

Merrigong Playwrights' Program 2020



The Merrigong Playwrights Program is an 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.

These sessions will be facilitated by **Mark Rogers** – a playwright working in a variety of performance contexts with a long track record of producing new work and considerable 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.
- Free tickets to all major Merrigong 2020 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 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.

MERRIGONGX

X = innovative X = independent
X = in-development

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 LGBTQTI 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 2020 Playwrights Program Application". Send your application to artistic@merrigong.com.au by midnight Monday 20 January 2020.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

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

DATE	PLAYWRIGHTS PROGRAM	PERFORMANCE + TALKING POINT
Saturday 15 th February	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>Black Cockatoo</i> 1:30pm
Saturday 14 th March	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam</i> 1.30pm
Saturday 16 th May	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>Grace Under Pressure</i> 1:30pm
Saturday 23 rd May	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>The Keeper</i> (MERRIGONGX) 11:00am
Saturday 27 th June	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>American Psycho</i> 1:30pm
Saturday 25 th July	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>In Between Two</i> 1:30pm
Saturday 29 th August	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>Sacre</i> 1:30pm
Saturday 26 th September	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>The Crucible</i> 1:30pm
Saturday 10 th October	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>Storyland</i> (MERRIGONGX) 11:00am
Saturday 31 st October	9:00am – 1:00pm	<i>My Brilliant Career</i> 1:30pm

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM FACILITATOR

Mark Rogers is a multi-award winning playwright and theatre-maker. In 2019 he won both the Griffin Award and Sydney Theatre Company's Patrick White Award. That play, *Superheroes*, will debut at Griffin Theatre in 2020. His adaptation of Brecht's *St Joan of the Stockyards* will also premiere at La Boite Theatre in Brisbane next year. 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 holds a PHD from the University of Wollongong, where he works as a lecturer in theatre and performance.

ABOUT MERRIGONG

Merrigong Theatre Company is a pioneering, not-for-profit 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.merrigongx.com.au | artistic@merrigong.com.au

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