



UK International Radio Drama Festival

PRESS RELEASE

2019 UK Radio Drama Festival Goes Green

The UK International Radio Drama Festival is the first major international radio drama festival to go paperless.

Each year, we print, transport and recycle some 75000 sheets of paper, providing participants in the festival with access to English language translations of the works in other languages and written scripts in English of the works in that language to support participants whose first language is different. Those translations and texts are a vital part of the festival, ensuring that everyone is able to enjoy the plays they are hearing to the full.

This year, our festival is breaking new ground and going paperless. With the generous support of festival entrants, we are providing participants with e-readers, pre-loaded with the scripts. The e-readers will remain the property of the festival to protect authors' rights and to ensure that casual drop-in audience members and fully committed jurors alike have quick and easy access to the translations.

Announcing the move, Jonathan Banatvala, the Festival's Artistic Director said:

"A paperless festival has been an ambition since we first started five years ago. It's a very different approach to that used by most festivals but – just as we were the first to provide access to the festival plays online and to introduce an audience award – we are also very proud to be making this innovation. It's clearly important that an international festival does everything it can to keep its carbon footprint low."



Notes to editors

The UK International Radio Drama Festival takes place in Canterbury from 18 – 22 March 2019. This will be the fifth anniversary event. This year's title; "The Greatest Admiration in the Universal World" reflects our theme – your best work.

The programme includes work from 18 different countries in 15 different languages. Entries range from short form works of just a few minutes to full length hour long pieces. Anyone is welcome to drop in to listen for as short or long a time as they wish or to follow the festival online via our website. We celebrate listening to entries as the average listener often does – in glorious mono – with a cup of tea and the ironing put to one side.

A jury – chaired by Jonathan Keeble – makes awards for the best full length and best short form entries. Anyone – creative or audience member - may apply to join the jury provided they can commit to listening to all the works at the collective listening sessions. In addition, an audience award is made reflecting votes in an online poll.

The festival showcases radio drama in a wide variety of genres, accepting entries from national broadcasters and independent producers alike. We are especially proud of our track record of making awards to emergent creatives who have gone on to achieve recognition at other festivals.

The festival is produced by International Arts Partnership, an independent award winning company specialising in international collaborative work. Current projects include a programme to rediscover the radio drama heritage of Egypt; work to promote the making of radio drama amongst young people; an investigation of the plays denied a licence by the Lord Chamberlain.

Website: www.radiodramafestival.org.uk

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