



Producing for the ACT

THE HIVE 2017: GUIDELINES FOR PLAYWRIGHTS

The Hive is The Street Theatre's script/performance development program. In the search for contemporary regional and Australian writers, The Street has developed a place for the gathering of theatrical ideas and minds to challenge their skillset and provide fertile ground for Canberra to develop a distinctive and strong voice.

The program aims to support live performance writing in the ACT through providing access to a leading professional dramaturg and a range of theatre resources. The program is driven by a commitment to actively nurturing ACT writers and their work. Further, to develop quality new work to be produced by The Street Theatre and other organisations throughout the ACT and Australia.

Using one of Australia's leading dramaturgs to facilitate it, The Hive has developed over the years, changing to the needs of the participants as well as those of the company. Peter Matheson won the MEAA ACT Green Room Award in 2013 recognizing his expertise with and development of Canberra playwrights through his dramaturgical work with The Hive and Made in Canberra programs at The Street Theatre. The program is for those interested in/or currently pursuing a professional career in performance & writing at various stages of their career.

PROGRAM

❖ Writer Residencies (up to 7 places)

- Provides the opportunity to write a performance work from concept to final draft specifically for The Street or an identified project or another company.
- 3 x 4 hour individual sessions with dramaturg Peter Matheson
- Phone/Skype Sessions with the dramaturg between residencies
- Readings of your work
- Creative developments collaborating with directors, dramaturgs, and an ensemble of actors to develop script through practical investigation.

❖ Emerging Writers (3 places)

- Provides the opportunity for three new writers to be guided through the process of writing a play, led by dramaturg Peter Matheson
- Practical exercises within group learning process.

Through the 2017-2019 period The Street is looking to develop work in the following areas and have allocated additional places in this program as outlined below:

- Performance for Children (up to age 12)
- Intercultural Performance
- Adaptations of Australasian fiction (Aus & NZ works)
- Comedy
- Political drama

PROGRAM CRITERIA

- ❖ You must be living in the ACT or within a 120 km radius of the ACT
- ❖ You must be 18 years+
- ❖ You must have an intention to write/create professionally for stage
- ❖ You must be available for all sessions
- ❖ You must meet all deadlines and attend the relevant workshops
- ❖ Playwrights/ensembles/actors may apply individually, as co-writers or as part of a creative team.

RESIDENCY DATES

- ❖ Monday 13th – Friday 17th March
- ❖ Phone Session – Friday 5th – Monday 8th May
- ❖ Tuesday 13th – Sunday 18th June
- ❖ Phone Session – Friday 1st – Monday 4th September
- ❖ Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th November
- ❖ Each face to face includes a compulsory group session in addition to individual sessions

Note participation is not continuous over five days you will be timetabled according to availability.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- ❖ **COB Tuesday 14th February 2017**
- ❖ Membership of The Street Theatre is required if selected for program

EMAIL APPLICATIONS TO: thehive@thestreet.org.au

ABOUT THE DRAMATURG

Peter Matheson is a freelance dramaturg with a scattered stable of clients from all over Australia, including regional NSW, the ACT, Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Western Australia. Over the last ten years he has assessed scripts for Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland, La Boite, PlayLab and Griffin Theatre Companies, the Australia Council, the Australian Script Centre, the Australian Writers Guild and Playwriting Australia/Australian National Playwrights Centre.

Within the last ten years he has worked dramaturgically with The Street Theatre (Canberra), Brink Productions (Adelaide), Creative Regions (Bundaberg), Darwin Theatre Co, JUTE Theatre (Cairns), Mudlark Theatre (Launceston), Kite Theatre Company (Brisbane), Knock-Em-Down Theatre (Darwin), Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Theatre (Brisbane), La Boite (Brisbane), Lampshade Shop (Adelaide), Legs on the Wall (Sydney), NIDA, Northern Rivers Writers Centre,

NORPA (Lismore), Perth Theatre Company, QTC, Queensland Performing Arts Centre , Red Dust Theatre Company (Alice Springs), Riverside Theatre (Parramatta), for their Hive Program, Stages WA and Tasmanian Theatre Company.

In 2007, he received an Australia Council Theatre Board Skills and Arts Development Grant providing intensive dramaturgy to mid-range writers from Cairns, Alice Springs, Darwin and Hobart. In 2008 and 2009, he received an Australia Council Fellowship and extended this support to eight regional companies including central Victoria, Launceston, Lismore and Canberra. A recipient of an Australia Council cultural leadership grant in 2011 he developed dramaturgical skills in seven regional companies' directors/theatre-makers.

In 2013, the MEAA Peer Recognition Award went to Peter Matheson, "in recognition of his expertise with and development of Canberra based playwrights through his dramaturgical work with The Hive and Made In Canberra programs at The Street."