

# Derby LIVE

## New Writing – Principles and Guidelines

### Derby LIVE's mission:

*Derby LIVE presents and produces an excellent and diverse programme of performing arts. It is innovative, inclusive and sustainable. Rooted in Derby, it talks to the world.*

### Derby LIVE = Excellence + Diversity + Sustainability

#### ACTIVITIES

In line with Derby LIVE's Artistic Vision which seeks, among many other things, to provide "a continuum of cradle-to-grave learning and participatory theatrical activities across all facets of theatre-making", Derby LIVE helps to nurture and facilitate playwrights and their writing regardless of experience, expertise and/or profile. Development workshops and activities, across a range of areas, are periodically provided, normally in connection with Theatre Writing Partnership (TWP) and, on occasions, with the University of Derby (UoD). Derby LIVE subscribes to TWP which runs regional programmes for young writers and emerging writers culminating in the Momentum Festival which platforms new work for theatre. As part of Derby LIVE's agreement with TWP, other theatre writing initiatives specific to Derby are negotiated and delivered to seek out and nurture new voices, particularly from backgrounds and communities currently under represented in theatre.

#### NEW COMMISSIONS

Derby LIVE normally commissions at least three new scripts for full-scale production each year. One or two of these will usually be dramatisations for performance at Christmas time. There will also generally be new commissions on an annual basis for both our Youth and Community Theatre productions. These will be for casts of roughly 90 and 60 respectively. Commissions for new work will normally be given to writers with a proven track record. They will often be afforded to writers who have developed a close and successful working relationship with Derby LIVE over a period of time and over a succession of activities.

### **REHEARSED READINGS**

Working with Theatre Writing Partnership and the University of Derby, Derby LIVE aims to stage two rehearsed readings per annum. These will be of work which exhibits genuine potential and where significant benefits are deemed possible from the rehearsal and public performance processes for the work, the writer and/or Derby LIVE.

### **UNSOLICITED SCRIPTS**

Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to respond to unsolicited scripts. Where possible, Derby LIVE's Artistic Producer will endeavour to read the first dozen pages of unsolicited scripts and, if appropriate, provide feedback. This facility, however, is entirely dependent on the Artistic Producer's current workload. Theatre Writing Partnership also reads scripts on behalf of the theatres in the East Midlands including Derby Live. TWP will read the first 15 pages of scripts submitted and will offer full readings and feedback on promising scripts.

### **BROKERAGE**

As part of its commitment to servicing the theatre ecology of the Derby/shire sub-region, Derby LIVE also endeavours to broker relationships between playwrights and the many theatre companies within the area. Derby LIVE always holds "mutual benefit to both writers and companies" as a prime consideration when operating in this regard. Similarly, where appropriate, Derby LIVE brokers relationships between playwrights and the University of Derby when mutually beneficial possibilities are perceived.

### **"RECEIVING" NEW WORK**

New writing also features quite prominently within Derby LIVE's programme of received/presented work. Numerous theatre companies who perform in Derby LIVE's venues prioritise new writing.