**Open Call-Out: Retreat for Theatre Writers at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre**

**Introduction**

Literature Wales and tSherman Theatre are pleased to offer a free development opportunity for playwrights who are underrepresented in literature and the theatre industry in Wales.

* **Course Dates:** Monday 13 – Friday 17 June 2022
* **Tutors**: Branwen Davies and Alice Eklund
* **Deadline to Apply**: 5.00 pm Monday 2 May

Join **Branwen Davies** and **Alice Eklund**, Literary Manager and Literary Associate at Sherman Theatre’s new literary department, for a retreat to at Literature Wales’ national writing centre, Tŷ Newydd, to develop your scriptwriting skills for the stage.

This retreat will be offered to ten playwrights from Wales, free of charge, through a competitive application process. The opportunity is open for emerging writers with underrepresented characteristics within the literary and theatre world, and in particular we will be looking for writers of colour and/or disabled writers.

**Why are you prioritising playwrights of colour and/or disabled writers?**

Literature Wales and Sherman Theatre strongly believe that readers and audiences should see people and situations that are similar to themselves and their lives reflected in books, performances and art so that they can identify with, and feel part of the arts sector in Wales.

Wales’ communities are numerous and diverse, and communities of colour and the disabled community have not traditionally had fair nor visual representation within our art forms.

This has to change.   
  
We are prioritising these underrepresented individuals to ensure that new, diverse books and plays are created to be enjoyed and celebrated.

If you are not eligible to apply for this opportunity, please [contact Literature Wales](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/) and the [Sherman Theatre](https://www.shermantheatre.co.uk/theatre-makers/) to learn more about the opportunities available for writers from every background.

**What will happen on the retreat?**

You will be encouraged to arrive with a seed idea or pitch for a play, and you will leave at the end of the week with the first pages of your play, and a clear structural plan on how to continue with it in your own time.

We’ll keep in touch after the course, and encourage the network to continue to keep in touch online.

**During the retreat, you will:**

* Take part in group workshops to develop your craft.
* Develop your original idea, placing it into the world of the play.
* Create credible characters and dialogue. Craft a structure to carry the story. Explore, and push, the boundaries of the stage play.
* Receive a one-to-one meeting with the tutors, and with a Literature Wales staff member to discuss your development as a writer.
* Hear from industry experts speaking about their experiences.
* Read extracts of plays, share work with the group, and watch clips of dramas.
* Enjoy free time to write and socialise.

**The Welsh Language**

The retreat will mainly be held through the medium of English, but we are very keen to welcome writers eager to develop work through the medium of Welsh – there is no need for good grammar or vocabulary!

The tutors are both bilingual, so the one-to-one meetings can happen in Welsh. We also welcome the possibility of creating bilingual work.

**The Tutors**

**Branwen Davies**

**Branwen Davies** is a playwright, dramaturg and director working through the medium of Welsh and English. She is currently the Literary Manager for Sherman Theatre, leading on writing courses and developing theatre writers. She has worked as a lecturer on drama and performance at several Universities in Wales.

Branwen is a member of Dirty Protest, and one of the founders of theatre company Os Nad Nawr. She has worked with several companies in Wales including Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, Papertrail, Illumine, Frân Wen, Dirty Protest, Blas Pontio, Sherman Theatre and Criw Brwd.

**Alice Eklund**

**Alice Eklund** is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Cardiff. She predominantly works as a theatre director and dramaturg on women-led new writing for plays and musicals. She is currently the Literary Associate at Sherman Theatre. As a queer, bilingual artist living with a disability, she's also interested in developing pieces that push the norm and boundaries of Welsh language theatre.

Over the years Alice has worked with a number of companies such as National Theatre Wales, Wales Millennium Centre, Sherman Theatre, Theatre Uncut, Goodspeed and The Other Room. Alice is also the founder of BolSHE, a women-led creative collective, platforming and celebrating the voices of creative Welsh women.

**How do I apply?**

To apply, [please fill out this Application Form](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KW2FNHR) on Survey Monkey. Or you can fill out the application form below, and send it to [post@literaturewales.org](mailto:post@literaturewales.org)

In addition to asking you about your personal information, the form will ask you to explain why you want to apply, and ask you to provide an example of a script – or an idea for a play.

If you need any help to apply, please [contact us](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/) for an informal chat.

We will contact every applicant before Friday 13 May.

**FAQs**

* **Who is eligible to apply for this opportunity?**

Applicants must be over the age of 18 and living in Wales.

You must be able to fully commit to attending the course on Monday 13 – Friday 17 June 2022 to apply.

We are particularly interested in receiving applications from writers of colour and/or disabled writers, or writers living with illnesses (mental or physical) for a place on this course.

We also welcome applications from writers who consider themselves as someone who is underrepresented in the theatre and literature world in Wales for other reasons, and we’ll invite you to explain in your own words why you would like to apply.

* **Do I need experience to apply? Or am I too experienced?**

We are mainly looking for applicants who are quite new to the theatre world. You don’t need a lot of previous writing experience, only good ideas and a positive and passionate attitude towards your writing. We’re also looking for potential.

If you are already an experienced writer, you might find that there are barriers which prevent you from reaching your full potential, or you might want to experiment with a different literary form or language. Everyone will have a different definition of what experience means, and where they believe themselves to be on their journey as a writer. If you are unsure if this is the right course for you at this stage of your writing career, please [get in touch](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/) to discuss.

