

# PRESS RELEASE

## The King's Cross Award for New Writing 2013

The Courtyard is delighted to announce that the 7th King's Cross Award for New Writing is formally being **launched on 7th January 2013**, and entries will be accepted between then and the **closing date of 30th April 2013**.

The Award, which is open to writers of all levels of experience resident in the UK or Republic of Ireland, seeks imaginative, original work, which explores the unique possibilities of writing for the stage. Scripts must be unpublished and currently unperformed.

The winning playwright will be awarded with a £5,000 cash prize. The winning play will be presented as a stage rehearsed reading

"We want to bring the work of the top-class writers whom we are now attracting to the attention of more directors, writers and literary managers and offer a prize which will help them with their long-term career development." (Previous Panel member)

"For a stage writer working in independent theatre, winning a national theatre writing award is a huge achievement as it seriously raises your profile. Winning The Kings Cross Award was without doubt a significant step in the life of Einstein's Daughter and I would encourage any writer to enter the 2013 award." (Rob Johnson, winner of The Kings Cross Writing award 2011)

Entries may be sent, marked "King's Cross Award 2013" and accompanied by a £10 entry fee (made payable to The Courtyard) and a large SAE for return of script, to:

THE COURTYARD THEATRE, BOWLING GREEN WALK, 40 PITFIELD STREET,  
LONDON, N1 6EU

Full rules and conditions and further details may be found on the Courtyard's website, [www.thecourtyard.org.uk](http://www.thecourtyard.org.uk)

Please note that telephone calls or enquiries regarding The Kings Cross New Writing Award 2013 will not be accepted.

Press Enquiries: [kingscrossaward@thecourtyard.org.uk](mailto:kingscrossaward@thecourtyard.org.uk)

ENDS

### Editor's notes

Thanks largely to the commitment of the Courtyard's Artistic director, June Abbott, to promoting new writing, the Award has grown since its inception in 2003 from a modest local contest with only 27 entries to one of Britain's key national new writing competitions.

Our Award panel in previous years has included such prestigious individuals as noted playwrights Debbie Isitt, Robin Soans and Mark Ravenhill, the National Theatre's literary manager Jack Bradley, leading theatre critic Aleks Sierz, and Nick Quinn from top literary agents The Agency.

Several winning and shortlisted writers from previous years have gained a literary agent as a direct result of their involvement in the contest, and several of their plays have since been mounted in London and beyond. Additionally, a book of audition speeches, compiled from outstanding entries to previous years' Awards, is currently being planned.

2009 winner Evan Placey's *Mother of Him* was produced here at the Courtyard directed by Guy Retallack and was subsequently shortlisted for the Meyer-Whitworth Award at the National Theatre.

2011 winner Rob Johnson's play *Einstiens Daughter* went into full production with Freerange Theatre and is currently on UK tour. It has received excellent 4 and 5 star reviews and was nominated for Best Play and Best Actress.