



# ANNUAL YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL 2020

## Information & Application Pack

# SNAPSHOT

## Annual Youth Theatre Festival

Each year, Q Theatre provides schools from around the region access to theatre-making opportunities through our drop-in and deep-dive workshops as well as workshop projects such as the Annual Youth Theatre Festival (AYTF). AYTF gives high school drama students – traditionally in years 10 and 11 – the opportunity to explore different theatrical styles through hands-on theatre-making. Classes work with alongside industry professionals to create an original performance to be staged at The Joan, Penrith.

For over 25 years AYTF has championed and celebrated theatre practice, with a focus on two areas:

1. Learning the value of each step in theatre-making: from coming together as a company – to generating ideas – to development – to rehearsals – to performances – to reflection – and to generating new ideas; and,
2. Learning the skills, responsibilities, and values of theatre-making as a collaborative artform. The production is only made possible through a range of people working together to bring it to life – creators, technicians, coordinators, publicists and audiences.

This document serves as an introduction and primer to AYTF. It includes a Schools Application Form weblink on the last page of the document. We recommend you review this entire document before completing your application.

You can contact the Festival Coordinator Ian Zammit on 02 4723 7606 or [ian.zammit@penrith.city](mailto:ian.zammit@penrith.city) if you have any questions.

## **STAGE 1. PRE-APPLICATION: PURPOSE AND THEATRICAL STYLE**

### **Purpose**

Before applying for AYTF, teachers are encouraged to consider the purpose for engaging in the festival, for themselves and together with their students, through these questions:

- What theatrical style have your students studied and would like to engage with?
- What outcomes do you expect to see from the students' engagement with AYTF?

### **Theatrical Style**

AYTF provides the opportunity for your students to develop their skills in a theatrical style they have studied and engaged with. You will choose the style in your application, and we recommend you consider and choose a theatrical style the students are already familiar with.

Popular styles from past festivals include:

<b>Classic/Greek</b>	<b>Comedy</b>	<b>Contemporary</b>	<b>Dance Theatre</b>
<b>Epic Theatre</b>	<b>Mask</b>	<b>Musical Theatre</b>	<b>Physical Theatre</b>
<b>Shakespeare</b>	<b>Verbatim Theatre</b>	<b>Theatre for Children</b>	<b>Theatre o/t Absurd</b>

You can instead choose a style outside this list that suits your class' study focus and level of experience, especially one they wish to explore further and put their stamp on. The theatrical style is to provide inspiration for your group's stylistic choices, rather than a straight jacket requiring you to adhere rigidly to all its conventions.

## **STAGE 2. FESTIVAL APPLICATION & REGISTRATION**

### **Application Form**

Complete the **online Application Form** via the weblink at the end of this document, and when finished click the button "Submit Form". You will be emailed confirmation of your application details, and their receipt by the Festival Coordinator, within 48 hours. Due to the high level of interest we receive from schools to participate in AYTF each year, we recommend you submit your school's application at your earliest convenience.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**

### **Application Assessment**

Applications will be reviewed by the Q Theatre team. Schools will be notified regarding their application's success by **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020**.

### **Successful Applicants**

Schools successful in their application will receive:

1. A message confirming an invitation to participate in AYTF 2020, "Snapshot" or a notice they we are unable to support them in the program.
2. A **Festival Registration Form** to complete your school details: due **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**
3. An **Invoice** for your school's \$600.00 entry fee: payment is due **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

4. The **Invoice** for your school's 30\* student tickets to the 12pm matinee performance of AYTF on Friday 28 June 2019: payment is due **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

\*Contact the Festival Coordinator **before Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March** if you require more than 30 tickets to meet your matinee numbers.

*Please ensure you have your calendar dates and your financial requirements arranged before applying, Contact the Festival Coordinator if you have any questions*

### **STAGE 3. PROVOCATION**

Each school in AYTF will respond to a *provocation*: an inciting concept that forms the leaping off point for ideas for your school group's development and production.

This year's provocation is "**Snapshot**":

*"We're in the business of making moments. Big moments, little moments, moments you didn't realise were moments, we love them all. Snapshot is a search mission for photos that capture a moment that changed everything. There's that photo of the monkey taking a selfie, or that one with the nurse and sailor kissing when the war ended, oh and there's the first photo of Earth taken from space. These moments make us, shape us and cast a line between the past, the present and a possible future. Snapshot brings together eight schools under the direction of eight leading theatre makers to create a play filled with new moments about past moments."*

Your response to the provocation as a group will begin from the moment you engage with your Director at the Stagecraft Workshop, this May at The Joan. Your response will evolve into its own form by the time you reach your performances and can be in any form your group chooses. There is time for you to reflect on your responses and processes in your post-performance reflection at the end of June.

