



# Young Writers Programme 2026

**TERM 1:** 16 April, 23 April, 30 April, 7 May, 14 May & 21 May 2026

**TERM 2:** 4 June, 11 June, 18 June, 25 June, 2 July, 9 July 2026

**PLUS:** Guest mentor masterclasses x2 (Term 2) Dates tbc  
& TWO public showcase performances 17 and 18 July (tbc) 2026

Imagine It.



Write It.

See it performed  
on stage!



Join our **FREE** fully-funded theatre writing programme for young people aged 18-30 in South East London

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**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**





# Young Writers' Project 2026

South London theatre company, Spontaneous Productions, is launching a **FREE** fully funded 12-week scriptwriting programme for aspiring playwrights starting in April 2026

## PROJECT DETAILS

From **April 2026** we will run **twelve** evening workshops, each **two** hours long, at the Sydenham Centre, SE26 (Lewisham borough).

The programme will be led by Creative Director and Playwright **Jonathan Kaufman** and Actor and Performer **Emma Dennis-Edwards**, whose Theatre credits include *Funeral Flowers* (winner of a Fringe First) and *Not Your Superwoman* (the Bush theatre's historically fastest selling show starring Golda Rosheval and Letitia Wright) and TV writing credits include *EastEnders* and *Death in Paradise*.



Jonathan Kaufman



Emma Dennis-Edwards

**Over two terms**, aspiring writers will learn:

- The basics of storytelling
- How to create characters
- How to craft effective dialogue
- How to format your script
- All about different theatre styles and forms
- How to promote yourself in an increasingly competitive industry

There will be a **'workshare' at the end of term 1** when your scripts will be read and performed by professional actors. Your writing will then be **staged** for a **'showcase' to a paying audience at the end of term 2**.

Later in 2026, a selection of the new writing created during the programme will be developed and staged on a bigger scale over several performances.

## Guest Mentors

We are delighted that two of the UK's leading theatre makers, **Roy Williams OBE** and **Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE**, will lead masterclasses as part of the programme. **Roy Williams** is one of Britain's most acclaimed playwrights, whose work includes *Death of England*, *Sucker Punch* and *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads*, produced by the National Theatre, Royal Court and RSC. South London-born writer, director and performer **Rikki Beadle-Blair** is known for his wide-ranging work across theatre, film and television, including the groundbreaking Channel 4 series *Metrosexuality*.

Both artists have strong South London connections and a long-standing commitment to championing new writing and supporting emerging voices.



Roy Williams



Rikki Beadle-Blair

## The Details

**Term Dates** (correct at the time of sending)

Workshops will take place on Thursday evenings:

TERM 1	
Session 1	April 16
Session 2	April 23
Session 3	April 30
Session 4	May 07
Session 5	May 14
Session 6	May 21

TERM 2	
Session 7	June 04
Session 8	June 11
Session 9	June 18
Session 10	June 25
Session 11	July 02
Session 12	July 09

Masterclasses x 2 (Term 2)	Dates TBC
Showcase Performances x2	July 18 and July 19

### Location:

Upstairs at the Sydenham Centre, 44A Sydenham Road, SE26 5QX

### Register your interest:

Complete our short google form here: [bit.ly/4swq1aR](https://bit.ly/4swq1aR) by **Friday, 3 April**.

### Contact us:

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to reach out for partnership opportunities, please contact:

[makeascene@spontaneousproductions.co.uk](mailto:makeascene@spontaneousproductions.co.uk)



## FAQs

- Do I need to have any prior experience of writing for the stage?  
**No, absolutely not. Complete beginners are very welcome!**
- How will you select who can take part?  
**We have a limited number of places available, so we will ask you to tell us why this opportunity appeals to you. An informal interview process will then follow before we offer places.**
- Are there any costs to participants at all?  
**No, all travel expenses to the workshop and performance venues will be covered. And we can even cover childcare costs if necessary.**
- What would I need to bring to the classes?  
**Ideally a notebook and pen of course! And a device so we can share handouts - so an iPad, tablet, laptop. If you're offered a place and can't bring such a device, we will look into providing one.**
- Is the opportunity open to those with disabilities such as dyslexia or neurodiversity for example?  
**Absolutely. Our venue is fully accessible to all and our tutors will be able to offer 1-2-1 mentoring on an individual basis alongside the course sessions. Please let us know in your application how we can meet your needs.**
- Will what we write be performed?  
**Yes, provided it is a completed scene or extract that stands on its own. We intend to stage work by all of the writers at the first showcase after the second term. We will then commission one or more of the writers to develop something longer for performance later in the Autumn.**
- What happens to those writers whose work isn't selected for the second showcase?  
**While we are unable to include all the writers' work in the second showcase, those who aren't selected will be provided with a letter of introduction, should they wish to continue developing their craft. And we do hope to run a similar course in the future, so there will be opportunities to return.**



- Is there any payment for the scripts we write?  
**Yes, fees will be paid to those writers whose work we stage as part of the project. These are at the discretion of the Company, depending on the length or complexity of the pieces written and performed. An agreement can be provided on request. The copyright of the work remains with the author, meaning participants will be effectively licensing their work to the Company.**



- What was the idea behind this project?  
**To provide a truly inclusive scriptwriting course that removes the barriers that exist within the theatre industry. Our aim is to nurture the next generation of playwrights, and we are particularly keen to support those with limited or no qualifications, physical or hidden disabilities, mental health conditions and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds and people from the global majority. We believe that theatre is for all!**



The future of theatre  
depends  
on finding & nurturing  
new voices  
- and so, all are welcome!