

# The Mona Brand Award for Women Stage and Screen Writers

## 2024 Guidelines

The Mona Brand Award for Women Stage and Screen Writers was established in 2016 to celebrate Australian women's contribution to the screen and stage and to promote the interest of the public in their work. The Award also fosters new talent in the industry.

The Award/s are an initiative of the late Mona Alexis Fox née Brand (1915–2007), trailblazing Australian poet, author and playwright, who in her will, established a fund to offer a prize in memory of her work. The Award/s are administered and presented biennially by the State Library of NSW.

Total prize money in 2024 is \$40,000, which is awarded over the following two categories:

- the Mona Brand Award (\$30,000) is open to women and non-binary writers for a body of outstanding work displaying broad array and which has been widely performed or screened to critical acclaim
- the Early Career Writer Award (\$10,000) is open to women and non-binary writers who are in the early stages of their career and have had a compelling, professional work first produced or broadcast or screened between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023. It is free to nominate yourself, or another writer for this award.

**ENTRIES CLOSE 5PM AEST, MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024.**

## Eligibility Criteria

The Mona Brand Award/s are open to women and non-binary writers of:

- plays,
- music drama,
- screenplays of feature-length fiction films,
- scripts of documentary films,
- scripts of plays or documentaries for radio, the web and/or streaming services; and/or
- scripts of television programs (fiction or non-fiction).

All nominees must be living Australian citizens or persons holding permanent resident status.

## The Mona Brand Award

- The 2024 Mona Brand Award (\$30,000) winner will have demonstrated an outstanding and diverse body of work delivered over a significant career which has been widely performed or screened to critical acclaim.
- In 2024 the Mona Brand Award will be selected by the Award judges who are industry experts with extensive knowledge of, and active participation in, the industry. There is no application process necessary.

## Early Career Writer Award

- The Early Career Writer Award (\$10,000) will be given to a woman or non-binary writer who is in the early stages of their career. Their debut work must have first been professionally produced or screened or broadcast between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023. This includes at international or Australian film festivals. Additional works may have been produced or screened within this time frame.
- A first professionally produced work for the screen or broadcast is considered a work that is 20 minutes or above in length and that has been distributed to the public.
- A first professionally produced work for the stage is considered a full-length work given by a professional, independent or amateur theatre company, but it must involve a performance season of several performances before a paying general audience.
- The nomination must be accompanied by the submission of a sample work (max. 10-15 pages) that the nominator deems to be the most compelling and has been first professionally produced or screened or broadcast between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023. **The sample work can be but does not have to be their debut work.**
- Co-written works cannot be submitted as the debut or sample work.
- Plays and scripts which are, or contain, adaptations or re-workings of pre-existing works will be considered if they transform, rather than merely transmit, the intentions of the source work. The new work should attain a standard of achievement comparable to the source work.
- It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide a translation for works submitted in languages other than English.
- The sample work must be uploaded online as part of the online nomination process. The file should follow the naming convention of: NAME OF NOMINEE\_ TITLE OF WORK.pdf

## General

- Entry is open to women and non-binary writers. This includes cis women, trans women and non-binary people. We do not require any validation regarding an author's gender beyond their self-identification.
- Writers may be nominated by someone else, or they can nominate themselves for the Early Career Writer Award.
- Previous winners of the Early Career Writer Award cannot be nominated again for the Early Career Writer Award.
- It is essential that nominators obtain permission from the nominee and provide direct contact details for them.
- Nominations must be made online via the State Library of NSW website.
- The State Library of NSW will acknowledge receipt of nominations by email.
- There is no entry fee associated with the Award.
- The winners will be announced and the Award/s presented at the State Library of NSW during the 2024 Sydney Writers' Festival. Details of the award function will be available closer to the time on the Library's website - [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au).

## Selection process and judging

The Award/s will be judged by an independent judging committee.

The Library and the judges appointed by it will have absolute discretion as to the manner in which the Awards are administered and the applications that are accepted for consideration. Without limitation, at the absolute discretion of the Library:

- judges may admit or reject certain applications;
- judges may admit applications after the deadline in exceptional circumstances;
- if the nominees are not considered to be of sufficient merit, the judges may determine that the Award not be made; and
- judges will assess all applications that comply with the eligibility criteria set out in these Guidelines.

Only one writer will be selected as the winner of each Award but the judges may award commendations in either category. Unsuccessful nominees will not be personally advised of the results.

The Mona Brand Award/s recognise talent, craft and creative impact. Assessment for the Early Career Writer Award will be made entirely on the literary merit of the written text, and not on the merits of a particular production or broadcast.

## Nominees Conditions

The State Library of NSW encourages winners of the Mona Brand Award/s to be available to undertake a small number of activities to promote these Award/s. Activities may include media interviews (face to face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting these Award/s, events at the State Library, and, where possible, events across the NSW public library network.

All intellectual property in the submitted work remains vested in the writer. The writer grants to the State Library of NSW a royalty free, perpetual and irrevocable licence to use any part of the submitted work for publications and promotions relating to the Awards, any future awards and the State Library of NSW generally. This licence shall continue notwithstanding the conclusion of the Awards process and/or any writer's decision to withdraw from the Awards process.

In relation to the author(s) Work:

- the Library need not advise the writer of any intended use of the Work; and

the writer has the right to give consent for such use. The State Library of NSW, in its absolute discretion, reserves the right to conduct criminal record checks in respect of nominees whose work is submitted for consideration in respect of the Awards.

Award recipients must not engage (and must not have engaged) in behaviour that would be seen to bring the Award into disrepute.

The State Library of NSW, in its absolute discretion, may withdraw the offer of prize money or demand the return of prize money already paid if it is discovered that any of the information provided in the application is false. Upon receipt of such a demand, a prize winner must immediately return the prize money to the State Library of NSW.

If a nominee should die between recommendation and presentation of the Award, the prize money may, in the absolute discretion of the State Library of NSW, be paid to their estate. Any payment will be made at the discretion of the State Library of NSW.

## Privacy Notice

Personal information collected by the State Library of NSW is treated in accordance with the State Library of NSW Privacy Management Plan and is governed by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 and related regulations. Information provided on the application form will only be used for purposes related to the awards, which may include advertising or promoting the Mona Brand Award and award presentation events. Unless expressly requested, images of individuals present at award presentation events may be used for promotional purposes. Nominations for an award must only be submitted with the author's consent and knowledge of the Privacy Notice.

Please visit [www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/privacy/privacy-management-plan) or email [privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:privacy@sl.nsw.gov.au) for further information.

## Nomination Checklist

1. Read the 2024 Mona Brand Award Guidelines.
2. Complete the online nomination form by **5pm AEST, Monday 5 February 2024**.
3. Upload a PDF writing sample of the writer's first professionally produced or screened or broadcast work, or another work during the eligibility period of **10-15 pages only**. The file should follow the naming convention of: **NAME OF NOMINEE\_TITLE OF WORK.pdf**

## Enquiries

For more information contact the Awards team at the State Library of NSW  
Phone: (02) 9273 1767, or alternatively (02) 9273 1770.  
Email: [awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)