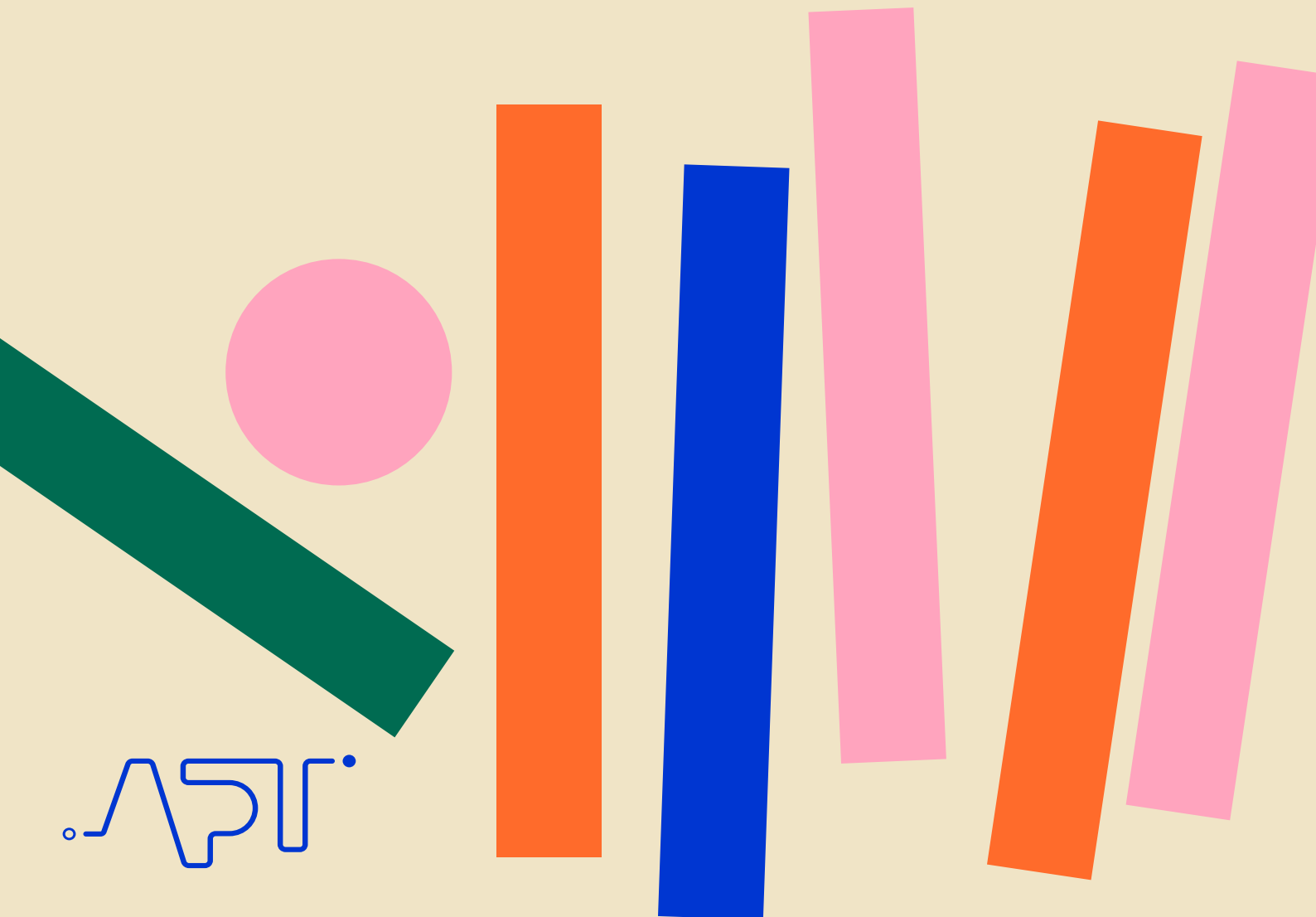


AUSTRALIAN PLAYS TRANSFORM 2024 PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

"IN DIALOGUE"



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GREAT...

I am proud to announce the Australian Plays Transform Program for 2024. We are calling this program "in dialogue". We are a playwriting organisation, and **dialogue is the form of the playwright**. It distinguishes us from other literary forms; we write our worlds, real and imagined, through dialogue.

This year's programs aim to put artists "in dialogue" with each other. After a rough couple of years, I have felt that the only certainty of our industry is the support we can give each other as artists and peers. To be in dialogue with each other, loving, respectful, robust, and critical dialogue is the thing that can propel art from good to great, slow burnout, and build sustainable practices. To support and establish relationships that go beyond the lifespan of a program; to develop skills and practices that invest in the playwright, not only the product.

