



Press

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CHANNEL 4 RADIO AND 4TALENT LAUNCH FIRST EVER NATIONWIDE SEARCH TO FIND FRESH DRAMA-WRITING TALENT FOR COMMERCIAL RADIO

Channel 4 Radio and 4Talent are launching the first ever commercial radio nationwide search for new radio playwrights as part of the channel's **The Play s The Thing** initiative. The competition will give four aspiring writers the opportunity to have their words brought to life, with their scripts professionally produced and broadcast on Channel 4 Radio.

Last year's **The Play s The Thing** search saw university lecturer Kate Betts' work *On The Third Day* produced for the West End stage by award-winning producer Sonia Friedman. Kate beat competition from over 2000 entries from around the UK. With radio drama an ideal arena for honing writing talent, this year the search is on to discover fresh radio talent by inviting previously un-produced writers to submit their scripts for a 15-minute radio drama. The scripts can cover any genre and users can submit their entries via www.channel4.com/theplay from Monday 12 February, 2007.

Individuals and writing teams of up to three people have until Monday 26 March, 2007, to submit excerpts and character sketches from their radio script, which will then be assessed by a judging panel that includes: Channel 4 New Media Commissioner Adam Gee (who commissioned **The Radio Play s The Thing** project); Paul Kent, Programme Manager, Oneword Radio; Annie Caulfield, writer and

broadcaster; Trevor Dann, Director, The Radio Academy; Stephanie Sirr, Chief Executive Officer, Nottingham Playhouse; Chris Savery, Chief Executive Officer, Plays on the Net; multimedia producer Maud Hand; and renowned radio producer John Dryden, Goldhawk Productions.

Shortlisted scripts will then be developed through a masterclass process at Channel 4 Radio before being whittled down to four winners. The winning scripts will be produced by their authors in conjunction with **The Radio Play s The Thing**'s partners, for broadcast on Channel 4 Radio (www.channel4radio.com) and Oneword Radio (www.oneword.co.uk).

Nathalie Schwarz, Director of Channel 4 Radio, said: "We are very excited about moving into an area which the BBC has dominated for so long. **The Radio Play s The Thing** is the perfect vehicle to find the next generation of talent. By giving aspiring writers the chance to have their scripts professionally produced, 4Radio can help identify and develop some of the UK's most exciting new radio talent, and I'm looking forward to reading some truly innovative and ground-breaking work."

Adam Gee, New Media Commissioner at Channel4, said: "Radio drama is an ideal arena for new drama-writing talent to spread its wings. And radio is a really dynamic, fast-evolving area within new media. Taken together, **The Radio Play s The Thing** is the perfect focus for 4Talent's passionate quest to identify and support emerging writing and digital talent. "

Partners in the initiative include Oneword Radio, Plays on the Net, Festival FM and the Radio Academy. A wealth of freelance producing, directing and writing talent has also contributed invaluable to the project.

The original TV series (2006) was commissioned by Jan Younghusband, Commissioning Editor – Arts & Performance, Channel 4, and produced by ScreenStage and Granada with Sonia Friedman Productions.

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Channel 4 Radio

Channel 4 Radio launched its website, Channel4Radio.com, in June 2006, promising to bring a fresh approach to radio programming. In the six months since the site's launch, Channel 4 Radio has delivered more than 14,000 minutes of bespoke original radio programming across all genres. Programming highlights include: ***SlashMusic***, Tom Ravenscroft's innovative weekly music programme showcasing the best unsigned talent from Channel4's music website; ***The Weekly Show***, a political satire presented by Mark Nolan and special guests; and ***My Streets***, a series of documentaries looking at how individuals from different walks of life across the country deal with the issues affecting their everyday lives.

4Talent

4Talent (www.channel4.com/4talent) provides a coherent entry point to all Channel 4's talent initiatives, mirroring the channel's commitment to innovative multi-platform content in TV, Film, New Media and Radio.

4Talent provides detailed information on the industry, showcasing inspirational individuals and established companies, and offering opportunities for emerging talent to take part in nationwide workshops and masterclasses. 4Talent also offers up-and-coming talent the chance to network with potential employers from the independent production sector.

Oneword Radio

Oneword (www.oneword.co.uk) part of Channel 4 Radio, is a national digital station broadcasting the best in spoken word entertainment. It

has won numerous awards for its programming, and can be heard on DAB, Freeview, Sky and streamed on the internet.

Plays on the Net

[Plays on the Net](http://www.playsonthenet.com) (www.playsonthenet.com) formed in 2001 as a place [where writers can publish their plays and share them with fellow writers. PTON has evolved to become a place where writers link internationally to do readings of work in development. In addition, scripts are produced both for stage and radio and available to purchase online as downloads.](#)

The Radio Academy

The Radio Academy (www.radioacademy.org) is a registered charity dedicated to the encouragement, recognition and promotion of excellence in UK broadcasting and audio production. Since 1983 we have represented the radio industry to outside bodies including the government and offered neutral ground where everyone from the national networks to individual podcasters is encouraged to discuss the broadcasting, production, marketing and promotion of radio and audio.