



STORY WRITING CHALLENGE

WRITE A STORY THAT WE CAN TURN INTO A SCRIPT

OPEN
25 OCT 2020

SUBJECT
SHAME

CLOSE
20 DEC 2020

INFORMATION PACK

CHALLENGE

The Indian (Sub-Cont) Crisis & Support Agency (ICSA) and the Nautanki Theatre Company (NTC), supported by Blacktown City Council and Blacktown Arts invite short story submissions on the theme of 'SHAME'

We are looking for original and unpublished stories that will come to life through scripts, presented on stage, immortalised on film, eternalised in an e-book or serialised in sketch series.

This information pack includes details about all aspects relating to the Story Writing Challenge. Please read it carefully and if you need further clarification, contact us on info@icsa.net.au

THEME

We are looking for stories on the concept of 'SHAME' meaning 'Sharam' (Hindi translation) that are compelling, thought provoking, based on experience and reality.

Stories that address issues which are hidden because of fear, guilt or bound to silence by family pressure or community.

Stories that have changed lives, that are courageous or weak, that are happy or have ended in tears and despair.

Shame is something we all feel or are exposed to at some point in our lives.

How do we deal with shame or shameful situations?

How does society impact our attitudes and impressions on shame?

How does this powerful emotion impact people? Do they take extreme action, avoid situations or simply withdraw into themselves?

We are looking for stories that draw on these aspects and are connected to shame through situations, behaviours, real or imagined. Shame as a concept and emotion must play a significant part in the storytelling.

For the purpose of this challenge, the theme of shame is not to be confused with embarrassing or humiliating moments and situations. We are looking for stories of shame as a deeper emotion which drives behaviours. The story must relate, address or identify some of those behaviours.

For instance, many realities of domestic and family violence still remain hidden behind barriers of shame, stigma and fear. Perhaps you could address a situation through your story.

Do you have the power to bring these stories to light, either your own or that of someone you know?

BACKGROUND

Shame is closely linked to honour, which is a key driver of community standards, codes of practice, prejudices or bias. Shame is linked to a person's behaviour which then impacts the honour of a person, family, community, or even a race.

This project is intended to bring out stories around our perceptions, attitudes and stereotypes that are connected to shame from a personal perspective.

Shame can be a key driver in behaviour, particularly in perpetrating abuse; this can manifest in domestic, community, workplace or in faith based abuse, and even violence.

ICSA is a specialist service for South Asian & other cultures for Domestic & Family Violence, and a leader in advocating against complex forms of violence such as Dowry Abuse and Honour Based Abuse.

ICSA has partnered with Nautanki Theatre Company, a not for profit performing arts organisation that has been producing high quality arts projects including sold out plays with CALD communities in Sydney.

In partnership with Blacktown City and Blacktown Arts and in relation to this project, we strive towards addressing systemic issues of domestic and family violence in the community.

Our overarching objective is to showcase issues affecting the CALD and NESB communities in and around Western Sydney, in particular Blacktown with a large South Asian community.

OVERVIEW

Stories can address what 'shame' means to different communities, such as

- What is shame? Eg. To an Australian – inadequacy as a wife and mother. What will my children think of me? To a child, what do my mates think? In work, what will my colleagues think.
- Why does it matter?
- Loss of face for family back home, impact on the rest of the family (e.g. siblings won't be able to marry because there's a divorcee in the family)
- Women are taught to be obedient, docile, submissive. To not stand up for themselves. Patriarchal society. Shame that the woman or child (even the man) doesn't conform to this
- Given the opportunity for a better life. Shame that the person is not grateful enough to appreciate this. Shame of studying music vs accountancy.
- Generic – Shame for not being good enough for the partner/family
- Shame to admit the DFV because of society – how will people react if I leave because of DFV
- Shame to not accept the male's superiority in the family circle and beyond Shame to admit that the DFV is happening in the first place.