I am most excited about our pilot Playwriting Groups, "Write Together, Rise Together". Inspired by the long-running and successful programs of The Royal Court and The Public NY, members of each group will meet every two weeks for six months to discuss one of their works in progress with a supportive and robust group of peers, and an industry leader at the helm. This pilot begins online, connecting playwrights nationally.

2024 also sees the long-running Duologue program again, and the highly successful Developing the Dramaturg runs in Kaurana Country/ South Australia this year.

We are also in dialogue with the funding bodies that keep our doors open. The new Writers Australia at Creative Australia is being formed. What will that look like for playwrights and playwriting in Australia? We don't know yet; let's keep talking about it.

Finally, as always, we are in dialogue with you: our creative community. And so, we have taken on board the feedback that you have given us. We will do an open call-out to join our Readers/Assessor Pool, and we will lobby for the inclusion of a Playwrights category in the Prime Minister's Literary Award. These are all actions and changes that are born from my conversations since being in this role.

Ok, enough prose, let's do it.

Erin Taylor

CEO/Executive Producer

APT WRITERS GROUPS:

PILOT PROGRAM "WRITE TOGETHER, RISE TOGETHER", NATIONAL

APPLICATIONS:
OPENING SOON

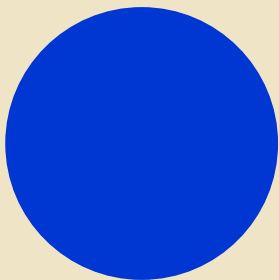
PROGRAM DATES:
MAY–NOVEMBER

Write Together, Rise Together aims to establish and embed a national playwrighting group model within the Australian theatre ecosystem. This online program will connect playwrights, forming a supportive peer community that actively engages in honing their skills and fostering robust dialogue. With industry leaders at the helm, this groups will meet fortnightly for six months to work on their next play.

OPEN TO: Playwrights nationally.

The three groups in 2024 will be Mid-Career Playwrights, Playwrights with Disability, and Emerging Playwrights.

Playwrights are encouraged to apply for the group or groups they feel most comfortable in or identify with. We will provide more information on the groups and leaders soon and hold an information session to answer questions.



DEVELOPING THE DRAMATURG

KAURNA COUNTRY/ SOUTH AUSTRALIA

APPLICATION
PERIOD:
APRIL–MAY

PROGRAM DATES:
MAY–SEPTEMBER

Developing the Dramaturg aims to increase diversity in the field of dramaturgy through skills development and placement in producing organisations. Following our successful program in NSW in 2023, we have turned our focus to Kaurna Country/South Australia in 2024. APT is committed to fostering a more inclusive and dynamic community of dramaturgs, and this initiative will help to expand the range of stories and perspectives that are brought to the stage.

OPEN TO: Kaurna Country/South Australian based dramaturgs identifying as First Nations, CaLD, or People of Colour.

This program is supported by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet through Arts South Australia.

Paid internships within the leading Theatre Companies of South Australia will be announced shortly.

"As the Australian theatre industry rapidly moves towards more complex stories, the need for dramaturgs is becoming blatantly obvious. The relationship between a playwright and a dramaturg is a vital one as it is that collaboration that opens and deepens a story exponentially... The range of speakers at the Developing the Dramaturg StoryLab were so valuable and the experience as a whole felt well-rounded."

Ayah Tayeh
(2023 NSW Participant)



Government
of South Australia
Arts South Australia



DUOLOGUE:

SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE MID-CAREER PLAYWRIGHT- DRAMATURG PARTNERSHIPS, NATIONAL

APPLICATION
PERIOD:
MID-MARCH TO
MID-APRIL

PROGRAM DATES:
MAY–OCTOBER

In 2024, Duologue proudly continues its commitment to fostering the unique and important relationship between Playwright and Dramaturg. We offer a six-month program where playwrights can bring their visions to life with their chosen collaborator, either face-to-face or remotely. Your story, your way, with your chosen partner in the creative journey.

WHAT'S NEW: In response to your feedback, 2024 will see a focus on mid-career playwrights.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to applicants nationwide. This year we are excited to support 6 playwright-dramaturg pairs.

"Duologue allowed me to build the world of the play in conversation with director Kate Champion. From the get go I was writing for production. Sometimes playwrights forget this is a living breathing form, so to write for the live experience in conversation with a fellow theatre maker freed me up conceptually to take risks and trust my instincts."

Steven Rodgers, *The Pool* premiered in 2024 at the Perth Festival, produced by Black Swan, 2018 Duologue participant



In 2024 Duologue is supported by the S,B&W Foundation.



