

# The Mona Brand Award for Women Stage and Screen Writers

## 2020 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 2020 is \$40,000, which is awarded over the following two categories:

- the Mona Brand Award (\$30,000), for a female 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) for a female who is in the early stages of her career and has had a compelling work first produced or broadcast or screened between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020.

**Entries close at 5pm, Wednesday 27 May 2020**

## Eligibility Criteria

- The Mona Brand Award/s are open to female 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; 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

- Nominees for the 2020 Mona Brand Award (\$30,000) should have a body of outstanding work displaying broad array and which has been widely performed or screened to critical acclaim.

## Early Career Writer Award

- The Early Career Writer Award (\$10,000) will be given to a female writer who is in the early stages of her career. Her debut work must have first been professionally produced or screened or broadcast between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020. 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 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.
- A first professionally produced work for the screen or broadcast is considered a work that is one hour or above in length and that has been distributed to the public.
- 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 July 2015 and 30 June 2020. **The sample work can be but does not have to be their debut work.**
- Co-written works cannot be submitted as the 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

- Writers may be nominated by someone else, or they can nominate themselves. Nominations may be made by more than one person and joint nominations are encouraged.
- Writers who have been previously nominated for the Mona Brand Award/s and were unsuccessful are eligible to nominate again and are encouraged to do so. The judges do not wish previous nominees to be discouraged, as due to the nature of the Award there can only be one winner each year.
- Previous winners of the Early Career Writer Award (formerly known as Emerging Writer Award) cannot be nominated again for the Early Career Writer Award.

- Writers cannot be nominated for both Awards in the same year.
- 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.
- The Award/s will be judged by an independent judging committee whose decision will be final. No correspondence or discussion will be entered into concerning the decision. Unsuccessful nominees will not be personally advised.
- Only one writer will be selected as the winner of each Award but the judges may award commendations in either category.
- If a nominee should die between recommendation and presentation of the Award/s, the prize money may be paid to their estate. Any payment will be made at the discretion of the State Library of NSW.
- The winners will be announced and the Award/s presented at a function at the State Library of NSW on 18 September 2020. Details of the award function will be available in August 2020 on the Library's website [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au).
- 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 up to and including the next year the Award/s are presented. Activities may include media interviews (face to face or via electronic means), photographs or personal appearances at functions promoting these Award/s, author events at the State Library, and, where possible, events across the NSW public library network.
- There is no nomination fee for the Mona Brand Award/s.

## The Judging Process

- The judges will assess all nominations that meet the eligibility criteria.
- The Mona Brand Award/s recognise talent, craft and creative impact.

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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 2020 Mona Brand Award guidelines.
2. Complete the online nomination form by **5pm, Wednesday 27 May 2020**.
3. For nominations for the Emerging Writer Award, upload a PDF writing sample. The sample can be of the writer's first professionally produced or screened or broadcast work, or another work **of 10-15 pages only**.

## Enquiries

For more information visit the State Library [website](#)

Or contact:

Senior Project Officer, Awards, State Library of NSW

Tel: (02) 9273 1582 or (02) 9273 1605

[awards@sl.nsw.gov.au](mailto:awards@sl.nsw.gov.au)