- Shame of how to cope from scratch in case of separation Shame (and fear) of separation from children
- Shame of ingratitude – he’s done so much for me; how can I be ungrateful? Shame of having to return to country of origin with nothing
- Primary focus should be on the viewpoint of the protagonists, addressing their separate senses of shame.

The people reading your story should find authentic parallels to situations that are familiar to them, so that they can build a sense of empathy and understanding with the story.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- All stories must be set in and around the suburb of [Blacktown](#) in New South Wales, Australia.
- All entries will be in English, with the option of using words or phrases in other languages within the script for emphasis. These words must be written in phonetic English with the meaning in brackets. Eg: bacha (child)
- If the story is based on a real event or situation, all characters and situations must be de-identified to the point where they cannot be assumed or related to a person or persons living or deceased.
- Word count for the story submissions should be no less than 500 words and not exceed 1500 words. Entries that are less than or exceed the word count will be automatically disqualified.
- Free entry
- An author can submit up to three entries
- The challenge is open to all nationalities, ethnicities, genders and ages. For submissions from persons under the age of 16, the submission must be accompanied by an agreement to submit by a parent/carer.
- Entries will only be accepted via story@icsa.net.au , either as a Word doc or PDF attachment (up to 2MB), or pasted into the body of the email. For easy reading, it is recommended that you use Times New Roman, 12 point.
- Please include your
 - (1) Full name
 - (2) Date of birth
 - (3) Heritage
 - (4) Best contact email address
 - (5) Best contact number

WINNER

1. Five finalists will be picked from all submissions
2. The winning entry will be awarded a certificate and \$100
3. Four Highly Commended entries will receive a certificate and \$100
4. All finalists will be given an opportunity to read their story to the judging panel at a special event (online or in person, TBA)
5. The winning entry will be adapted into a script, involving the author at concept, development and production stages
6. The script will be developed into production (pending funding)
7. The author will be requested to participate in any events/publicity pre- and post-production, including promotion via social media

JUDGING

1. All entries that adhere to the mandatory compliance criteria will be de-identified and converted into PDF formats
2. The selected entries will be evaluated on specific criteria and five finalists will be chosen
3. A panel of 3 judges will review the five selected entries
4. Judging will be based on relevance to the theme, substance, originality, creativity and style
5. All finalists will be given the opportunity to present their stories to the panel of judges at an event (online or in person). The winner will be chosen and announced at this event, following the judges deliberation
6. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into either during or after the judging period

CONDITIONS

1. The story must be an original work, any resemblance to existing stories, written, published or in mainstream entertainment or written works are subject to immediate disqualification.
2. The submitted work must not have been published or under option to any publisher, in print or online
3. In entering the competition, you warrant that:
 - (i) That the entry is an original work
 - (ii) That it is in no way whatever an infringement of any existing copyright or licence or any other right of any person including defamation
 - (iii) You accept the conditions of entry as prescribed
4. This project is about storytelling and does not require the best academic English Standards. As long as the story is clear, the judges will allow flexibility with grammar, context etc. English being a second language is no barrier.
5. For emphasis you may use words or phrases from other languages which add to the story but must be written in phonetic English with the meaning in brackets. Eg *bacha* (child)
6. An audio file (spoken story) will not be accepted or eligible.
7. Only entries that are within the word count limit of 500-1500 will be accepted. Anything below or over will automatically be excluded. No exemptions to the word count will be issued.
8. There must be no pictures or graphics to illustrate the story.

9. The story must be written in English
10. Good grammar and context will be an asset
11. No person associated with ICSA, NTC, Blacktown City Council or Blacktown Arts may apply.
12. The judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into either during or after the judging period
13. Copyright in each work remains with the writer.
14. All stories to be submitted via story@icsa.org.au Print or posted stories will not be accepted.
15. There is no entry fee.
16. There are no payments for stories, or expenses reimbursed.
17. Up to three entries may be submitted per author

PROJECT PARTNERS



SUPPORTED BY

Blacktown Arts

THIS IS HOW WE MAKE ART

