



SO: To Speak Festival 2017 - Call for submissions

Southampton Festivals and ArtfulScribe are pleased to announce two opportunities for commissioned writers to produce 20 minute scripts for performance as part of SO: To Speak Festival of Words 2017. Successful applicants will be asked to creatively respond to this year's festival theme 'Changing Times' and to present their work at a showcase event to an audience of both invited guests and a general public.

Changing Times

In October 2016 there was some surprise when the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to 60's folk legend, Bob Dylan. In his acceptance speech, Dylan notes the impact of literature and its potential for illuminating the darkness.

Change is happening at an accelerated pace, through technology and human endeavour – whether for better or for worse.

Yet Art thrives on change. It helps us to see things differently, offering new perspectives by reacting, resisting, provoking, chronicling, innovating and responding to the nature of change.

Some may resist change and try to hang on to the past while others are determined to shape the future and believe they can. There are those who go with the flow and others who struggle to cope. Yet we all have capacity within ourselves to change – to change how we direct our energy, how we listen, what we listen to, and how we focus.

So 'come writers and critics' as Dylan once said, 'if your time to you is worth saving.' Southampton's Festival of Words offers a platform for voices within the city and visiting guests to respond through stories, pictures, songs, poetry, in fiction, non-fiction and spoken word. 'For the times they are a changing.'

Expressions of interest are requested from writers based in the SO postcode area. Responses can include, but are not restricted to Spoken Word, theatre pieces, monologues, fiction and non-fiction. Please send a cover letter explaining your interest in this opportunity and a synopsis of your script idea (max. 1000 words) along with links to any relevant or online content and examples of recent writing practice. Submissions via email as a single PDF or Word document.

Commissions will be selected by a panel consisting of Hannah Bevan (Nuffield Southampton Theatres), Matthew West (ArtfulScribe) and James Gough (Culture Southampton). Selection criteria will include, but not be limited to, originality of idea, creative engagement and an appraisal of the candidate's ability to deliver to brief and deadline.

Successful applicants will receive an inclusive fee of £500 for both writing and showcasing their response. Writers must be available to attend an evening event on Friday 20th October and the afternoon of 29th October.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to matt@artfulscribe.co.uk. Deadline for expressions of interest is **11th August 2017**. Successful candidates will be notified by **18th August 2017**.

Please note the selection panel's decision is final and no feedback will be offered to unsuccessful applicants.

The SO: To Speak Festival is supported by **Arts Council England**.