

# Five-year story-writing comes to a close to coincide with Olympic Games

***Polka Theatre's successful story-writing competition, Writing the World, will culminate next year in order to coincide with the 2012 Olympic Games in London.***

Last week saw the Writing the World 2011 winners have their stories performed on the main stage at the Writing the World Festival which took place during Polka's Education week. This successful competition asks primary school children to write short stories inspired by a different country each year. In 2012, for the final year and to coincide with the Olympic Games, young people will be asked to write stories inspired by Britain.

For the last four years, Polka's competition has been growing in popularity and entrants have sent in their stories from all over London in the hope that they will win the opportunity to have their story performed on stage. In previous years, entrants were asked to write short stories inspired by China (2008), India (2009), South Africa (2010) and Brazil (2011).

For this year's competition, celebrated children's author Marcus Sedgwick wrote a story inspired by Brazil alongside those entering the competition and was one of the judges on the panel that chose the winning stories. He said of the competition,

*'Writing the World is such a great idea. How better to get us all thinking about parts of the world we know less about, than to explore them through story writing?'* Marcus Sedgwick

For the last two years, the competition has grown dramatically in popularity and the winners of this year's competition have been announced on Polka's website alongside their stories. With the Olympic Games taking place in London it seems only apt to dedicate the final year to Britain in a celebration of all the different cultures coming to London.

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*Notes to editors*

- For details of the 2011 winners, terms and conditions, and the complete competition rules please visit [www.polkatheatre.com/editorial/writing-the-world](http://www.polkatheatre.com/editorial/writing-the-world)
- For further images from the 2011 event please contact Elise on the details below

For more information about Polka's education projects as well as press releases on shows and events, please contact Elise on 020 8545 8354 or email [elise@polkatheatre.com](mailto:elise@polkatheatre.com)