THE ERIN THOMAS

REGIONAL PLAYWRIGHTS FUND, NATIONAL

APPLICATION
PERIOD:
MID-MARCH TO
MID-APRIL

PROGRAM DATES:
MAY–OCTOBER

In its 11th year, The Erin Thomas Playwrights Fund continues to honour the enduring legacy of playwright Erin Thomas by empowering emerging playwrights from regional areas. This is thanks to ongoing support from the Thomas family and friends.

The 2024 program promises enriching opportunities for our playwrights, who will develop their skills in dialogue with seasoned dramaturgs or directors. The Fund also includes a travel grant, enhancing community connections.

The Erin Thomas Playwrights Fund embodies Erin's spirit of optimism and generosity. It stands as a beacon for the next generation of playwrights, supporting them as they write from the regions.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to emerging playwrights residing in regional and remote areas across Australia.



AUSTRALIAN FIRST NATIONS RETREAT NATIONAL

APPLICATION
PERIOD:
TO BE ANNOUNCED

RETREAT DATES:
14–24 OCTOBER



This year is the 10th anniversary of this cornerstone program that supports playwrights with the time and space to write and dream big. Held at the beautiful Bundanon, which sits on the traditional land of the Dharawal and Dhurga language groups, this program has played an important role for First Nations Playwrights over the years. We invite all previous participants and newcomers to apply.

OPEN TO: Australian First Nations playwrights, nation-wide.

PROGRAM PARTNERS: Ilbjerri Theatre Company, Moogahlin Performing Arts, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, Bundanon

ILBIJERRI
THEATRE COMPANY

M Moogahlin
Performing
Arts Inc


yirra yaakin
THEATRE COMPANY

BUNDANON

MAX AFFORD

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS AWARD, NATIONAL

WINNER
ANNOUNCED
SHORTLY.

The Max Afford Playwrights' Award is an initiative established to honour the memory of Max Afford and recognise talented young playwrights across Australia. The award, offered by APT and managed by Perpetual as Trustee, includes a \$15,000 cash prize for the winner, as well as a \$15,000 development workshop for the winning play.

The 2024 winner will be announced shortly with development details to follow.

"The Max Afford Award gave me the opportunity to test my ideas without any restrictions. I really valued the opportunity to play and experiment, to share and draw on the ideas of collaborators and to put these rough ideas in front of people. I was so grateful for APT's support and encouragement and so grateful to Thelma and Max Afford for the precious gift of time off worrying about money to focus on my play."

2022 winner Frieda Lee
"The Brightside of Bumtown"



Perpetual 

LA MAMA

PATHWAYS WRITING INTENSIVE PROGRAM, NAARM/MELBOURNE

APPLICATIONS
CLOSING SOON:
3RD MARCH

PROGRAM DATES:
JULY–SEPTEMBER

In 2024 La Mama Theatre's partnership with Australian Plays Transform (APT) returns with the *La Mama Pathways Writing Intensive program*, a professionally tailored skills development initiative for emerging and mid-career playwrights and theatre-makers based in Melbourne. Designed with our experiential knowledge of making contemporary theatre and informed by our thrillingly successful 2023 Pilot program.

OPEN TO: Emerging and mid-career playwrights and theatre makers based in Naarm/Melbourne.

This project has been assisted by Creative Australia and John T Reid Charitable Trusts.



READERS & ASSESSORS CALL OUT

NATIONAL

SUBMISSIONS:
OPENING SOON

APT runs programs throughout the year which are assessed by independent panels. Each panel we assemble represents the professional and lived experience of our industry and contemporary Australia.

All Readers/Assessors are paid for their time and expertise. The process involves reading submissions/scripts, making notes via an assessment form and meeting (often online) with the other panel members and APT staff to make decisions.

We would like to hear from playwrights, dramaturgs, directors, and actors- any creative that has experience in working with new play development.

We would love to hear from both experienced and new readers from across Australia.

More information and link to the form to follow.





Australian Plays Transform is supported by
the NSW Government through Create NSW

Contact Australian Plays Transform at:
hello@apt.org.au

Instagram/Facebook:
[@australianplaystransform](https://www.instagram.com/australianplaystransform)

www.apt.org.au
The Definitive Online Destination

APT's catalogue currently contains the work of more than 1,000 Australian playwrights. Featuring the combined catalogues of Australia's leading theatrical publishers, this definitive online destination for Australian playwriting provides theatres, artists, teachers and students everywhere with a simple access point for exceptional, production-ready Australian plays and the transformative stories they tell.

Australian Plays Transform is a National Organisation that is based Carlton, NSW. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land on which the company operates, the Bediagal and Kameygal People of the Eora Nation. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded.