

National Play Festival 2011

PlayWriting Australia is calling for entries for the National Play Festival 2011.

The National Play Festival is a unique opportunity to develop and present your work, in performance, to a national and international audience of theatre companies and producers. It is Australia's leading showcase for exploring exciting, innovative and bold new directions in writing for theatre.

Applications are now invited from Australian playwrights with a new, unproduced work ready for performance. You may be working independently or in a creative team with a director or dramaturg, and nominations from Australian theatre company are also welcome.

OVERVIEW

The centrepiece of the National Play Festival is the Showcase season of polished readings of new Australian plays. In 2011, the Showcase season will present a snapshot of the future of Australian playwriting. We strongly encourage imaginative and inventive responses to the possibilities of theatre.

Showcase plays are selected by competitive entry by PlayWriting Australia. The selection process concentrates on finding finished works that demonstrate an ambitious and vigorous engagement with their subjects and a sound understanding of the medium. Selected playwrights are provided with travel and accommodation and a collaborative team of actors, directors and dramaturgs to rehearse, develop and perform the Showcase plays.

The Showcase season is attended by key producers and presenters from across Australia to preview the selected works and join in the debate about where theatre writing is going. Works showcased at the Festival in previous years have gone on to be selected for production, and the Festival has also been a springboard for playwrights to access residencies, commissions and development opportunities both here and abroad.

ELIGIBILITY

Playwrights must be:

- aged 18 or over as at 10 September 2010
- an Australian citizen or permanent resident

Only one work may be submitted by each playwright or creative team.

Eligible plays:

- must be the writer's original work
- must be full-length, performance-ready final drafts
- may be of any style, genre and subject, with the exception that the Festival is unable to support musical theatre works or works requiring musical dramaturgy
- may be for any cast size, with the condition that plays with large casts must be able to be performed with reasonable doubling where necessary
- must not have been previously submitted to PlayWriting Australia except if it was submitted for the National Script Workshop 2010. Exceptional circumstances may be considered only with the express agreement of the artistic director
- must not have been professionally produced, and must not be scheduled for production before 31 March 2011, (for the purposes of the National Play Festival a professional production is a fully staged presentation of the work by paid actors to a paying public audience, including profit-share productions)
- may have existing actors, directors or dramaturgs attached and their details should be included with the submission (note that where existing creative team members are attached, PlayWriting Australia will do its

best to honour these relationships where this is possible within the scope of the Festival and where this provides the best use of resources)

- may have been commissioned and/or optioned for performance by an Australian theatre company, provided that PlayWriting Australia is advised of the encumbrance at the time of application
- may be nominated by, or in conjunction with, theatre companies, and
- must be received at PlayWriting Australia, with a signed copy of the application form and any additional information required, by **5pm, Friday 10 September 2010**.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be assessed against these criteria:

- Ambitious and lively engagement with a subject
- A rigorous understanding of the medium and its possibilities
- A distinctive and original voice.

WHAT IS PROVIDED

Playwrights whose work is selected for inclusion in the Showcase season will receive:

- a weekly wage, and
- royalty payments in respect of the public presentation of their work.

Where selected playwrights are required to travel interstate to attend the Festival, they will also receive:

- return travel from their normal place of residence within Australia,
- 2 weeks' accommodation or suitable allowance, and
- a living away from home allowance in accordance with standard MEAA rates.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit:

- one signed copy of the application form
- 2 printed copies of the most recent draft of your play (see script format notes below)
- a separate page listing:
 - a. short biographical details, including a summary of relevant professional credits
 - b. details of any development the play has undergone so far, including funding, mentoring or dramaturgy, and any future support currently planned
 - c. details of any current commissioning and/or option arrangements
 - d. details of any creative team members currently attached to the project, including their contact details.

Please note that under no circumstance is PlayWriting Australia able to:

- return any copy of any play submitted for consideration for the National Play Festival 2011
- provide critical or creative feedback on any play submitted for consideration – playwrights will only be advised of the outcome of their application and no qualitative response is available.

Send your submission to: National Play Festival 2011
PlayWriting Australia
PO Box 914
Newtown NSW 2042

SCRIPT FORMAT

Please ensure that:

- you submit two copies of your script, including one 'clean' copy on which the writer's name does not appear anywhere for the purpose of anonymous assessment
- script pages are unbound and not stapled and are held together only with bulldog/foldback clips
- all script pages are consecutively numbered.

Preferred format for scripts

Paper: single-sided, A4
Layout: left-justified
Type: 11 or 12pt, stage directions in italics
Include: title page, character list on page 1

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- All submissions will be read 'blind' by a panel of senior readers.
- Shortlisted submissions may be re-read by a second panel.
- Shortlisted playwrights may be contacted by phone to discuss their application in further detail.
- Playwrights will be advised of the outcome of their submission within three months of the advertised application deadline.
- The assessment process remains confidential.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Applications will not be accepted by email.
- Applications must be physically received by **5pm, Friday 10 September 2010**. Late applications, including those postmarked Friday 10 September will not be considered under any circumstance.
- Submissions will be acknowledged in writing on receipt.
- PlayWriting Australia may contact you to request additional information in connection with your submission.
- We are unable to return either copy of your script to you under any circumstance.
- We are unable to provide critical feedback on your play – this process is not an opportunity to receive a creative response to your play.
- Writers will be informed of PlayWriting Australia's decision within three months of the advertised application deadline. We are unable to respond to enquiries regarding your application prior to this date.
- Successful applicants will be required to acknowledge PlayWriting Australia's support in future presentations of the work and PlayWriting Australia reserves the right to request a royalty from any future presentations of the work, to be negotiated at the time of licensing.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

POSTSCRIPT

PostScript is a comprehensive database of unproduced scripts available for production by theatre companies. By default, submissions to the National Play Festival are automatically registered for inclusion in the *PostScript* database and details are made available to participating theatre companies.

Should you wish not to register your script for *PostScript* tick 'No' on the application form. By ticking 'Yes' (or by providing no response) and signing the application form, you acknowledge and agree to the *PostScript* terms and conditions listed below.

Direct submissions of final drafts of unproduced plays are accepted for registration with *PostScript* throughout the year. To submit your script by email or post, download and complete the *PostScript* submission cover sheet available via the PlayWriting Australia website or by contacting us by email or phone.

PlayWriting Australia's *PostScript* service is temporarily closed for important technical upgrades. It is anticipated that the service will re-open and resume accepting submissions in the second half of this year. Once *PostScript* has re-opened your work will automatically be registered for inclusion on the database unless you opt out.

POSTSCRIPT TERMS & CONDITIONS

By registering a work for *PostScript*, writers acknowledge and allow that:

- 1) the work will be made available to an assessor or assessors appointed by PlayWriting Australia (PWA),
- 2) further details pertaining to the assessment of that work may be circulated among participating companies,
- 3) the work may be further circulated to participating companies on request,
- 4) the work may be photocopied or reproduced electronically as necessary by PWA and participating companies, and
- 5) all rights in any original work submitted to PWA remain the sole property of the writer at all times.

If at any time you wish to withdraw your play from *PostScript*, please advise us in writing by email to postscript@pwa.org.au or by post to PlayWriting Australia, PO Box 914, Newtown NSW 2042.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Internet www.pwa.org.au
Email festival@pwa.org.au
Phone (02) 8571 9177