

New Writing Manager

Location: Open to negotiation. The New Writing Manager will be required to work for substantial periods at Druid's base in Galway but will also be required to attend theatre regularly in Dublin, elsewhere in Ireland and overseas. The nature of the role would also facilitate some hybrid working should that be desirable.

Reports to: Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer

Contract: Three-year full-time contract, renewable annually

Salary: €55,000 per annum

About Druid

For over fifty years, Druid has been recognised as a theatre company with a deep commitment to playwrights and new Irish writing. Across its history, Druid has premiered 38 new plays and has played a significant role in the career development of notable Irish writers. A recent review of Druid's new writing structures has identified an exciting opportunity to renew and strengthen Druid's relationship with writers, create clearer pathways for emerging and established playwrights, and place new writing more centrally within the company's future artistic vision.

The New Writing Manager will play a key role in shaping and delivering this renewed commitment.

Purpose of the Role

The New Writing Manager will lead the development and implementation of Druid's refreshed new writing strategy, working closely with the Artistic Director and Chief Executive Officer to ensure that new writing remains central to Druid's artistic identity in the future. The New Writing Manager will be tasked with creating meaningful and sustained relationships with playwrights at all stages of their careers. The role will build pathways from discovery to development and, where appropriate, production, ensuring that writers are fully integrated into the artistic life of the company and that Druid continues to be recognised as a home for the most talented writers.

The New Writing Manager will act as an advocate for writers within the company, balancing artistic ambition with practical delivery, and helping Druid create an environment in which new work can flourish.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be responsible for the following areas of work:

Writer Development and Relationships

- Build and maintain long-term relationships with playwrights across Ireland and internationally.
- Develop a structured writers' association programme, offering different levels of engagement depending on a writer's experience and needs.
- Identify emerging playwrights and support their artistic development.
- Maintain regular contact with writers connected to Druid, ensuring relationships continue beyond individual projects.
- Create opportunities for writers to engage with Druid's artistic processes, including rehearsals, readings, workshops and ensemble activity.

New Writing Strategy

- Develop and implement a coherent new writing strategy aligned with Druid's artistic mission.
- Advise senior leadership on opportunities, priorities and investment in new writing.
- Research and adapt best practice from leading theatre organisations and writer-development models.
- Establish clear pathways from script development to production.

Script Development and Literary Management

- Manage script submissions and reading processes as required.
- Design and oversee assessment frameworks that identify potential as well as production readiness.
- Co-ordinate dramaturgical support, script feedback and development opportunities.
- Facilitate workshops, readings and development processes for commissioned and other work in development.

Public Readings and Writer Development Initiatives

- Review the effectiveness and impact of the Druid Debuts programme.
- Develop additional writer development initiatives as required.
- Lead on the planning and delivery of all public facing readings or other development activities.
- Ensure strong engagement with writers before, during and after participation in any writer development initiatives.

- Create progression routes for writers who emerge through public readings or other initiatives.
- Develop partnerships with educational institutions, festivals and industry organisations to identify new talent.

Commissioning and Production Development

- Manage commissioning processes and relationships.
- Ensure commissions are supported through meaningful artistic engagement rather than isolated development activity.
- Maintain regular contact with commissioned playwrights to ensure compliance with projected timelines.
- Provide dramaturgical support to the artistic director
- Work with artistic teams to identify projects with production potential.
- Assist in planning new work for future programming consideration.

Internal Collaboration

- Work closely with the Artistic Director, CEO, ensemble members, directors and creative teams.
- Facilitate opportunities for writers to engage with actors, designers and other artists associated with Druid.
- Embed writers within the wider creative culture of the company.
- Contribute to strategic planning, fundraising applications and board reporting relating to new writing.

Advocacy and Communications

- Review and help shape public-facing communications regarding Druid's commitment to new writing.
- Build relationships with playwrights' organisations, theatres, universities and funding bodies.
- Promote Druid as a leading centre for playwright development.

Person Specification

Essential

- Significant experience working with playwrights, scripts and new writing development.
- Strong understanding of contemporary theatre practice and the Irish theatre landscape.
- Experience of dramaturgy, literary management, commissioning or writer development.
- Excellent communication and relationship-building skills.

- Established networks within the theatre and literary sectors.
- Ability to manage multiple projects and priorities simultaneously.
- Strong organisational and administrative skills.
- Demonstrable commitment to artist development and collaborative practice.
- Experience preparing reports, funding applications or strategic documentation.

Desirable

- Experience within a producing theatre company.
- Knowledge of international new writing models and writer-development programmes.
- Experience of managing budgets and project funding.
- Experience facilitating workshops, readings or artist-development programmes.

Values

The New Writing Manager will demonstrate:

- A belief in the central importance of writers to theatre-making.
- Curiosity, openness and artistic ambition.
- Commitment to collaboration and long-term relationship building.
- Respect for diverse voices and perspectives.
- A practical understanding of balancing artistic risk with organisational sustainability.

The deadline for applications is **Friday Nov 13th at 5pm.** Applicants are invited to apply by submitting a cover letter and CV to office@druid.ie.

Druid is principally funded by the Arts Council and acknowledges generous assistance from Paul Keary, Teneo in support of this role.