

Merrigong Playwrights' Program



The Merrigong Playwrights' Program is a new initiative that provides long-term mentoring for emerging and independent writers.

Over the course of the year, participants will regularly meet, attend theatre together and workshop material with the aim of developing a full-length play by the end of the program. The group is writer-led and aims to provide the skills, expertise and inspiration to give emerging writers the confidence to make innovative and exciting contemporary theatre.

This year, these sessions will be facilitated by Mark Rogers – a playwright working in a variety of performance contexts with a track record of producing new work and experience as an educator. Mark will provide ongoing mentorship to the participants, supporting and challenging them to be brave, to tell the most essential stories and to take themselves seriously.

WHAT DO I GET?

- 10 writers group sessions over the year with other participants and the facilitator.
- Access to industry professionals including guest sessions with Playwrights, Directors, Literary Managers and practitioners.
- Tickets to all major Merrigong 2019 Mainstage productions and MERRIGONGX shows.
- The opportunity to engage, discuss and provide critical analysis for the productions you attend.
- A public reading of an excerpt of your work with professional actors, to be presented as a part of the MERRIGONGX *Made From Scratch* program in November 2019 in front of a live audience.
- To be part of a community of artists passionate about playwriting.

HOW MUCH IS IT?

The fee to take part in the program is \$300.00

If this is a barrier for you, for whatever reason, please let us know in your application and we will work together to support your interest through a monthly payment plan or alternate solution.

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WHO CAN APPLY?

This program is open to anyone aged 18 and above with an interest in writing for theatre. No experience or previous stage credits are necessary. We are committed to providing an inclusive culture and program where all our artists are valued and recognised for their unique qualities, ideas and perspectives. We encourage applications from Indigenous Australians, people with disability, people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, mature age workers and LGBTQI people.

You will need to be able to attend all of the scheduled sessions at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre in Wollongong.

HOW DO I APPLY?

EOIs are now open. To apply, please send us an email with the following:

- A 10-page sample of your playwriting.
- A brief outline (250 words) about you and what you would like to get out of the program.

The sample of your writing can be an extract from an already existing piece or something you've written specifically for the application. It can be of any genre but it has to be written for the stage – not a screenplay or for TV or radio, poetry or prose. Please attach your sample in PDF or .docx form.

Please make the subject title of your email: "FIRSTNAME LASTNAME 2019 Playwrights Program Application". Send your application to artistic@merrigong.com.au by midnight Monday 28 January 2019.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

This is a guide and is subject to change. Most sessions are immediately before a matinee performance.

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DATE	PLAYWRIGHTS PROGRAM	PERFORMANCE + TALKING POINT
Saturday 9th February	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>The Duke</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 2nd March	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>The Gospel According to Paul</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 6th April	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>Senior Moments</i></u> 2.00pm
Saturday 4th May	9:00am – 1:00pm	Sydney Writers' Festival satellite program
Saturday 11th May	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>The Humours of Bandon</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 8th June	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>Barbara and the Camp Dogs</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 27th July	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>Once</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 17th August	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>I Want To Know What Love Is</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 31st August	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>A View From The Bridge</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 26th October	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>The 39 Steps</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 9th November	9:00am – 1:00pm	<u><i>The Wharf Revue</i></u> 1:30pm
Saturday 30th November	7:00pm – 9:00pm	Playwrights Program public readings as part of Made From Scratch #4

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Mark Rogers is a playwright and theatre-maker living in Sydney. He has made critically acclaimed works with some of Australia's most innovative independent companies: Bodysnatchers, Applespiel, re:group and Woodcourt Art Theatre. His previous work as a writer includes: *Plastic* (Old 505 Theatre), *Target Audience* (Novelty UK), *The Buck* (Rock Surfers, Bondi Feast), *Soothsayers* (Brisbane Festival: Under The Radar), *Blood Pressure* (Rock Surfers, Old Fitzroy Theatre) and *Gobbledygook* (PACT, AC Arts Adelaide). His play *Blood Pressure* is published by PlayLab. He also makes work as a part of performance collective Applespiel and has been involved in all projects 2008-present, including seasons at major theatres nationally and internationally. He is currently a PHD candidate at the University of Wollongong, where he works as a sessional teacher.

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ABOUT MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY

Merrigong Theatre Company is a pioneering cultural leader, exemplifying and championing the arts in our local region, our nation, and beyond. We put artists and community at the centre of everything we do, connecting them and promoting their strength. From our home venues in the Wollongong Arts Precinct, we seed, develop, produce, present, host, facilitate and tour performances and programs that reflect our diverse community.

www.merrigong.com.au