

2026 CYBEC ELECTRIC PLAY READINGS

WRITER CALLOUT

OVERVIEW

For over a decade, Melbourne Theatre Company's annual series of Cybec Electric play readings has brought the most exciting, fresh and urgent new writing to audiences. With scripts in hand, actors present works-in-progress with the assistance of directors and dramaturgs, providing a crucial step in the creation of new work – bringing them to life in front of an audience.

Thanks to the generous support of the Cybec Foundation, Melbourne Theatre Company is on the lookout for writers who have an unproduced play that they feel would benefit from a short development and showcase at a public reading. Theatre isn't made in isolation, and this program is an opportunity for writers to come together with peers and a professional team to nurture and test new ideas.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Work that can be presented as a full-length play reading.
- New writing for the stage that has not yet had a mainstage or independent production in part or in whole and is not scheduled for one in 2026.
- Work that the writer is comfortable presenting in a public space for a general public audience.
- Ideas that feel contemporary, exciting and which encourage and support currently underrepresented voices or stories on our stages.
- Writers who have not previously participated in a Cybec Electric play reading series and who have not had a professional production on a mainstage.
- Writers who are based in Victoria, as interstate travel support is not available through this program.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE

- A public reading of their play with professional actors between August 6 and August 8, 2026. Please note, the number of actors is limited by budget, and actors may need to read multiple roles.
- Creative Development time with actors, director and dramaturg across a two-week period from July 27 – August 7, 2026.
- Limited dramaturgical support prior to and following the development.
- Fee payable of \$3,500 + super, at a minimum, at the prevailing Super Guarantee percentage.
- Complimentary tickets to select Melbourne Theatre Company productions in the preceding 12 months.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Completed applications should be emailed as a single PDF to newwork@mtc.com.au

To apply, please submit the following:

- A 300-word statement detailing the specific elements or moments in the play you believe could further developed.
- A draft of the full length play you would like to develop. If you've not completed a full draft, an excerpt or partial script of at least 20 pages can be submitted with a detailed synopsis of the remaining scenes.
- A CV of no more than 2 pages that includes your contact information.
- Confirm your availability to participate in the Creative Development period and presentation between July 27 – August 9, 2026 at Southbank Theatre (exact days/times TBC).

Please note, we will only consider scripts previously submitted to Cybec if they have been significantly redeveloped.

For further information or questions regarding the program, please contact New Work Associate Zoey Dawson on Z.Dawson@mtc.com.au.

**Applications close 12pm on
Monday April 27, 2026.**