

NEXT STAGE WRITERS' PROGRAM RESIDENCIES

OVERVIEW

Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' 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 write, production company and audience.

In 2017, 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 year, and in one case a 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 a concept in a two-day workshop at MTC;
 - Invitations to exclusive MTC events and networking opportunities including philanthropic events throughout the year.
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REQUIREMENTS & FAQ

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 and 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 and can be spread over 12 months or contained to shorter periods of time.

Q: What is the timeline for the residency?

A: We expect the residencies to commence in August 2017, but the exact timeline is flexible based on the selected playwright's schedule.

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

A: There is no expectation to write a full-length play in the first year, 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, your body of work up to this point, 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 a play, including a brief precis (*300 words max*) and a further synopsis (*1000 words max*). A script sample of no more than 10 pages may be included as part of this.
- 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 Monday 10 July 2017 at 5pm

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