

## **APT PROGRAM 2022**

### ***NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE***

*Users who are deaf or who have a hearing impairment can call (at no cost) through the National Relay Service:*

*TTY users phone 13 36 77 then ask for 03 6223 4675*

*Speak and Listen (speech-to-speech relay) users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 6223 4675*

*Internet relay users connect NRS ([relayservice.com.au](http://relayservice.com.au)) and then ask for 03 6223 4675*

### **Accessible EOIs**

If you require access support to complete your EOI submission please contact [transform@apt.org.au](mailto:transform@apt.org.au)

Our Submittable portal allows for your expression of interest at

<https://australianplaystransform.submittable.com/submit>

### **EOIs**

There are some programs that have identified requirements, for example the First Nations Retreat and Development Strategy; or geographic requirements such as the Erin Thomas Playwright Fund. But in all programs APT welcomes and warmly encourages submissions from under-represented and systemically excluded playwrights.

We will ensure that the teams who consider and assess the expressions-of-interest represent the diversity of Australia.

## **Pledge**

Australian Plays Transform is a proud supporter of the #CreateDiversity pledge. We strongly encourage all playwrights to include a statement, where appropriate, alongside the character description/casting notes for their works, to promote diverse casting. Suggested pledges include:

- 1] I encourage the producer to collaborate the artists from diverse backgrounds in the realization and presentation of this work.
- 2] I encourage anyone producing and casting this work to consider performers from diverse backgrounds, including for roles where a character's ethnic or cultural background, age, gender, sexuality or disability need not be specified.
- 3] The cast should reflect the diversity of Australia.

## **Feedback**

Whilst we appreciate that a decline is hard, and feedback is important, due to the volume of EOIs, APT will not be able to offer individual feedback to program applicants.

## **Decisions**

All decisions on program offers and selection are final.



---

## **First Nations & APT**

### **Retreat & Development Support (Oct 13 – Nov 7)**

Australian Plays Transform in partnership with Ilbijerri Theatre Company, Moogahlin Performing Arts and Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company invite First Nations playwrights from around Australia to submit an Expression-of-Interest, to participate in a residential writing Retreat and development program.

The First Nations Retreat & Development Support is a 6-step project aimed at seeding, developing, connecting, publishing and distributing plays by First Nations playwrights.

The Retreat will be held in regional NSW\* from 15-23 February 2022.

\*Travel will be in accordance with Government Health Directives in force at the time of the Retreat.

The Retreat is an opportunity for First Nations playwrights to spend focused time on the development of a new play or plays. Whilst the Retreat structure and rhythm is determined by the participating playwrights, playwrights will have access to story and dramaturgical support if requested. A First Nations producer will be in attendance, and work with the playwrights and companies to produce the Retreat.

Up to 7 playwrights will be selected to attend the Retreat. After the Retreat there are resources to support further development of up to 5 of the plays,

including workshopping opportunities with actors and other creatives and ongoing dramaturgical support.

Digital publication, distribution and licensing of the plays developed is also offered to the participating playwrights through APT's Blakstage collection:

<https://apt.org.au/blakstage>

Playwrights will be paid a fee for their participation on the Retreat. Accommodation, travel, and food will be provided for by APT.

APT will work with playwrights, where requested, to forge pathways for their play toward further development and or production opportunities.

We welcome EOI submissions from First Nations early, mid, and established career playwrights. We also welcome EOI submissions from First Nations writers in other genres with some playwriting experience.

This program is a playwright-led program and will be led and all EOIs evaluated by First Nations theatre industry practitioners.

---

## **Duologue** (Oct 13 – Oct 31)

Duologue supports collaborative relationships and new work development for playwrights over a six-month period. The program is open to and prioritises mid-career and established playwrights.

Playwrights work with a collaborator, and APT provides support for face-to-face (or remote) direct working time, with both playwright and collaborator paid for three hours, each and every month, for 6 months, from January through to June, 2022.

The structure is self-determined, and focus can be on a single play or multiple works at any stage of development.

Up to 6 duos will be chosen by a panel of three external assessors. At the time of application by the playwright, the collaborative peer must be named.

APT welcomes submissions from a variety of playwrights that represent the make-up of contemporary Australia.

