

MTC NEXT STAGE WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE

APPLICATIONS 2020

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 the 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 2020, MTC is offering two positions as NEXT STAGE Writers-in-Residence. This is a 12-month position with the company, and residents will be encouraged to write a full-length play during this time.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS 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 dynamic and informed dramaturgical conversations with the MTC artistic staff including the Artistic Director, Literary Director, Literary Associate, Associate Directors and fellow NEXT STAGE writers and alumni;
- Communication with members of MTC's key artistic team providing 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;
- The chance to develop concepts through workshop time with actors and directors at MTC;
- Invitations to exclusive MTC events and networking opportunities including philanthropic events throughout the year.

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 by coursework;
- Have had a minimum of one play produced or workshopped in a professional, independent 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 2020.

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 and at least the first draft of a full-length play. MTC expects each resident to pitch for a new commission should they move to a 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 mention of why you would like to write for MTC, what you plan to achieve in your residency and how you would manage your time across the year. Please note: interstate applicants will need to demonstrate a sustainable way of working across two states for the residency, as MTC is unable to cover transport or accommodation.
- A proposal for three 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 nextstage@mtc.com.au by **COB, Tuesday 9 June 2020**.

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

NOTE: Due to the restrictions brought on by COVID-19 and their potential to continue into the future, the MTC Writer-In-Residence program could be impacted. Some aspects of the residency may be delivered online or in an altered format to ensure the health and safety of MTC staff and all participants.