

NATIONAL SCRIPT WORKSHOPS 2012

The National Script Workshop offers playwrights the opportunity to develop their writing over a two-week period of intensive work with the country's finest directors, dramaturgs and actors. This opportunity is for emerging, developing and established playwrights with an unproduced script at an early stage of development.

There are four National Script Workshop opportunities in 2012:

Session	Workshop Dates	Applications	Location
Workshop #1	23 April – 4 May	Open in Jan Close 12 March	Sydney
Workshop #2	28 May – 8 June	No submissions Award recipients 2012*	TBC
Workshop #3	6 August – 17 August	Open in May Close 25 June	TBC
Workshop #4	8 October – 19 October	Open in July Close 27 August	TBC

*In 2012, one session is reserved for the winners of The R.E. Ross Trust Playwrights' Script Development Awards and the Max Afford Playwrights' Award

OVERVIEW

Australian playwrights are offered the chance to collaborate with a creative team to develop a script through intensive practical investigation across two weeks. Playwrights may apply individually, as co-writers or as part of a creative team. Theatre companies may apply on behalf of a playwright or creative team.

The Workshop period will comprise time spent in conference with directors and dramaturgs, rehearsal time with actors, and writing time. All participants are provided with a weekly wage.

The selection process will concentrate on finding new work that demonstrates theatrical promise, an engagement with the challenges of today's world and clear commitment to an idea with the potential for further exploration of that idea in an intensive studio environment. It is anticipated that plays submitted for consideration will be in early stages of development. Plays that are considered finished may be better suited to PlayWriting Australia's *PostScript* program (see below for more info). With the exception that the Workshop is unable to support musical theatre works or work that requires musical dramaturgy, plays may be of any style and written for any cast size.

Writers are asked to outline in their application what they hope to achieve using the time and resources available at the Workshop to develop their script. It is not intended that writers will produce a performance-ready script by the end of the two weeks and the Workshops do not conclude with public readings. Instead, the focus of the Workshop is specifically for exploration and creative dialogue between artists, with the intention of supporting scripts towards the next stage of their development.

2012 Submission Changes

PlayWriting Australia is changing the way it processes manuscripts. As you may know, PlayWriting Australia is one of a very small number of organisations left in the world that reads entire manuscripts gratis. This will not change.

As with all our programmes we read submissions to the National Script Workshop in a multi-tiered assessment process that allows for multiple considered discursive responses. This will not change either.

From 2012, however, we want all our programmes to feed into the selections for our annual National Play Festival. As a result, plays selected for presentation during the 2013 Festival will be drawn from submissions to our various programmes, most especially the National Script Workshop and *PostScript*. As such, there will be no additional closing date for submissions to the National Play Festival.

This will increase demand for those programmes and as a result we have included three closing dates for the National Script Workshops to our 2012 calendar as listed above. And of course you can submit a script to *PostScript* at any time throughout the year. This change will allow us to better track, nurture and develop new writing in Australia, ensuring that the National Play Festival showcases the finest new plays available.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and over the age of 18.

Eligible plays:

- must be the writer's original work;
- must be unproduced, and not scheduled for production before 1 November 2012;
- must not have been previously submitted to PlayWriting Australia for any programme. Re-submissions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and with the express prior approval of the Artistic Director;
- should be an early or incomplete first draft;
- 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 with whom the work is currently under commission or development;
- must be sent to PlayWriting Australia, with a signed copy of the application form and the additional information required, by **5pm on the published closing date**. Note that mailed applications must be post-marked on or before that closing date.

Notes:

- Only one play may be submitted by each playwright or creative team.
- Details of any creative team members already attached to the project should be included with the submission.
- Plays that have previously been submitted to any PlayWriting Australia programme will be deemed ineligible unless approval is given by the Artistic Director before the closing date. Email info@pwa.org.au before the closing date if you are planning to re-submit.