Open to: National applicants, priority focus on mid-career and established playwrights.

---

## **La Boite x APT**

### **Play Development Workshops (Oct 13 – Oct 31)**

Do you have a draft play that could benefit from a workshop with actors and creatives?

Utilising the La Boite Artist Company, this program will provide 10 x 3-day workshop development opportunities for playwrights and their plays. There will be a public outcome at La Boite for 5 of the projects as part of La Boite's Artist Development Program.

**La Boite is a Brisbane based theatre company that creates powerful connections between artists and audiences through stories that entertain, move, empower, surprise and transfix.**

**Australian Plays Transform is the national new play development, publication and licensing organisation and believe in First Nations First, Story, Belonging, Playfulness and Partnering.**

We are seeking expressions-of-interest from playwrights across Australia, for a creative development at La Boite in Brisbane, QLD\*.

\*Travel will be in accordance with Government Health Directives in force at the time of the workshop.

Development workshops will occur between February – June 2022. Specific workshop dates will be negotiated with selected playwrights and the availability of the La Boite Artist Company and Creatives.

Five of the projects will have the opportunity to be selected for La Boite’s Play Festival in 2022, with a public reading.

APT will contract and fund the engagement of the playwrights selected, including accommodation, ground and air travel, a per diem and fee for the workshop. Participating playwrights will agree to La Boite’s consideration of the play for further development and production opportunities, and a first right of refusal for digital publication by APT.

The workshops are an opportunity for playwrights from across the country\* to have work developed in a workshop setting, with access to actors, and other creatives. It is also the opportunity to connect with La Boite - one of Australia’s most respected and loved producing and presenting companies - and for a pathway to publication through APT, as well as a showing outcome.



\* If health advice and directives are updated at the time of a scheduled workshop, the workshop may pivot to be online/remote.

We welcome expressions-of-interest from playwrights from around Australia, and welcome submissions from under-represented and systemically excluded playwrights.

The program welcomes playwrights working across various genres intended for a wide range of audiences.

Please take your time to also consider the members of the La Boite Artist Company and Creatives <https://laboite.com.au/programs/Artist-Company> and determine if they may be a good fit for your work in a workshop setting. Not all Artist Company members will be available for all developments. Timing and personnel will be discussed if selected.

We welcome EOI submissions from early, mid and established career playwrights. We also welcome EOI submissions from writers in other genres with limited, but some playwriting experience.

You must have a work currently in progress. While the work need not be entirely complete, your draft (even if partial) should have sufficient bulk, for a 3-day workshop to be of significant benefit.

The assessment panel for submissions includes representatives from La Boite Theatre, Australian Plays Transform and external assessors.

---

## **National Theatre of Parramatta x APT**

### **Playwright Development Lab (Nov 1 – Nov 30)**

NToP and APT are partnering to present a Playwright Development Lab\* for early career Western Sydney Playwrights or writers interested in moving in to theatre. NToP are particularly encouraging of playwrights or writers who have had no contact with NToP.

\* The Playwright Development Lab is intended to be held in Parramatta. If government health orders in force at the time alter this, the Lab will continue in a digital/remote format.

Over a 9 week period of 2 hours commitment per week, the selected playwrights will be guided by a leading new writing mentor to move from idea to story outline.

Fostering a peer network, the selected playwrights will also contribute feedback to other playwrights' work, and have the opportunity to connect with guest industry playwrights and creatives. By the end of the development lab, playwrights will have the opportunity to pitch their work to NToP staff for further development or production consideration and the opportunity to be considered for digital publishing by APT.

We are seeking expressions of interest for this opportunity from:

- Western Sydney-resident writers only;
- Project ideas that are compelling, bold and connected;

- Work that may appeal to NToP or extend NToP's current focus;
- Writers with stories to tell;
- Priority will be given to under-represented and systemically excluded playwrights.

## **Context**

**Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta (NTofP) is creating and presenting transformative and inspirational professional theatre experiences that reflect the world around us and the diversity that is contemporary Australia.**

**Hence our tagline, *Putting the Nation on Stage*.**

As an arm of Riverside Theatres, NToP commissions, creates, produces, presents and tours work. We are equally committed to capacity building and nurturing talent by providing opportunities for theatre practitioners both on and off stage to develop their craft. We are creating communities, access, visibility and infrastructure that supports and builds capacity for performance in our region and beyond.

