



We welcome script submissions and project proposals from individuals and companies.

Please read the information on this page to make sure that your project is a suitable one for the Tristan Bates Theatre.

The following is a list of things that we are NOT looking for, because we either cannot or will not put them on:

1. Showcases, and thinly-disguised showcases. If the real reason for the project is to be a shop window for the individual actors involved, rather than the intrinsic merits of the material or the way it is presented, it does not belong in our programme.
2. Revivals. We are not interested in any revivals unless a genuine artistic case for their rediscovery or radical reinterpretation can be made. When was the piece last done, and how is your new production going to be different, better or more relevant than the last? We would rather consider really obscure classical plays and new translations of foreign classics than anything by Arthur Miller or Harold Pinter that is sure to come round again at the National or the Almeida in due course.
3. Musicals. The Tristan Bates Theatre is a small black box studio venue and even musicals of the chamber or pocket variety feel sorely out of place in it. It is also very rare for anything belonging to the genre, even sardonic pastiches or satirical reinventions of it, to sit comfortably with the declared imperatives of the artistic policy. We are however very interested in original plays that incorporate songs, evenings of cabaret and projects that mix up genres that are usually kept apart, as well as pieces that explore the theatrical possibilities of music and soundscape, and experimental forays into music theatre.
4. Historical dramas. Unless the contemporary application of the story is urgent and clear, we are very unlikely to programme plays that depend heavily on historical or biographical research. We are not taken with plays inspired by literary sources that gain nothing from theatrical adaptation. Nor are we interested in any plays that purport to offer a revelatory insight into the life of William Shakespeare or any of his contemporaries.

5. Plays that require complicated sets or expensive technical resources. Which is not to say that your project might not be a vehicle for an experimental process where the point is to achieve the same impact with a talented company of performers and no money.

6. Plays by American playwrights for American audiences about America.

7. Plays written in verse where the verse is actually a device to avoid writing about the real world.

8. Plays that either are or appear to be autobiographical dramatisations of mid-life crisis or relationship-crisis. You have our sympathy if you've been through one of these, and we acknowledge that playwriting can be an excellent form of therapy, but we probably don't want to read or produce the dramatic byproduct unless there are more original themes and issues addressed along the way.

8. Comedy. The Tristan Bates Theatre is a great try-out venue for comedy talent. All comedy programming is done to compliment our theatre's seasons and we're always interested in complimenting it with occasional slots and one-off runs for stand-up and sketch-based comedy.

Submissions Policy:

Please either email or send a hard copy of the script along with a detailed outline of the proposal. Please include all information you have on the following:

- Company history, (known creatives involved)
- Artistic policy.
- Ideal dates,
- Length of run,
- Length of get-in/ get-out,
- Any unusual technical requirements,
- Who it's for: Invited guests or paying audience? If paying audience, who are you targeting?
- Resources at your disposal (funding personnel etc)
- Marketing plans.

If you're an individual contacting us, please make it clear what your role is within the proposed production (writer, director, producer etc) and provide as much of the above information as possible.

We cannot provide detailed feedback on unsolicited submissions. The following new writing theatres offer a script reading service to playwrights: the Bush Theatre, the Royal Court, Hampstead Theatre, Soho Theatre. The following companies and organisations also invite script submissions: Paines Plough, Operating Theatre Company.