



A Todmorden Hippodrome celebration of Todmorden Town Hall's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

## *Conditions of Entry*

The popular *Voices of Todmorden* returns this year, re-framed and re-launched especially to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Todmorden Town Hall in March 2025.

The popular script-writing competition last took place in 2017/18 and TAODS are proud to offer this opportunity once more to writers and audience alike.

For ***Town Hall Voices*** we are looking for original scripts of approximately 2000 words (a 10-minute performance), written for 1 – 3 performers, with more than a passing reference to Todmorden Town Hall.

### **Entries must:**

- Be an original piece of previously unpublished work (no translations or adaptations)
- Be the sole work of the entrant
- Be approximately 2000 words in length
- Be written as a stage play - with dialogue for 1, 2, or 3 characters, and stage directions
- Strongly feature Todmorden Town Hall (this is open to individual interpretation)
- Require simple hand-props, staging, lighting states, and sound effects (if any)
- Not have been entered into other competitions.

Your writing can be whatever stage genre you choose: comedic, dramatic, biographical, farcical - historically accurate or fictional.

### Important notes.

- I. Each author may submit a maximum of 2 pieces.
- II. The work will remain the intellectual property of the writer. However, any entered scripts must not be performed or presented in any guise until after the TAODS performance in March 2025.
- III. TAODS are responsible for casting, direction and performance. Authors must not write a monologue for a specific member of TAODS to perform should they be shortlisted.
- IV. The judges' decisions are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.



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## Town Hall Voices

### How to enter

The piece must be written in the English language and must be typed. The entry email should clearly state:

- Title – in bold print,
- Number of words,
- Author's Full Name,
- Address,
- Preferred Contact Telephone Number,
- Email address,
- A statement of ownership of the rights to the writing

e.g.

### **A Walk in the Park**

1600 words.

Jane Bloggs

23 Acacia Avenue

Todmorden

OL14 6FF

07880 123456

janebloggs@hotmail.com

I declare that the enclosed script is my intellectual property, is previously unpublished and has not been entered in any other competition. Jane Bloggs.

The title page should contain the title ONLY, and the script title and page number should appear in the header of each page. The author's details should NOT appear on the pages of the script.

It is usual to format a script with character names in bold type and stage directions in italics.

TAODS will provide the judges with anonymised scripts. They will not know the names or details of any entrants until judging is concluded and the winner and shortlist are finalised.

Your entry must be sent by email to: **voicesoftod@todhip.org**

**The closing date for receipt of entries is 10.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**



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## The Selection Process

Todmorden Hippodrome has appointed 3 independent judges, to judge the entries. The panel is comprised of two successful local authors, and a director from stage and television.

They will each read every entry independently, and scores will be appointed based on the following criteria:

- 10 marks for originality
- 10 marks for the use of the theme
- 20 marks for the quality of writing
- 10 marks for the performing potential

A director from Todmorden Hippodrome will also judge the entries and award marks for the *performing potential* category only.

The score from each judge for each script will be combined to give a total score out of 160.

**The top scoring monologues will then make-up the shortlist of monologues for performance in Spring 2025.**

The Hippodrome will contact all entrants to inform them whether they have been shortlisted for performance by the end of November 2024. This will be done by email, using the email address from which the entries came.

The shortlisted writers and titles will also be publicised on the Todmorden Hippodrome website and on our social media accounts.

## Awards/Prizes:

The monologue that has the highest combined score from the judges will be declared the winner of *Town Hall Voices 2025*. This accolade will be announced at the conclusion of the performance in March 2025.

The winning author will receive 2 free tickets for 4 TAODS performances at the Todmorden Hippodrome (subject to an expiry date of December 2027).

In addition, there will be an audience award at the performance, where the author of most popular monologue with the audience will receive a bottle of champagne.



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## FAQs

*Who is eligible to enter? Is the competition only open to Todmorden residents?*

There is no age or geographical limit – you obviously need some knowledge of Todmorden Town Hall to meet the judging criteria, but you can reside anywhere in the world.

*What if I don't have an email address?*

If you do not have a trusted friend or family member who could submit your entry from their email address, and you would like to submit a physical printout of your work, please contact Justine Sutcliffe (07970 857258).

*Can it be an adaptation of another piece of work?*

The piece can allude to, or be inspired by, another piece of work (a book, play, film, etc) but the main body of the piece should be your own original work.

*Can we make a joint entry?*

You may enter under joint names. However, please ensure that both parties agree to the entry and are aware of the conditions. Both parties should state their joint right to be owners of the piece.

*I have two scripts, do I enter them on the same email?*

If you have two entries to make, please submit these on two separate emails (with the required information in each) to help us keep the entries organised.

*How many words should it be?*

The performed piece should last around 10 minutes – this is approximately 2000 words (not including stage directions), unless there are long periods of silent action. It is probable that anything less than 1500 or more than 2500 will be either very short or very long when performed.

*What format should the scripts be in?*

We strongly advise that you submit your script as a pdf, attached to your entry email.

*What do you mean "strongly feature Todmorden Town Hall"?*

Town Hall Voices is a celebration of 150 years of this iconic Todmorden building. Your writing should centre in some way on the Town Hall – it could be the setting for your script, or a landmark in one of your character's lives for some reason. This is open to your artistic license, but you should remember that this is one of the scoring criteria for the judges.

*What does simple props, staging, light and sound mean?*

The performance is staged in a simple studio style setting.

TAODS will not be providing specific items of furniture for this production (such as sofas, dressing tables, train seats etc). Instead, there will be a selection of 5 wooden boxes available (three of which are 14" cubes and two are 14" x 14" x 40" approx) should your script need. These may be used as seating or to represent elements of scenery – use your imagination (If your piece is performed, the director may also choose to use/not use the cubes).

Hand props such as mobile phones, cricket balls or newspapers are easy to provide, but it might prove impossible to source specific, historically accurate items.

Likewise, a snippet of a song or passing train can be provided as sound effects, but your script should not rely heavily on a soundscape.

*What will happen if my play is chosen as one of the shortlisted entries?*

What the judges deem to be the best pieces will be performed in March 2025. Further details of this event will be sent to all those entering the competition, including those writers whose work has been selected. The Voices of Todmorden performance will be advertised closer to the time on the Hippodrome website, social media and in the local press.

*If it is shortlisted, can I perform/direct my own script? I know someone at the Hippodrome who I think would be perfect for my piece, can they be in it please?*

TAODS may take your opinion into consideration but withhold the right to appoint directors and cast as they see best for the production of the shortlisted plays as a whole evening's entertainment. Entering the competition will be taken as understanding of this stipulation.

For further information or queries, please contact our *Town Hall Voices* administrator, Justine Sutcliffe at [justine@todhip.org](mailto:justine@todhip.org) or 07970 857258.



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