Our location and leadership makes us a natural hub for inclusivity. We have an important leadership role to play in the sector.

Producing theatre that resonates with our audiences is the core of our work.

<https://riversideparramatta.com.au/NTofP/about-us/>

**Australian Plays Transform (APT)** is Australia's national play development, publication and licensing organisation. It hosts the world's largest online showcase and searchable database of the best Australian playwriting.

APT seeks new voices for new times, develops plays that change the national story, links them to production, publishes them, promotes them, and licenses them for future productions here and around the world.

It is an engine of purposeful cultural change and inspiration, centring the voice of the playwright. Australian Plays Transform vision is a world made more just, curious and enjoyable by Australian plays.

<https://apt.org.au>

The assessment panel for submissions include representatives from NToP, APT and an external assessor.

All submissions will be acknowledged via email, and all submissions will be notified of the outcome at the conclusion of the evaluation process. Due to the anticipated volume of submissions, APT and NToP will not be in a position to provide individual feedback on project EOIs. All decisions are final.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch prior to your EOI submission with Michelle at [michelle@apt.org.au](mailto:michelle@apt.org.au)

We're looking forward to your submission!

Program Dates: March – June, 2022 (specific workshop dates will be communicated to selected participants)

Open to: Western Sydney, NSW applicants only

EOI Opens: 01 November, 2021

EOI Closes: 30 November, 2021

---

## **Erin Thomas Playwright Fund (Nov 15 – Jan 30)**

The **Erin Thomas Playwright Fund** commemorates playwright Erin Thomas' optimism, her creative talent and furthers her generous contribution to the arts, by helping emerging regional writers to pursue their dreams.

With the support of the Thomas family, the Fund can support regional playwrights **either**:

- via a **travel bursary** to connect with the wider Australian theatre industry; **or**,
- to pursue a deep creative connection over a period of time with a **mentor** dramaturg or development director, as the playwright develops a new play.

The maximum support per playwright seeking a travel bursary is \$2,000. Support for dramaturgical mentorship provides a fee of \$1,000 for the playwright and a fee of \$1,000 for the mentor. The playwright/mentor fee is to cover 8 hours of contact time between the playwright and their collaborator/mentor, and any preparation time.

In this uncertain time, the Fund is being responsive to the needs of playwrights. Whilst the travel bursary is available, it will be dependent on the Playwright's intended plans and any limitations regarding given health orders and/or travel restrictions in force at the time.

To be eligible for the fund, playwrights must:

- Reside in a regional, remote or rural area of Australia; and,
- Be at an early stage of their career and have had no more than two professional productions of their writing.

Funded travel costs can include airfares, accommodation, per diems or other relevant expenses. The mentoring will cover fees for both the playwright and the mentor dramaturg or development director.

Playwrights may apply to attend events and opportunities, and if you are applying for the **travel bursary**, you may apply for activities such as:

- rehearsal room internships with a professional company or presenting organisation
- a state exchange collaboration on a new work by the playwright with an interstate artist or theatre company
- an intrastate opportunity on a new work by the playwright with an intrastate artist or theatre company
- attendance at industry events or conferences that will benefit the writers' professional career and/or play development

For those playwrights seeking a **mentor**, if selected, APT will work with you to select, contact, contract and remunerate an appropriate mentor. If you and your mentor live in the same area, you may elect to work face-to-face, health orders permitting. If you do not, you will undertake your work together over phone, email and video-calling. You may also apply with a confirmed mentor.

Successful playwrights will be selected by a committee including Australian Plays Transform's key staff,



representatives from the Thomas family and appointed external playwright peers.

The Erin Thomas Playwright Fund has been made possible through the generosity of the Thomas family and some of Erin's closest friends and wonderful donors who believe in supporting regional and remote playwrights connecting nationwide.

*"We are proud the Erin Thomas Playwriting Fund has continued to evolve and support emerging regional writers over the past 9 years and reflect the creativity and generosity of our beautiful Erin."*

The Thomas Family

---

**Pride Foundation x APT  
Commission and Publication (Oct 15 – Nov 28)**

Pride Foundation Australia and Australian Plays Transform are partnering to commission a playwright to write a new play over a 12-month period.

