



# Theatre New Zealand

## *Te Pūtoi Whakaari o Aotearoa*

### Playmarket Award 2023 New Work from Aotearoa New Zealand

The Pounamu trophy was donated by Nanette Wright in recognition of Olga E Harding, who, for many years, was actively involved with the British Drama League (BDL) and who, after the formation of NZTF, became one of its Presidents. Playmarket generously sponsors the Award.

The benefits of entering are, therefore, two-fold. The work is assessed to allow the playwright to receive constructive feedback, which will assist with any future writing, and they also get to see a live production of their script on stage.

#### Participant Criteria

The Award requires that the new script generates up to 50 minutes of performance time, it must be performed at TheatreFest in the year the work is written, and it has not had a public performance more than three months before being presented at a local TheatreFest.

- Entries close on Monday, 14 August 2023 and need to be entered online on the TheatreFest entry form and the script emailed to – [theatrefest@theatrenewzealand.co.nz](mailto:theatrefest@theatrenewzealand.co.nz)
- The entry fee is \$30 for adults and \$20 for youth (19 years and under), an invoice will be sent out
- Each script is to be entered with a nom 'de plume .

#### Outcome

- Each work entered will receive a written assessment.
- In 2023 there will be a \$250 prize for the winning script.
- The Award recipient will be announced at the awards presentation at *TheatreFest ShowCase*, Christchurch.

#### Assessor's Criteria

- **Character:** are the characters distinguished, well-developed, consistent, and engaging?
- **Story Structure:** is the story well set up, developed and resolved. Is the identity and goal of the protagonist clear? Is their journey plausible, surprising, and engaging?
- **Theatrical Potential:** is there action (including character interaction) or just exposition? Are elements of set, lighting, sound or movement suggested which will support and enhance the story?
- **Imagination:** has the playwright created a world worth looking at, been novel or brave in selecting elements of that world? Does the writer seek to take the audience on a journey beyond everyday experience or deeper into an everyday experience?
- **Ideas and Intentions:** what themes are the writer exploring? How well do they facilitate this?

We strongly recommend that when playwrights are including stories or characters in their plays that are not of the playwright's own culture (e.g. te ao Māori or Pasifika), that they consult with the relevant community at the earliest possible stage of writing.