The provocation is intended to *stimulate* the early creative process with your director: is not required to be a prominent feature of your finished work.

### **STAGE 4. ENGAGING YOUR DIRECTOR**

Schools accepted into AYTF 2020 will have their theatrical style confirmed and will be paired with a director experienced in that theatrical style. Your group will be introduced to your director in your Stagecraft Workshop at The Joan in May to begin your six-weeks of development together.

Your director is your direct link to years of theatre-making experience, at your school group's disposal for the Festival: utilise their time well!

From the Stagecraft Workshop experience and over the six weeks to your performance, your director will spend a total of **twenty (20) face-to-face hours** working with your group. This time includes:

- Your 4-hour introductory **Stagecraft Workshop** that starts the six weeks development, in the week of 4-7 May (see **Stage 5** below);
- 13-hours of **Performance Development/Rehearsal workshops** that take place at your school with your Director, decided between your group and the Director; and,

- Your 3-hour final **Technical Rehearsals** in the Q Theatre that ends the six weeks development, in the week of 22-25 June (see **Stage 7** below – contact the Festival Coordinator if you also wish to book your final Performance Development/Rehearsal workshop on the same day either before/after your Technical Rehearsal).

Over the six weeks your director will facilitate an introduction to your chosen style, support your group’s generation of ideas and performance material, and help guide the creative and artistic development of your performance. It is likely that you will hold several in-school sessions outside the hours scheduled with your director: we recommend you plan ahead together for how you can best use this time in your director’s absence.

*You can consider nominating an area of performance craft which you would like your Director to focus on, such as physical or vocal skills, acting, writing or directing, and we will consider your preferences when selecting your artist.*

## **STAGE 5. STAGECRAFT WORKSHOPS & PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

Your creative process begins with the **Stagecraft Workshop**. This consists of a single session in Term Two, within the week of **Monday 14 - Thursday 17 May 2020**.

You and your students will undertake a four-hour workshop at The Joan:

- **Three hours** of the session forms the first of your **Performance Development Workshops** led by your Director. Use the time to introduce yourselves and to discuss the processes of the festival; begin exploring your theatrical style and the provocation; set expectations for how you wish to work together; and develop a schedule for your future meetings at your school. This three-hour block will be divided into two 90-minute sessions: one in the Q Theatre, one in the Mullins Studio. The order will be worked out on the day and split between your school group and another school group also engaging in their first AYTF workshop at The Joan – your buddy school for the day.
- **One hour** will be used as a **Technical Production Workshop**, to split up the 90-minute workshops. Both school groups (yours and your buddy group) come together to meet members of The Joan’s technical and production teams and learn about the Festival, the venue, the technical opportunities available at The Joan: it’s the perfect time to ask questions about what’s possible for the Festival, so bring your curiosity and enthusiasm!

The Stagecraft Workshop is an excellent opportunity to identify potential performative or technical production challenges or limitations which you may want to address early in the rehearsal process. It is recommended to use this time to make notes and ask questions of our Technical Crew: the team has years of experience between them and know the Q Theatre space well to answer your questions, and the earlier we receive your enquiries, the earlier we can provide solutions to them.

**Session times:** available as follows, please indicate your preferences on your application:

Mon 04 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM

Tue 05 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM

Wed 06 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM

Thu 07 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM

## **Performance Development Workshops (Friday 8 May – Friday 19 June)**

Following the Stagecraft Workshop will be your time to arrange Performance Development workshops with your Director. Each Director is available for 12 hours face-to-face time after the Stagecraft Workshop in the weeks leading up to Production week (see **Stage 6** below), so we recommend you plan with your Director at the Stagecraft Workshops for the best use of your time together.

*We recommend indicating 2-3 preferences in your Application where possible, which will make it easier to find a session that suits both you and your fellow schools. Also, talk with your Director at your earliest convenience to arrange your schedule together, and to discuss the role each of you will have in developing the six weeks engagement with the students, especially those times the Director will not be on site at your school and how the students will develop their performance at those times.*

### **Performance Development Workshops: Schedule and Logistics**

Directors work with you and your students for a total of 20 face-to-face hours:

- 4 x hour initial **Stagecraft Workshop** in the Q Theatre
- 13 x hours of **Performance Preparation Workshops**, at your school
- 3 x hours on your **Technical Rehearsal Day**:
  - 3-hour **Technical Rehearsal** in the Q Theatre
  - Contact us to book your final **Performance Preparation Workshop** in one of The Joan's rehearsal venues before/after your Technical Rehearsal (max 3-hours)
- In addition, Directors are invited to either of the **AYTF Performances** on Friday 26 June.