* **Is there a cost for this course?**

No. Most courses at Tŷ Newydd require a fee to attend, but some of our more strategic activity is offered free of charge to individuals through a competitive application process.

However, you will need to factor in your travel costs to and from the centre. If this will be challenging, please let us know. We will also have an accessibility pot to help disabled writers with any additional needs to travel.

* **Can you give me more practical information about the Centre and my visit?**

You can learn more about Literature Wales’ National Writing Centre, Tŷ Newydd, [on our website](http://www.tynewydd.wales). Here you can browse through photos and blogs written by past participants. Located in Gwynedd, Tŷ Newydd is situated between the sea and the mountains – less than ten minutes’ drive from both Snowdonia National Park and the Llŷn Peninsula which is an official Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

**For this course, the writers will be invited to arrive between 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm on Monday 13 June 2022, and the course will come to an end after lunch, at around 2.00 pm, on Friday 17 June.** Please [see our website](https://www.tynewydd.wales/find-us/) for travel information. We can help with travel from train stations (Cricieth or Bangor).

The writers will be allocated a bedroom each. Some bedrooms are en suites, others have shared bathrooms. Bedrooms will be allocated randomly – except for accessible rooms.

All meals will be provided to you by our resident chef, including a self-serve breakfast, buffet-style lunch, evening meal with a dessert, and home-made snacks. We can cater for all kind of different dietary requirements and food allergies.

We hope that you will have plenty of free time to enjoy walks in the area, and to relax at the centre. But we kindly ask you to attend all of the activity organised as part of the course. A detailed timetable will be provided.

* **I have a disability or an illness that might make it difficult to take part, can you help?**

Yes. The Literature Wales team are available to discuss any concerns and requirements before and throughout the course.

For individuals in a wheelchair or with mobility requirements, we have an accessible bedroom and bathroom.

For disabled and/or Deaf writers who require additional support, we can welcome personal assistant and/or BSL interpreters. We can offer accommodation and support with the cost of the support needed.

[Please contact us](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/) to discuss accessibility.

* **If I am unsuccessful, will I receive feedback?**

We will notify all the applications of the outcome before Friday 13 May 2022.

As we are expecting a lot of applications, we may not be able to provide detailed feedback on each one. However, where possible we will provide a short, personalised line of feedback, and advise on other opportunities Literature Wales and the Sherman Theatre may have available.

We are aware that correspondence regarding unsuccessful applications can have a negative impact on your health and well-being. We give our pledge to respect and value each individual application, giving it due consideration and attention.

A small team of Literature Wales and Sherman Theatre staff member will have access to your submitted creative work. In line with our talent-scouting and signposting strategy, we may get in touch in the future with personalised opportunities, based on your work and your expertise. To enable Literature Wales to comply with data protection law (GDPR), please complete the relevant section at the end of the application form to let us know if you **don’t** want to be contacted by Literature Wales about offers in the future.

For any further questions, please [contact Literature Wales](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/) for an informal chat on email or on the phone.

**Application Form**

If you need any further information, you are welcome to [contact Literature Wales](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/).

**The deadline to apply is 5.00 pm on Monday 2 May 2022.**

**Your Details**

1. **Full name:**
2. **E-mail Address:**
3. **Phone Number:**
4. **Your home address, including post code:**
5. **Date of Birth:**

This course is aimed at writers who are underrepresented in the theatre and literature world. By providing guidance for writers of colour, disabled writers or writers living with illnesses, LGBTQA+ writers, writers from low income backgrounds or writers underrepresented in other ways, our hope is that these lived experiences will receive better representation in the future – ensuring that our theatre and literature is relevant to all.

1. **Are you:**

* **A person of colour (of a minority ethnic background in Wales)**
* **A disabled person, or living with an illness (mental/physical)**
* **Other: I prefer to explain in my own words why I am underrepresented in the theatre and literature world in Wales:**

1. **Why are you eager to apply for this opportunity?**

You are welcome to mention previous experiences of creative writing or writing for the theatre. You might want to talk about your ambitions and dreams within the theatre/publishing world, and mention what you are hoping to learn and achieve by taking part in the course.

Max: 500 words.

1. **Please send one example of your original writing work to** [**post@literaturewales.org**](mailto:post@literaturewales.org)

We suggest a piece of writing for the theatre. If you’ve not written a play before, you are welcome to send a paragraph explaining an idea for a play – mentioning themes, the story and characters.

You can also send in a video explaining your idea for a story. [Please contact us](https://www.literaturewales.org/contact/) if you need support to send us your video.

We suggest a script that is no more than 10 pages. If you are sending a video, please ensure that it’s not longer than 10 minutes.

**Privacy and Consent**

GDPR: Literature Wales and the Sherman Theatre are committed to protecting your privacy and data. The personal data you provide in the completion of this application form will be used by Literature Wales and the Sherman Theatre to administer your application for funding, in accordance with GDPR. This data will be retained for the duration of the application process and for a reasonable time for reporting and evaluation.

1. **Do you consent to Literature Wales the Sherman Theatre storing and using the data provided in this way?**

(Yes / No)

Literature Wales the Sherman Theatre would like to send you information about its events, opportunities, and products by email. You may remove your consent to receive Literature Wales the Sherman Theatre information about its events, services, and products at any time. To view your personal data held by Literature Wales the Sherman Theatre please contact us.

1. **Do you consent to** **Literature Wales the Sherman Theatre contacting you?**

(Yes / No)