

POP CORN AWARD



ABOUT

Set up in 2019 by Popcorn Group, the Popcorn Writing Award, celebrates fearless work which playfully and artistically questions and addresses current affairs, societal trends and contributes positively to public debate. The award also champions work that has best potential to be adapted for screen.

The award champions brave and imaginative writing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. It is the only award of its kind, awarding a prize fund of £6,000 to the writers directly, allowing them the financial space and time to write something new. As part of award, all shortlisted writers are offered valuable one-to-one meetings with both the Popcorn Group and BBC Writers. All longlisted writers from the UK and Ireland will be invited to submit their scripts to BBC Writers via a dedicated portal and will be read in consideration for BBC Writers Voices 2026.

For the award, Popcorn puts together a committee which select the winners from our shortlist to award the prizes. Notable past committee members include: Golden Globe winning Ruth Wilson, Tony winning Enda Walsh, Oscar winning Gonzalo Maza & BAFTA winning Wunmi Mosaku.

Past winners and finalists have gone onto be commissioned by major broadcasters in television and in film, been accepted on BBC Writers programmes and have enjoyed both London and New York transfers of their work.

PAST COMMITTEE MEMBERS



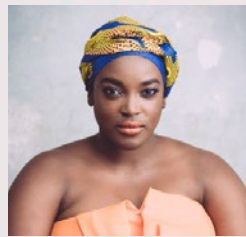
Aurora

Singer, Songwriter



Ruth Wilson

Actor



Wunmi Mosaku

Actor



Lena Headey

Actor, Producer



Enda Walsh

Writer



Gonzalo Maza

Screenwriter



Noma Dumezweni

Actor



Michael Longhurst

Artistic Director

A photograph of Edinburgh Castle, a large stone fortress, perched on a steep, rocky hill. The castle's architecture is made of dark stone with multiple windows and battlements. The hillside in the foreground is covered in green vegetation and some safety netting. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

HOW IT WORKS

SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN,
SUBMISSIONS CLOSE: 10AM, 8th JULY 2025

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All plays submitted will be considered provided they are:

- 1) A new piece of writing which has not had a significant run before the 2025 Edinburgh Fringe. We are deeming a significant run as no more than 7 performances or a play that was shown online.
- 2) A play that is being shown at one of the partnering venues: Assembly, Gilded Balloon, Greenside, Paradise Green, Pleasance, The Space UK, Summerhall Arts, Traverse, Underbelly, & ZOO Venues.

Please send your piece of new writing, a summary of any previous performance dates, a 50 word summary, and a 10-15 word tag line to your respective venue programming team with "Popcorn Writing Award 2025 // Title of Play // Writer's Name // Venue Associated" in the subject heading.

PARTNERING VENUES

Assembly | Gilded Balloon | Greenside | Paradise Green | Pleasance
The Space UK | Summerhall Arts | Traverse | Underbelly | ZOO Venues



2024 JOINT WINNERS



Kieran Hurley and Gary McNair

VL

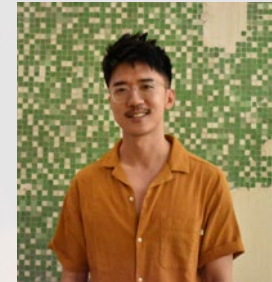
"We're absolutely buzzing to have been awarded the Popcorn Award for VL. When we're writing these characters together our first aim is just to make each other laugh, and discovering that Max and Stevie's trials and travails resonate with others is a great reward."

Brian Watkin

Weather Girl

"I am honoured to receive this storied award and to be recognized alongside so many other brilliant playwrights. This play is a love letter to where I'm from, for all its strangeness and dysfunction and dark enchanted corners, and I'm immensely grateful to the incredible team and audiences that embraced it wholeheartedly."

FINALISTS



Yilong Liu

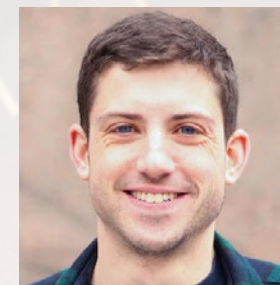
The Book of
Mountains and
Seas



Khawla Ibraheem

A Knock on the
Roof

SPECIAL MENTION



Dylan MarcAurele

POP OFF,
MICHELANGELO!

2019 WINNER



Bryony Kimmings

I'm A Phoenix, Bitch

"The Popcorn Award is special as it buys a writer or artist one of the most scarce and undervalued commodities... time."

FINALISTS



Claire Rammelkamp

A Womb of One's Own

Jessica Ross

Drowning

2020 WINNER



Jennifer Lunn

Es and Flo

"It's an absolute honour to receive this award as we wait to be able to put the play on. A huge thanks to The Popcorn Group for choosing a story celebrating a diverse and intersectional group of women."