A suggested model for the Performance Preparation Workshops process: 4 x 3-hour sessions, led by your Director either at your school or The Joan. These workshops could be held during or after the school day, in the evenings or at weekends depending on your school's situation. We recommend a minimum of 2 hours engagement at a time, to allow your Director and students time to reconnect, generate and refine performance material with some depth, and plan activities to be conducted before the next workshop.

*Where available The Joan can offer rehearsal spaces as an alternative to your school facilities, if this suits both your school group and your Artist. The Joan in Penrith is open Monday-Friday 9am-9pm and Saturdays 9am-4:30pm during term times. Conducting some or all your workshops at The Joan can help your students develop a more intimate understanding of the environment they will be performing in and can help promote focus and creativity during workshops. Venue availability is limited: include this in your application if you are keen to take advantage of this venue opportunity, and contact the **Festival Coordinator** early to look at space at The Joan for these workshops.*

## **STAGE 6. PRODUCTION WEEK & TECHNICAL REHEARSALS**

Production Week begins with a Technical Rehearsal within **Monday 22 – Thursday 25 June**. Each group will return to Q Theatre at The Joan on one of these dates for a full day of rehearsals. A “buddy” school will be booked for the same day for the schools to provide mutual support for each other during their processes.

The day is split into two sessions of 3 hours each, broken up by 30 minutes for lunch:

- **Technical Rehearsal (3 hours):** a session on the Q Theatre stage. If there is time, this session will also include one or more dress rehearsals); and,
- **Optional Performance Development Workshop (3 hours):** spent rehearsing / fine-tuning your performance with your Director in a rehearsal venue.

Your sessions will be either **morning (9:00am-12:00pm)** or **afternoon (1:00pm-4:00pm)**, with a break for lunch in between. While one school group is booked in for the Technical Rehearsal morning session, their buddy school can use the Performance Development workshop time to rehearse at the same time. The schools will then swap venues for the afternoon. We recommend the schools provide an opportunity at the end of their Technical Rehearsal time (**12pm for morning sessions, 4pm for afternoon sessions**) to invite their buddy school to be an audience for a Dress Rehearsal of their performance, who can provide a supportive voice for your young performers and is very much in the spirit of this Festival.

### **STAGE 7. PERFORMANCES & REFLECTION**

The two Performances of AYTF 2019 will take place on **Friday 26 June** in the Q Theatre:

- 12pm for school audiences (including 30 students from your school);
- 7pm for the general public.

Although each performance is targeting a specific audience group, anyone may elect to attend either performance.

## TIPS FOR DEVELOPING YOUR PERFORMANCE

We have compiled a short list of guidelines to help you and your students avoid some common pitfalls. Consider them ahead of your stagecraft workshop, when you will have a chance to experiment and identify potential challenges early-on.

### Duration

Your work is to be within **7-10 minutes**, once performance ready.

### Audience

Have in mind that your audience will range in age from year 7 students to adults: **consider content accordingly**.

### Floorspace

For maximum impact keep the **dimensions of the Q Theatre** in mind when developing your work. To aid you in this we have included a stage plan with this pack (**APPENDIX 1**). Consider the stage dimensions, entrances and exits, aisles and other features and how you could exploit them.

Consider, for example: how your performance could spread across the auditorium; or, the effect of contracting it onto a restricted area. If you are ever unsure about an aspect of the space, contact us for clarification.

### Voice/Volume

There is a dramatic difference between rehearsing speech in a classroom and performing in professional venues such as the Q Theatre. Each group is recommended to develop a keen awareness of the vocal projection required through their Stagecraft rehearsals at Q Theatre and continue this in workshops at their school. If you identify vocal skills as a major challenge for your students, please let us know so that we can work to support them through the rehearsal process.

### Design

Beyond the script and the staging there are plenty of opportunities for you to embellish and enhance your performance by imaginatively employing elements of set, costume and props design. Working with the Artists, each school can balance the opportunity to dream up a design aesthetic for the production and refine the number and quality of items you will eventually use in the fully realised final design.

We recommend schools do not rely on 'placeholder' items such as rostra: the stage will need to be struck and reset before each school's performance, so the fewer the items you must bring out, the fewer the items you will have to move back / store backstage.

## TECHNICAL PRODUCTION & DEADLINES

AYTF is a great way for students to learn about the technical aspects of mounting a production, and teachers and tutors are encouraged to involve students in the technical design of their works throughout the rehearsal period.

If any of your students are especially interested in **technical production**, contact the Festival Coordinator ASAP: we may be able to offer them an opportunity to spend some time working with our technical crew in the lead-up to the performance day. This experience will count toward VET Entertainment hours where applicable.

### MUSIC/AUDIO

Music or sounds recorded by other artists are protected by copyright: many can still be used through application to the appropriate agencies.

