discussed in person, with a final decision usually made on the day of the panel meeting. Unfortunately, due to the number of applications we receive, we are only able to provide feedback to those shortlisted.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by the end of July 2026.

## What we can offer

The Kevin Elyot Award holder will be given an award of £5,000. They will be able to base themselves in the Theatre Collection throughout the residency and have the support of Theatre Collection staff. Support is also offered in the form of advice from other panel members and previous award winners, and the use of Theatre Collection spaces for readings, performance or other dissemination activities as appropriate.

## What we require of the award holder

The award holder is required to undertake the residency as agreed, spending an appropriate amount of time at the Theatre Collection, using the Kevin Elyot Archive and developing a new work.

The award holder is required to undertake appropriate dissemination activities of the new work being developed, both during and following the residency. This could take the form of blog posts or workshops (during the residency), lecture or research paper (if the outcome is academic) or a work in progress/script-in-hand reading (if the outcome is creative). These activities will be discussed with staff at the Theatre Collection in advance. The final dissemination activity will take place on a mutually agreed date within a reasonable timescale of completion of the award (usually 12-18 months).

The award holder must 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.

If you require any further information, please [contact us](#).