PFA and APT will work closely with the selected playwright; entering into a commission agreement, and entering into a further agreement to digitally publish the

play, and finally, working to broker a placement of the completed commission with a presenting / producing organisation.

**Pride Foundation Australia (PFA)** is a national philanthropic foundation specifically focused on funding lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual and other (LGBTQIA+) community issues in Australia.

Pride Foundation Australia has a dedicated focus on advancing equity for the most disadvantaged LGBTQIA+ Australians, including advocating for systemic change and supporting LGBTQIA+ creative arts.

**Australian Plays Transform (APT)** is Australia's national play development, publication and licensing organisation. It hosts the world's largest online showcase and searchable database of the best Australian playwriting.

APT seeks new voices for new times, develops plays that change the national story, links them to production, publishes them, promotes them, and licenses them for future productions here and around the world.

PFA and APT welcome expressions-of-interest from LGBTQIA+ mid-career playwrights living in Australia, and welcome submissions from under-represented playwrights within the LGBTQIA+ communities.

PFA and APT define 'mid-career' playwrights as those that have had three (3) or more mounted productions in professional presenting/producing organisations, or with professionally intentioned independent presenting/producing organisations. We also welcome

submissions from writers with a body of work in other formats, who also have a minimum one (1) professional or professionally intentioned production credit in theatre.

PFA and APT welcome submissions that are bold in form, that expand the narratives of under-represented LGBTQIA+ communities and that are theatrical play texts. We welcome and encourage submissions from LGBTQIA+ community members with other marginalised intersections, such as multi-cultural, multi-faith, Indigenous, disability and gender diversity. Whilst we welcome any genre or narrative focus, we are not seeking works that could be defined as cabaret, as we are seeking to support a work with narrative form and arc as its foundation. We also strongly encourage submissions that are broad in theme but engage with LGBTQIA+ representations and perspectives.

PFA welcomes submissions from under-represented and less amplified stories from the community.

As this is a commission for a new work, we will not accept work that is already in development or placed with partners. We will accept one (1) submission per playwright. We will accept submissions for co-authored plays, although the cost of the commission will remain at the standard of \$16,000. If a co-authored submission, one (1) playwright must meet the mid-career and LGBTQIA+ requirements.

Commission is to be completed within 12 months of contract.

The assessment panel for submissions include representatives from PFA, APT and external assessors.

All submissions will be acknowledged via email, and all submissions will be notified of the outcome at the conclusion of the evaluation process. Due to the anticipated volume of submissions, APT and PFA will not be in a position to provide individual feedback on project EOIs.

---

## Digital Playwriting in Conversation (LIVE Oct 28)

APT is pleased to host an in-conversation featuring leading playwrights and creatives exploring the craft of playwriting in the digital realm, and how new spaces create new pathways for voices and stories to be built and connect to audience.

Please join our host **Anchuli Felicia King** in conversation with **Chris Bendall** (Critical Stages, Australia), **Rhen Soggee** (ActNow Theatre, Australia), **Jo Kukathas** (Instant Café Theatre, Malaysia), **Jared Mezzocchi** (Woolly Mammoth Theater & Various, USA) and **Richard Nelson** (USA).

Learn more about our panelists and host:

**Chris Bendall** Director & CEO of Critical Stages  
(he/him)

<https://criticalstages.com.au/about-us/>

**Rhen Soggee** Co-Ceo & Executive Director of ActNow Theatre (they/them)

<https://www.actnowtheatre.org.au/our-staff>

**Jo Kukathas** Director & Artistic Director Instant Café Theatre, Playwright (she/her)

<https://instantcafetheatre.com>

**Jared Mezzochi** Virtual Performance Creator, Director, Designer, Artistic Director (he/him)

<http://www.jaredmezzocchi.com>

**Richard Nelson** Playwright (he/him)

<https://www.unitedagents.co.uk/richard-nelson>

**Anchuli Felicia King** Multi-Disciplinary Artist,  
Playwright (she/her)

<https://yellowcreativemanagement.com/anchuli-felicia-king/>

Tune in for **Online Event date:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October  
2021, 4pm AEDST at

[www.youtube.com/c/AustralianPlaysTransform](http://www.youtube.com/c/AustralianPlaysTransform)

The recording will remain online for 'catch up' viewing  
until Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 11:59pm AEDST.

