

# Menagerie Young Writers' Workshop

January 14th - March 26th 2023



**Menagerie is the new writing theatre company based at Cambridge Junction. We seek out, support and nurture playwrights to produce exciting, original new theatre.**

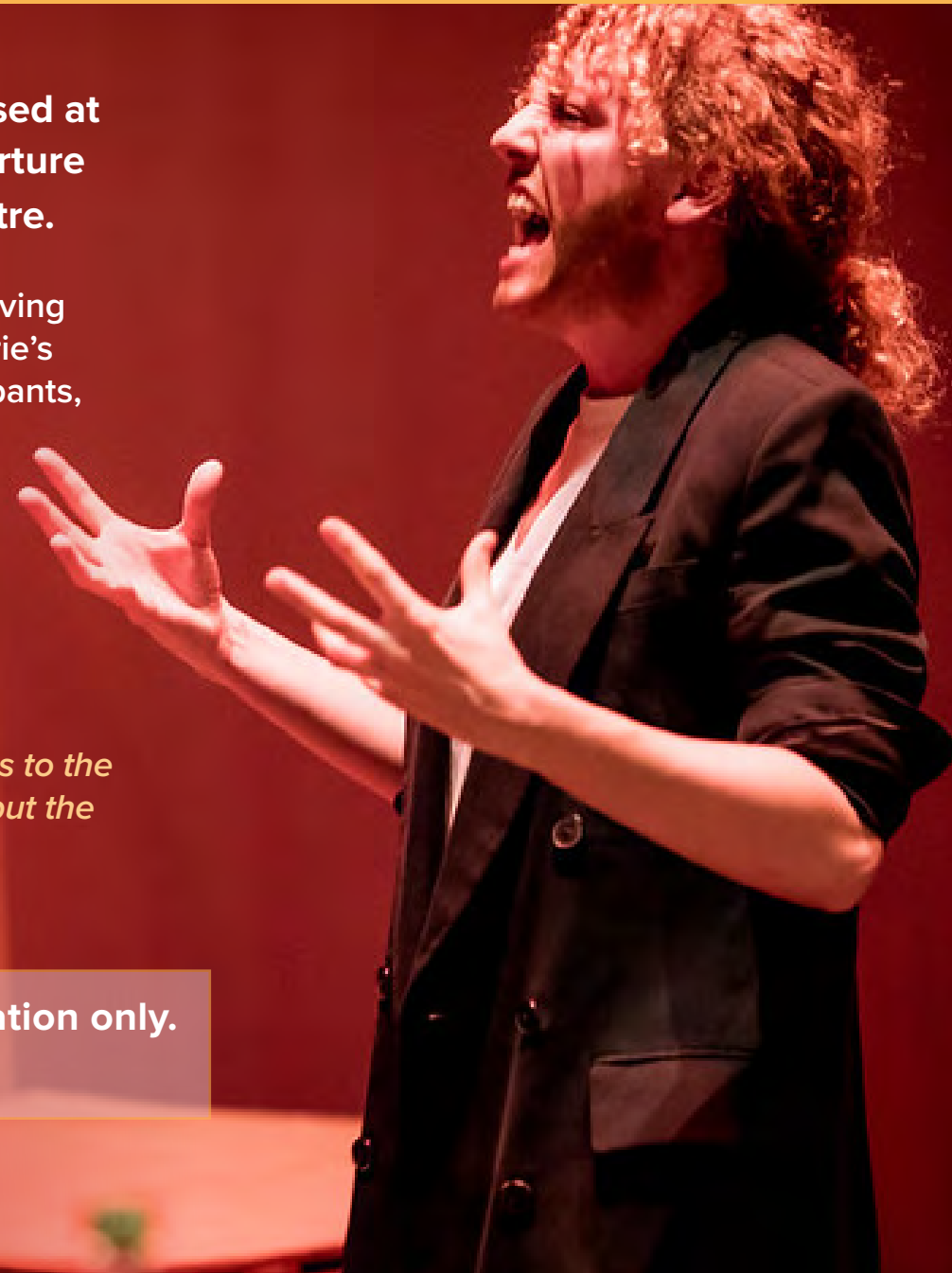
The Young Writers' Workshop is for writers aged 18 – 30, living in the East and South East of England. It is led by Menagerie's Co-Artistic Director, Patrick Morris. As one of just 8 participants, you learn from experienced writers, receive feedback on your work and connect with peers. It is a space for you to experiment, extend your horizons and be exposed to different influences.

