



## **2021 Stage Play Awards in partnership with Synergy Theatre Project.**

*You don't need experience, just a story to tell.*

In 2021 Koestler Arts and Synergy Theatre Project will continue to showcase Stage Play entries and get feedback for the writers.

Synergy Theatre Project is a ground-breaking charity that works through theatre towards a fairer world where those within or at risk of entering the criminal justice system can discover alternative pathways and become an integral and meaningful part of society. Synergy has produced 28 plays since 2000, including new plays written by prisoners and ex-prisoners. Recent productions include ex-prisoner commission 'There Is A Field' at Theatre503, hard-hitting drama 'Blackout' at Oval House Theatre and family-oriented musical 'Baddies' at HMP Isis.

All Stage Play entries to the Koestler Awards 2021 will be read and judged by a team of theatre professionals and ex-prisoners. Every entry will receive written feedback. After the award-winners are announced, we hope to hold a prize-giving ceremony and a rehearsed reading at a leading London theatre, and in the relevant prison if the Platinum Award-winner is a serving prisoner – (subject to change with Covid-19 measures).

### **What is a stage play?**

A stage play is any script written for live performance by one or more actors. It includes dialogue (the words spoken by characters) and stage directions (everything else that can be seen or heard other than the dialogue).

### **Stage Play category guidelines**

Scripts must be original but can be on any subject, on any length. Please include a brief description of your characters including age, gender and ethnicity.

Please send two copies of scripts. It's preferable if they are typed (and ideally around Arial, font size 12), and one-sided, with numbered pages. If you do not have access to a computer then handwritten, legible scripts will of course be accepted.

Follow the guidelines for all written entries, in particular

- Please retain copies of all written work, as submitted entries will not be returned. We will dispose of your work securely.
- Number the pages and put the title on every page, but not your name.
- If you write about your establishment or life, do not identify any individuals.
- All work must be original and created in the past year (unless it couldn't be entered in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions).

**The deadline for completed scripts is the same as the 2021 Koestler Awards closing date – and can be found on the Koestler Arts website: [koestlerarts.org.uk](http://koestlerarts.org.uk).**