---

## **Max Afford Playwrights' Award**

(Nov 29 – Feb 6)

The Max Afford Playwrights Award is an initiative of the late Thelma May Afford, whose will established a fund to offer a periodical prize in memory of her husband. The Awards are offered by Perpetual, as Trustee, and Australian Plays Transform.

The biennial award was created “to promote interest in Australian drama and to encourage the writing of plays in Australia, to help and give incentive to young writers of plays.” For this award, young playwrights are between the ages of 18 and 40.

The award is \$30,000, which includes \$15,000 in prize money to the playwright and up to \$15,000 towards creative development with a director, dramaturg and a cast of actors facilitated by Australian Plays Transform. The creative development workshop will be scheduled between April and November 2022.

To be eligible for the award the play cannot have been produced or performed in public, or scheduled for production before December 2022. It must be over one hour in duration and must not have received support from Australian Plays Transform in the past.

The full eligibility guidelines and information about the award will be available when applications open. Entries open at 10:00am AEDT Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 and close 11:59pm AEDT Sunday 6 February 2022. Submit your entry:

<https://australianplaystransform.submittable.com/submit>

---



**Performing Lines x APT  
Commission and Development Program**  
(Oct 31 – 20 Dec)

Performing Lines and Australian Plays Transform (APT) are partnering to provide two commissions (\$16,000 each) and development support (\$3,500 for each project) for new Australian works.

Combining Performing Lines' incredible producing nous and APT's development know-how, we are seeking to bring a bold, new work into the Australian canon.

We are seeking expressions of interest for this commission/development opportunity;

- from NSW-resident writers only;
- for project ideas that require bespoke producing (cultural, artistic, formal, methodological); and,
- work that would not be programmed in other presenting / producing contexts; and,

- work that is bold in form, that expand the narratives of under-represented communities and that are theatrical play texts.

PL and APT welcome submissions from less amplified stories from our community.

- As these are commissions for new works, we are unable to accept work that is already in development or placed with other partners.
- We will accept one (1) submission per playwright.
- We will accept submissions for co-authored plays, although the commission fee will remain at the standard amount of \$16,000.
- The playwright submitting the EOI, must have had work previously produced in a professional context.
- The playwright and Performing Lines and Australian Plays Transform will enter into a standard commissioning agreement.
- The playwright and Australian Plays Transform will enter into a standard digital publication agreement.

Performing Lines and Australian Plays Transform strongly encourage EOIs from under-represented and systemically excluded playwrights.

## **Performing Lines**

<https://www.performinglines.org.au>

produces provocative contemporary performance by Australia's most audacious independent artists. We curate a portfolio of work that is propelled by pressing questions and new ways of seeing the world.

Our purpose is to champion risk and to ensure that the breadth and plurality of Australia's creative potential is represented, celebrated and enjoyed.

We co-commission, produce, partner, present or invent, looking for common concerns and shared interests. We invite new possibilities and approaches to the way audiences and artists encounter each other.

**Performing Lines'** vision is informed by our belief in creative independence and freedom of expression. We champion the unconventional, the marginal, the rebellious and the new. We aim to be the stable base and launching-pad for fearless artists to respond to a dynamic and changing world - not only to reflect who we are, but to imagine who we might become. We aim for audiences to access and experience a repertoire of

work that represents a vibrant facet of our cultural identity.

**Australian Plays Transform (APT)** is Australia's national play development, publication and licensing organisation. It hosts the world's largest online showcase and searchable database of the best Australian playwriting.

APT seeks new voices for new times, develops plays that change the national story, links them to production, publishes them, promotes them, and licenses them for future productions here and around the world.

It is an engine of purposeful cultural change and inspiration, centring the voice of the playwright.

Australian Plays Transform vision is a world made more just, curious and enjoyable by Australian plays.

The assessment panel for submissions include representatives from PL, APT and external assessors.

All submissions will be acknowledged via email, and all submissions will be notified of the outcome at the conclusion of the evaluation process. Due to the

anticipated volume of submissions, APT and PL will not be in a position to provide individual feedback on project EOIs. All decisions are final.

---