

LEODIS PRIZE

New writing prize launches at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to champion unrepresented and previously unrecognised talent

A major new opportunity for aspiring playwrights has been unveiled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe - The Leodis Prize is a bold initiative to spotlight previously unrecognised voices. No other award in UK theatre supports entirely unplatformed artists while also offering full production and publication. It is a prize rooted in access and opportunity, opening the door to new voices. In an industry where connections and exposure are crucial, The Leodis Prize aims to rewrite the rules of breaking into the theatre world.

The prize is open exclusively to writers, of any age, who have never had their plays performed, are not published and do not have professional representation. The winning writer will see their debut play fully produced by Leodis in association with Pleasance Theatre Trust, premiering at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2026. In addition to a full production, the winning play will be published by Methuen Drama, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing, offering the playwright a unique platform to launch their career, and the winner will receive a £2,000 cash prize to support their career development.

The judging panel brings a wealth of experience and creative insight. The panel includes: household name Tamzin Outhwaite, known for her extensive career on stage and screen; writer Jenna Fincken, whose play *Ruckus* was a standout at the Fringe, and understands how to navigate the Fringe path to success; and director Sam Yates, acclaimed for his work on the West End and internationally. The panel represent a powerful blend of industry insight along with a shared passion for nurturing new talent.

Entries for The Leodis Prize will open in August 2025 and close in November 2025, with the winner announced in March 2026. Full details and how to apply are on www.leodistalent.com/prize.

Daniel Hinchliffe, Managing Director of Leodis Talent and founder of the award comments, *I wanted to create a writing prize to find a new voice in theatre that is open to anyone, especially without age restraints. I don't think our industry does enough to support new theatre writing and I wanted to ensure we created a pathway to the Fringe that is fully funded for our winning playwright to allow them to concentrate on the play and not the process of producing. I am delighted to be launching this new prize with Pleasance and Bloomsbury Publishing, companies that I admire greatly for their support of new writing.*

Anthony Alderson, Director of the Pleasance Theatre Trust, said, *The Fringe has always been about discovery and it remains the launchpad for some of the most exciting new works. It is a place to find and platform new voices. The Leodis Prize is the kind of initiative that keeps the spirit of the Fringe alive and urgent and we are proud to be partnering with the award to stage the winning play and help to uncover new artists.*

The Leodis Prize underscores the vital role of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe as a place to stage fresh, dynamic and fearless new work.

Notes to Editors

Submissions open	Tuesday 12 th August 2025
Submissions close	Sunday 2 nd November 2025

Website	https://www.leodistalent.com/
Instagram	@leodistalent

Leodis Talent

Leodis Talent pride themselves in going that extra mile which is needed to ensure success in this competitive and ever-changing industry and aim to open as many opportunities as possible for each of their clients. A leading talent agency, founded by Daniel Hinchliffe, Leodis are celebrating their 1st birthday by launching this writing prize. With offices in Leeds and London, the team are committed to nurturing new talent as well as representing a stellar mix of established names. Working with clients in all areas of the industry, including a strong list of creative clients, we work hard to spread opportunities and keep as much work 'in house' as we can.

Pleasance Theatre Trust

The Pleasance Theatre Trust is a leading UK arts charity dedicated to creating space for emerging voices, bright ideas, and outstanding performance. With a proud history rooted in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and a permanent base in Islington, London, the Trust fosters theatrical innovation, accessibility and growth within the performing arts.

Since its foundation in 1985, and its charity registration in 1995, the Trust has built a reputation for recognising, supporting, and showcasing both emerging and established talent. Each year, the Pleasance hosts hundreds of productions across its two hubs, provides critical support through artist development initiatives, and nurtures the next generation of performers, producers, and creatives.

For over four decades, the Pleasance has played a pivotal role in launching the careers of countless artists and creatives, both on and off stage, across theatre, comedy, and live performance. Many performers, writers, directors, and creatives who began their journeys at the Pleasance have gone on to shape the arts landscape both in the UK and internationally. This enduring legacy demonstrates the Trust's dedication to supporting bold ideas and providing a platform where new voices can flourish.

We present acclaimed seasons of performance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Pleasance London. We provide rehearsal and R&D space, technical and producing support, and mentorship through our flagship artist development programme, Pleasance Futures. This includes the Young Pleasance, our Charlie Hartill Fund, our Edinburgh National Partnerships and our London Associate Artist programmes.

We are committed to reaching new audiences. Through community outreach, school engagement, and accessible performance initiatives, we aim to ensure everyone—regardless of background—has the opportunity to engage with theatre.

Our Mission

We exist to Champion innovation across theatre, comedy and performance; provide accessible, affordable platforms for artists to take creative risks; Develop the skills and careers of young and emerging talent both on and off stage; Support a diverse, inclusive and equitable creative community; Entertain, engage, and inspire audiences across the UK and beyond

The Pleasance Theatre Trust is a charity registered in England & Wales (No. 1050944) and in Scotland (No. SC043237). It is a company limited by guarantee, governed by a volunteer board of trustees.

Methuen Drama

Methuen Drama, an imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing, has been publishing plays and books on acting, theatre and practice for over 100 years. They are home to 8 Nobel Prize winners and cutting-edge critical studies, research and practical guides, as well as Drama Online, Bloomsbury Publishing's award-winning Digital Library.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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