FINALISTS



Matilda Ibini

Little Miss Burden

Chris Thompson

Burn

2021 WINNER



Michael John O'Neill

This is Paradise

"It's so meaningful to know that me and the other shortlisted writers were saying something with these scripts that the Popcorn Group and judging committee felt should be championed."

FINALISTS



Nana-Kofi Kufour

My Voice Was Heard, But It Was Ignored

Sian Rowland

The Cracks

2022 WINNER



Karim Khan

Brown Boys Swim

"I'm absolutely over the moon ... This story holds a hugely special place in my heart, and I'm really quite moved to see it being awarded and recognised in this way."

FINALISTS



Jenna Fincken

Ruckus

Laura Horton

Breathless

2023 WINNER

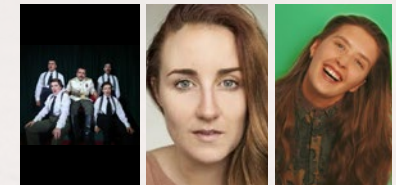


Sabrina Ali

Dugsi Dayz

"Winning the Popcorn Award leaves me truly speechless. Just a year after writing Dugsi Dayz, I never imagined I'd be at the Edinburgh Fringe, let alone accepting the Popcorn Award."

FINALISTS



Joseph Cullen and Sasha Wilson

The Brief Life & Mysterious Death of Boris III, King of Bulgaria

Ciara Elizabeth Smyth

Lie Low

Stroud and Notes

Public – The Musical



ZOOM EXTRACTS FOR THE 2020 FINALISTS

Due to the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic and the subsequent cancellation of the Edinburgh fringe in 2020, Popcorn Group produced 4 short extracts of the finalist plays.

Across all viewing platforms, the extracts have amassed over 100,000 views over Instagram and Twitter and have been covered in the UK press and internationally, with particular coverage in the US.



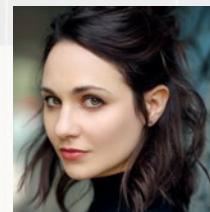
Celia Imrie

Es and Flo



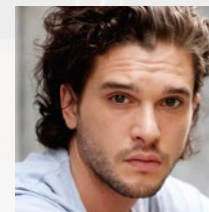
Sharon D. Clarke

Es and Flo



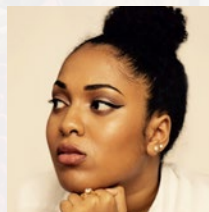
Tuppence Middleton

Burn



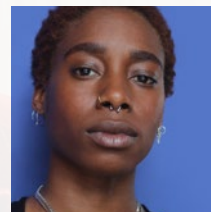
Kit Harington

Burn



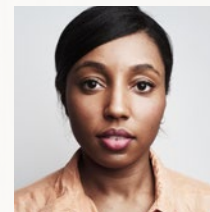
Saida Ahmed

Little Miss Burden



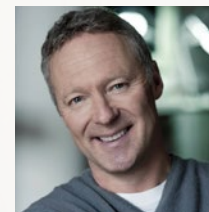
Michelle Tiwo

Little Miss Burden



Ani Nelson

Little Miss Burden



Rory Bremner

Daddy

*"Thank you all so much for the wonderful experience,
I'm so happy with the film we made and to be a
finalist was a wonderful added bonus."*

- Chris Thompson

POPCORN GROUP

Popcorn Group, set up and run by filmmaker Charlotte Colbert, co-produced with Dario Argento and Pressman Films the BIFA-nominated *SHE WILL*, starring Alice Krige, Kota Eberhardt, Malcolm McDowell, and Rupert Everett, which won a Golden Leopard for Best First Film at Locarno Film Festival and had its UK Premiere at London Film Festival.

DALÍ LAND, their second feature, co-produced with Pressman Films, starring Sir Ben Kingsley in the titular role, with Suki Waterhouse and Andreja Pejic, was directed by Mary Harron (*AMERICAN PSYCHO*), premiered at Toronto Film Festival and was released by Magnolia Pictures.

TIMESTALKER, which had its world premiere at SXSW to wide acclaim, co-produced with Western Edge Pictures and the BFI, is Alice Lowe's sci-fi rom-com film with Jacob Anderson (*Game of Thrones*), Aneurin Barnard (*David Copperfield*), Tanya Reynolds (*Sex Education*), and Nick Frost (*Hot Fuzz*).

Popcorn Group also partnered on *FLEABAG*'s West End transfer and co-produced the viral sensation *LEADING LADY PARTS* for the BBC with Emilia Clarke, Gemma Arterton, Gemma Chan, Catherine Tate, Felicity Jones and Tom Hiddleston, which has amassed over 50 million views. Popcorn Group premiered *MUM* by Olivier-winning writer Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, a co-production with Francesca Moody Productions, Soho Theatre and Theatre Royal Plymouth. It also co-produced smash-hit sensation *ANGRY ALAN* by Penelope Skinner.

The company is currently in development on a number of scripted features and TV shows.