Contact PlayWriting Australia at info@pwa.org.au or 02 8571 9177 if you have any questions about your eligibility.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- All submissions will be read 'blind' by an independent panel of readers.
- Shortlisted submissions may be re-read by a second panel.
- Shortlisted playwrights may be interviewed by phone to discuss their application in further detail.
- All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their submission within 6 weeks of the closing date.
- The assessment process remains confidential and no further details of readers' assessments will be provided to playwrights.

For more information about our selection processes, head to www.pwa.org.au/Info/Resources/SelectionProcess

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit:

1. **Application form** – signed
2. **Script** - 2 printed copies of the most recent draft, including one 'clean' copy (see script format notes below);
3. **Development Notes** (max one A4 page) - an outline of your proposed development of the script and intended use of the time and resources available at the Workshop - see below for more info;
4. **Synopsis** – only required for incomplete drafts, a complete synopsis of the intended work (max. one A4 page);
5. **Additional Info** - a separate page listing:
 - i) short biographical details, including a summary of professional credits as available;
 - ii) details of any support the play has so far received, including funding, mentoring or dramaturgy, and any future support currently planned, if applicable;
 - iii) details of any current commissioning and/or option arrangements, if applicable;
 - iv) details of any creative team members currently attached to the project, including their contact details.

Contact PlayWriting Australia at info@pwa.org.au or 02 8571 9177 if you have any questions about your application.

SCRIPT FORMAT

Please ensure that:

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

Preferred format for scripts

Paper: A4, single- or double-sided

Layout: left-justified

Type: 11 or 12pt, stage directions in italics

Include: title page, character list on page 1

Clean Copy: remove writer/agent names from one of the two copies of the script you submit.

DEVELOPMENT NOTES

We ask that you include up to and not more than 500-1000 words on your script's development to date. By that we don't so much mean a list of who has read and commented on it, and what draft number it is - though that is of course helpful- it is your chance to tell us what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the developing draft. We would be grateful for a candid analysis of where you believe your draft needs to improve but also we are interested for you to inform us of your premise and intention and perhaps give us some context.

This is especially important if you are submitting a draft that is as yet unfinished. This information is helpful as we correlate the responses of our readers to your own critical thinking on the play. The intention here is not to expect you to write a scholarly essay, but rather an opportunity to explain the project to a colleague in an honest and practical manner.

POSTING YOUR APPLICATION

Send your completed application to PlayWriting Australia

National Script Workshop 2012
PlayWriting Australia
PO Box 3035
REDFERN NSW 2016

Remember:

Applications must be postmarked by 5pm on the published closing date.
We are not able to accept emailed submissions.

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

Selected playwrights who normally reside outside the location of the Workshop will be provided with:

- return travel from their normal place of residence;
- 2 weeks' accommodation or suitable allowance; and
- meals and incidentals allowance.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Applications will not be accepted by email.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications must be sent to PlayWriting Australia, by **5pm on the published closing date**. Mailed application must be post-marked on or before that closing date. Late submissions will not be considered.
- Submissions will be acknowledged by email upon 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 substantive creative response to your play.
- All applicants will be informed of PlayWriting Australia's decision within six weeks of the closing date. We are unable to respond to enquiries regarding your application during the assessment process.
- Successful applicants will be announced on PlayWriting Australia's website, social media sites and e-news bulletins
- Successful applicants are requested to acknowledge PlayWriting Australia's support in future presentations of the work.

POSTSCRIPT

PostScript is a comprehensive database of unproduced Australian scripts available for production by theatre companies. By default, submissions to the National Script Workshop 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 Workshop submission 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 or by contacting us by email or phone.

POSTSCRIPT - TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

- 1) the work will be made available to readers appointed by PlayWriting Australia (PWA),
- 2) further details pertaining to the reader's response to that work are available to participating companies,
- 3) the script may be 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 3035 Redfern NSW 2015

Further information

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