You will also get the chance to show your work at the Hotbed Festival in July 2023 at Cambridge Junction.

*I wish everyone at the beginning of their careers had access to the kind of support you've given me over the last few months, but the fact that it's so rare makes me all the more grateful for it.*

(Emma Rogerson, 2021)

**We offer 8 places and participation is by application only.  
Deadline: November 25th 2022**



# Workshop Format

**The Young Writers' Workshop is for people who write for the stage. Whether you consider yourself a playwright, a performance writer, or a writer for performance, we welcome you.**

The Workshop is a series of 5 x 4-hour sessions, held every two weeks from January 14th to March 11th 2023. It is facilitated by Patrick Morris, Menagerie's Co-Artistic Director.

Sessions are split into two parts: the first half, we invite **guest writers** to choose an inspirational play or performance text. They use it to explore the writing process with the group. Each discussion is unique and invites your active participation. Previous guests include Steve Waters, April de Angelis, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Fraser Grace, Chris Thorpe, Sudha Bhuchar and Caroline Horton.

The second half of each session involves two participants sharing their work, opening it up to critical feedback from their peers.

We will also schedule a one-to-one meeting with Patrick Morris to discuss your progress and experience.

Finally, throughout the weekend of March 25-26th, each writer gets rehearsal time with actors and a director, in advance of a reading from extracts of all 8 writers' work on Sunday March 26th.

***This workshop was unlike any other writing course I have done. The opportunity to discuss and dissect plays, both the group's own work and published texts, was fantastic.***

(Martha Loader, 2021)



# Dates and Location



## Sessions 1-5pm, Saturdays:

January 14th, 28th, February 11th, 25th, March 11th

## Rehearsals and Readings:

March 25-26th at selected times.

Location: Cambridge Junction, Clifton Way, Cambridge CB1 7GX.

Travel bursaries are available (see [Application Guidelines](#) below).

*Thank you so much for creating such a fantastic course.  
I really hope that others get the chance to experience this  
course. I would recommend it to all scriptwriters.*

(Magdalene Bird, 2021)

## Hotbed Festival

Following completion of the workshop, each participant is invited to submit a draft piece (45 minutes) for performance at our Hotbed new writing festival, July 2023, at Cambridge Junction. Menagerie will choose two pieces to receive staged productions at Hotbed and two others to receive rehearsed readings. We will advise participants on inviting industry professionals to Hotbed if applicable. All participants will receive feedback on their submissions

## Previous participants have gone on to...

- Be produced at Theatre503, Park Theatre, House, and Camden People's Theatre
- Join the Royal Court writers' group in London
- Be shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award at Soho Theatre



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## Application Guidelines

- Participation is BY APPLICATION ONLY.
- Please send a letter of interest which addresses the following questions:
  - Why do you wish to be part of the Menagerie Young Writers' Workshop?
  - Which theatre writers or performance practitioners inspire you and why?
  - Keep your total response to a maximum of **2 pages**
- Please attach/enclose a CV
- Please attach/enclose a sample of your writing – up to 50 pages.
- Please include some questions you might bring to the process and be specific about what you hope to achieve through your participation.
- Please send all materials to Patrick Morris at Menagerie by **Friday Nov 25th**:  
Email: [patrick@menagerie.uk.com](mailto:patrick@menagerie.uk.com)
- If you have any questions or queries, please contact Patrick at the above email address.

## Conditions of Participation

- You must be able to attend all 6 sessions. If you cannot, please do not apply.
- You must be aged 18 – 30, living in the East or South East of England and identify yourself as a writer for the stage.
- You must be willing to complete any and all preparatory work, including but not limited to: sharing your work with the group; familiarising yourself with the guest writers' own work and their choices of text; reading work by fellow participants.
- The Young Writers' Workshop will be held in-person at Cambridge Junction. We expect participants to attend in-person unless for medical reasons only virtual attendance is possible. Please indicate on your application if this is the case.

### Travel Bursaries

Menagerie has bursaries of up to £80 each, available for participants who live further than 25 miles from Cambridge. The bursaries help towards covering travel expenses for the 6 sessions. Please indicate whether you would like to be considered for the bursary.



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