



Art by Sieve Bonaiuti

The Marlowe Society is pleased to open entries for
The Other Prize!

The Other Prize is a writing prize for an original, student-written play, run by The Marlowe Society, Churchill College, the Department of Education, English and Drama, and Methuen Drama (Bloomsbury Publishing).

The winning play will receive a **£500 reward, feedback** on the script from **Methuen Drama**, and a **production of the play** staged in Cambridge by The Marlowe Society.

To enter, the play must be:

- A full-length work of original new writing
- Written by a student at the University of Cambridge
- Previously unstaged; scripts which have been workshopped, had rehearsed readings, or which have had extracts performed, are permitted

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown, we ask that you submit a **PDF copy** of your script to **Gemma Turner** (tutorial.assistant@chu.cam.ac.uk) by **Friday, March 19th** - the last full day of Lent Term. The script must **not** bear the author's name.

[Please submit your entry via this Google Form!](#)

We recommend that you open the link in an 'incognito' or 'InPrivate' browser tab, as you will need to sign in to your University Google account (through Raven) to access the form. If you are logged in to other (e.g. personal) Google accounts, you may be denied permission to open the form.

The Other Prize is a fantastic opportunity for student writers who are serious about their craft, with aspirations to work professionally in the creative industries. Not only do you receive a cash prize, but also invaluable feedback from a leading theatrical publishing house, and the chance to see your work performed in Cambridge Theatre.

The winning script is produced by The Marlowe Society's New Writing Officer, whose responsibility it is to recruit a cast and production team to bring the script to life. We strongly believe that **The Other Prize** should be a step in the creative development of the winning writer, which is why we stress the importance of passing the play onto a separate director, actors, etc.

If you have any queries or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact either Gemma Turner or Jasper Cresdee-Hyde (jrc201@cam.ac.uk). For further information on the Prize and previous winners, please see the [Churchill College](#) and [Marlowe Society](#) websites. We look forward to reading your plays!

*I wrote my play (**Fired Up**) specifically for entry into **The Other Prize**. I had written two radio dramas for broadcast on CUR1350 (Cambridge University's student radio station) but even though I was interested in theatre I had never sat down to write a script. The chance to have my work read by the literary manager of the Royal*

Shakespeare Company was too great a draw to resist, as was the generous prize money.

When I received the news that I had won the Other Prize I was overjoyed, and I believe winning has continued to have a positive effect upon my writing career. Seeing my play performed was incredibly emotional; watching my character move, intone, live- it was something that will stay with me forever. The generous prize money enabled me to buy an expensive piece of scriptwriting software that is used by the professionals. A lot of the time I had allocated to write **Fired Up** was lost though formatting, and this software removes all administrative distractions and allows me to concentrate on the words. I was also able to pay for a scriptwriting masterclass at the Soho theatre, where award-winning playwright Rebecca Lenkiewicz and the director of Soho's writers' centre Nina Steiger showed me new ways to think about all aspects of playwriting. It was an intense and changing experience, and at a prohibitively expensive two hundred pounds would have been well beyond my means.

Perhaps the most exciting thing to come from winning **The Other Prize** was to meet Pippa Hill, the literary manager of the RSC. She invited me to her office and she was very encouraging, both about my style of writing and the themes I am interested in examining. She invited me to send her my next piece of work, so I was delighted to deliver my full-length play **Avocado** to her earlier this year. I have the feedback session with her in late July. Pippa has kindly included me in the RSC writer's nights, which are regular networking evenings that begin with wine and conversation and end with a free ticket to see a piece of new writing, after which we discuss the play. Most recently I was invited to Stratford to take part in their birthday celebrations. And I am still writing: besides **Avocado** I have submitted two short plays to fringe festivals and have offered a short piece, Nuts, which looks at super-injunctions, for a showcase. I eagerly await to hear the results. I have also started work on my next full-length piece, **Wonder**, set during the dinner party held by Brunel in the Thames Tunnel, 1827.

Having the prize on my CV helped me get on to my creative writing MA, which is now coming to its end. Now I am applying for a PhD performance/creative writing, and I made sure the prize was at the top of the statement. Winning the prize gave me confidence to continue to chase my dreams of being a writer, as it goes some way to proving to others, and myself, that I have something to offer.

-[Annabel Banks](#), Winner of The Other Prize and The John Kinsella and Tracy Ryan Poetry Prize (2010)

The Other Prize is a great way to get your writing on-stage, and to have an audience for it. I co-wrote a show that won the Other Prize and was produced as an ADC Lateshow that I helped to direct. I learned a huge amount about playwriting in the process of tweaking the show for the stage. Plus it was the first time i was paid for playwriting which was a bonus!

-Jamie Rycroft, Winner of The Other Prize (2015) and Manager of the ADC Theatre