We require at least six weeks' notice if you intend to use music or sounds recorded by other artists in your work as such content is subject to a 3-8-week clearance process and approval is not guaranteed:

*MUSIC TIP: Use the APRA/AMCOS Works Search ([www.apraamcos.com.au](http://www.apraamcos.com.au)) to ensure availability of your chosen tracks, before requesting clearance. When submitting your requests, prioritise a first and second preference of tracks you desire to use, to minimise the chances of disappointment. You must include the full track name, the names of the performing Director and composer, the name of the album from which the track is taken, the year of production and the exact duration of the excerpt you wish to use. A good rule of thumb to consider: the more well-known the track, the less likely it is to be approved.*

### SOUND DESIGN & REQUESTS

We can accommodate the use of recorded and/or live sound in your performance. Recorded sound must be presented on a CD or USB drive. All tracks must be in order and already edited to be the desired length. Live sound/instrument requests are to form part of your technical requests. Please also note that you may not parody or change the lyrics of an existing work.

### LIGHTING DESIGN & REQUESTS

Most things are possible, and more likely with notice! Contact us if you have any questions or special requests and we will do our best to accommodate your vision. We encourage you to carefully plan your lighting states for maximum dramatic effect. Consider the mood of your scene, the motivations and interactions of your characters and the general atmosphere you're working to evoke.

### GRAPHICS/PROJECTION DESIGN & REQUESTS

The Q is equipped with a data projector and computer for projecting visuals onto the cyclorama, a large white curtain at the rear of the stage. Videos should be recorded and edited in the highest possible resolution to ensure the quality of the blown-up image and where possible presented in a full screen format without black bars.

## SCRIPT/TECHNICAL DEADLINES

We understand that the final weeks of rehearsal are a period of rapid development and change, however in order to allow the team at The Joan enough time to source and prepare the necessary equipment for all schools involved in AYTF 2020, contact us earlier rather than later in the process to ensure a smooth process for all.

<b>FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY</b> (6 wks before performance )	Email the Festival Coordinator with ALL recorded songs / sound requests to the Festival Coordinator are due.
<b>FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> (3 wks before performance)	Contact the Festival Coordinator with ALL technical queries & requests are due
<b>FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE</b> (1 wk before performance):	Email the Festival Coordinator with your final Production Script and ALL music/Audio files

## INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

One of the chief aims of AYTF 2019 is to ensure that participants leave the festival having gained an insight into the practicalities and processes involved in mounting a professional-scale production, as well as to develop their critical faculties in looking at their own work and processes. To this end each year we assemble a panel of industry experts who provide individualised feedback to each group about their performance. This feedback will focus on three key areas: technical production, stagecraft and performance skills. The feedback is intended to provide valuable reflection material for analysis within the group and insights that will inform student’s future performance practice.

## MARKETING THE FESTIVAL

AYTF is a non-profit event, and we rely on ticket sales to keep the Festival going year after year. It is expected that students and teachers will actively publicise the event, and all efforts you provide to spread the word are greatly appreciated by The Joan and all schools involved. We encourage you to advertise the Festival within your school networks and to direct interested parties to our **Box Office** for further information.

We at Q Theatre will supply you with posters and flyers closer to the performance date. We also strongly encourage you to utilize your 30 tickets by inviting other year groups, your staff and executive faculty members to help fill the house and give the performers the best experience possible.

## **KEEP IN TOUCH**

Your main contacts at The Joan you can ask questions of and discuss your involvement throughout all stages of this year's festival:

**Ian Zammit – Festival & Schools Coordinator**

4723 7606 / [ian.zammit@penrith.city](mailto:ian.zammit@penrith.city)

Contact Ian for all queries relating to the logistics of this year's festival and urgent after-hours enquiries. Contact Ian in the first instance with creative, technical, venue-related queries.

**Nick Atkins – Director, New Work**

4723 7605 / [nick.atkins@penrith.city](mailto:nick.atkins@penrith.city)

Nick leads the engagement with the Artists and the design of this year's AYTF. Contact Nick for all queries relating to your Artist, theatrical styles and the design aesthetic.

**Geoff Turner – Technical Manager**

4723 7608 / 0414 983 316 / [technical@jspac.com.au](mailto:technical@jspac.com.au)

Geoff Turner is a veteran of the Festival and will be leading the technical preparations, rehearsals and operations for AYTF 2019. Contact Geoff with any urgent technical issues.

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# **AYTF 2020: APPLICATION FORM**

[Click here to complete the AYTF 2019 Application Form](#)

OR Copy and paste this weblink:

<https://form.jotform.com/200428031021030>

**Deadline: 6pm, Friday, 06 March 2020.**

**Applications will be accepted until this time.**

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## APPENDIX 1 Q THEATRE STAGE PLAN

