



**RETHiNK Theatre Challenge, October 2010**

## ***M.a.D. – it's a matter of degree***

### **NOTES FOR WRITERS**

**IN BRIEF:** We are seeking short (10 minutes or less) scripts that deal with / challenge notions of mental "illness." We are seeking scripts that can be performed with no set, minimal prop's and that deal with mental "illness" in a positive manner.

Scripts that are chosen will be performed by teams of actors / directors with just 24 hours to rehearse and stage the final show. The best of the best will be filmed and those films exhibited on websites such as You Tube, RETHiNK, Titirangi Theatre and DramaTrain.

By submitting a script writers agree to their being performed live for the RETHiNK Theatre Challenge shows and possibly being filmed and shown on websites. However, live shows and short films aside, as this is a voluntary competition, with no financial reward, **ownership / copyright of the script remains with the author.**

**CLOSING DATE for script submissions is Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.**

Please send scripts to: [adam@DramaTrain.co.nz](mailto:adam@DramaTrain.co.nz)

#### **OVERLEAF:**

- **THEMES**
- **DATES**
- **RULES**
- **SUBMISSIONS + SUPPORT**

**THEME:** Writers should create short (ten-minutes or less) plays based on the consideration that what is generally considered "mental illness" in society is, by definition, simply a matter of degree. After all, what is sane? Hasn't everyone had some level of depression, paranoia or anxiety? "Insanity" or "madness" is a spectrum of behaviors characterized by certain abnormal mental or behavioral patterns. But what is normal in a society where anti-depressants are widely prescribed? If "madness" is defined as poor health of the mind, a defective function of mental processes, then in a world in which we continue to pollute our environment and produce weapons of mass destruction and Mutually Assured Destruction (M.A.D.) – who is sane? Writers should seek to address directly the following:

- *Counter stigma and discrimination associated with mental distress*
- *Raise awareness of 'mental illness' in a way that promotes understanding and reduces stigma*
- *Get people to RETHiNK their views on madness*
- *Value the full range of human experiences and the learning that can come from them*
- *Celebrate diversity and difference*
- *Value and respect people*
- *Encourage all people to take responsibility for social change*

**DATES:**

**SHOWS:** Although to be confirmed, it is likely that shows will be performed at Titirangi Theatre on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October** 2010 and then on National Mental Health Awareness Day – **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October** 2010 – at an Auckland City venue (to be confirmed).

**SCRIPTS:** Deadline for script submissions: **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.**  
Please e-mail to [Adam@DramaTrain.co.nz](mailto:Adam@DramaTrain.co.nz)

## **RULES:**

- **THERE IS NO INDIVIDUAL SHOW BUDGET.** Instead teams of actors / directors are given 24 hours to rehearse and produce 10 minute plays based on the talent, skill and imagination of the participating actors, directors and writers.
- **10 MINUTES MAX:** All shows must be no longer than 10 minutes maximum duration. **Although they can be shorter than 10 minutes**, they can under no circumstances exceed 10 minutes running time (excluding any pauses caused by audience reaction such as laughter or applause!)
- **STYLE: Entirely up to YOU!** Comedy, tragedy, dance, monologue, opera, musical, pantomime... Let your imagination run riot! **RETHiNK Theatre** – that’s the Challenge!
- **FAMILY AUDIENCE:** All **shows must be suitable for a general family audience.** **Therefore language and material must be suitable for all ages** – from children to parents and grandparents – so as not to exclude any of our participants – performers and audience alike.
- **SET, PROP’S & COSTUMES:** All plays will be performed on an empty ‘black box’ set and should provide their own prop’s and costumes. Scene changes between plays will be no longer than 60 seconds and each team will be responsible for bringing on and removing anything they take on stage. No scene change between plays can exceed 60 seconds maximum. **We therefore advise you to keep all costumes and prop’s to a basic, manageable minimum.**
- **LIGHTS & SOUND:** All plays will have the opportunity to include basic sound effects and lighting – based on a pre-set general lighting plan. All teams will have a 45-minute technical / dress rehearsal on the Sunday so as to incorporate lighting and sound. **We therefore advise you to keep your lighting and sound requirements minimal.**

## **SUBMISSIONS + SUPPORT:**

For more information, or to submit a script please contact [adam@dramatrain.co.nz](mailto:adam@dramatrain.co.nz)

For assistance and advice on mental health issues, please contact [Taimi@mindandbody.co.nz](mailto:Taimi@mindandbody.co.nz)

**Thank you**