

NEXT STAGE WRITERS' PROGRAM RESIDENCIES

OVERVIEW

Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writer's Program provides a rigorous playwright commissioning and development process for writers to enhance the fabric, and legacy, of Australian live storytelling.

Through the generous funding of our Playwrights Giving Circle, MTC will offer writer-in-residence opportunities for writers who have a background in playwriting, demonstrate skill and ambition, and would benefit from specific experience of writing for a major theatre company. The residencies have been established to invest in the development of playwrights to build craft that can lead to a sustained career. Theatre is a collaborative artform and MTC believes the collaboration ideally begins at the very start with a close and on-going relationship between writer, production company and audience.

In 2018, MTC is offering three positions as NEXT STAGE Writers-in-Residence. The initial offering is for a 12 month position with the company, with the expectation that residents may be invited to progress to a second and third year. There is no expectation to write a full-length play in the first year, unless the resident wishes to do so.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE

- An annual stipend of up to \$25,000 per year;
 - Access to a desk, phone, computer and all the benefits and familial connection that being part of the MTC team entails;
 - Access to meetings with MTC's key artistic team and insight into the programming, directorial, creative and casting process of a major theatre company;
 - Access to MTC's production process from design concept through to rehearsals and performances;
 - Access to dynamic and informed dramaturgical conversations with the MTC artistic staff including the Artistic Director, Literary Director, Associate Directors and fellow NEXT STAGE writers;
 - The chance to develop concepts through two-days of workshop time with actors and directors at MTC;
 - Invitations to exclusive MTC events and networking opportunities including philanthropic events throughout the year.
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REQUIREMENTS

You can apply for a Writer-In Residence position if you;

- Are over 18 years old and an Australian citizen or resident;
- Are not enrolled in full-time study;
- Have had a minimum of one play produced or workshopped in a professional, amateur or tertiary education environment;

FAQ:

Q: Do I need to live in Melbourne to apply?

A: No, but there is an expectation the resident will be domiciled in Melbourne for the duration of the residency to make the most of the opportunity. All travel & accommodation costs are at the expense of the resident.

Q: How long does the actual residency have to be?

A: There is an expectation that Writers-In-Residence will spend a minimum of 12 weeks in-house at MTC annually (subject to the playwright's schedule). This will enable them to take full advantage of the benefits of the program. This time should be spread across 12 months to allow for regular in-person contact with the company.

Q: What is the timeline for the residency?

A: We expect the residencies to commence in August 2018.

Q: Do I have to write a full-length play during my residency?

A: We encourage residents to take the time in the first year to develop multiple play ideas with no expectation that a full-length play be completed unless the resident wishes to do so. MTC expects each resident to embark on writing a full-length play should they move to their second year of the program and beyond.

Q: Can I be part of other residency programs at the same time?

A: No. MTC would like your full attention during your time with us.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please submit the following:

- A cover letter detailing your artistic vision and an outline of how you would use your residency at MTC to further your development as a playwright (*1000 word max*). Please include a proposed schedule and start date.
- A proposal for 3 plays that you might consider developing in your first year of residency. This should include a brief synopsis of each (*no more than 1000 words in total*) and a script sample of no more than 10 pages. This can be a sample of your proposed plays or of pre-existing work stylistically similar to your proposed plays.
- Please attach a copy of your resume that demonstrates a track record of your writing experience and any involvement with live performance.
- A letter of reference from a respected arts practitioner, outlining why you should be considered for the program.

Applications should be emailed to employment@mtc.com.au

Applications close 18th June 2018 at 5pm

Successful applicants will be invited to attend an interview at MTC with senior artistic staff in early July.