



Next Level Creative Mentorship Program Application Guidelines

1. About Next Level

The Next Level Creative Mentorship Program will provide five (5) artists working in the performing arts (writers, musicians, dancers, choreographers, actors, directors, and/or producers) with \$3000 in project funding and access to a mentorship within a leading performing arts organisation to develop an innovative new project. The partnering organisations for the 2024 program are:

- Bangarra Dance Theatre
- PYT Fairfield
- Griffin Theatre Company
- Sydney Opera House
- Merrigong Theatre Company
- HotHouse Theatre
- Belvoir Theatre
- Penrith Performing and Visual Arts

The mentorship program offers a unique opportunity to refine your idea and prepare it for effective pitches to relevant companies, venues, artistic directors, and producers. The program combines professional guidance with project development to provide a comprehensive experience.

Over a period of three months, the mentor will work with you to:

- Assess your creative concept.
- Develop your concept into a project brief.

- Provide advice on drafting a detailed project outline, including budgets, timelines, deliverables, and key contacts.
- Provide guidance regarding potential pitch meeting opportunities with relevant companies, venues, artistic directors and/or producers

The program will involve facilitated sessions with your mentor and self-directed tasks. The mentor will be available for a total of 20 hours. Suitable scheduling will be negotiated between you and the mentor. The Next Level Creative Mentorship Program will be undertaken and completed between March - June 2024.

2. Who can apply

- Applicants must identify as being d/Deaf or a person with disability
- Applicants must be an emerging or mid-career writer, actor, musician, dancer, choreographer, director and/or producer.
- Applicants must reside in NSW
- Applicants must be over the age of 18 when applying.
- Applicants must have previous experience at any level in the performing arts industry.

3. Mentorship

In order to participate in the program, applicants are required to choose their preferred top three host organisations. Based on this selection, applicants will be paired with a host organisation. Each host organisation will provide one mentorship opportunity, wherein successful applicants can benefit from up to 20 hours of personalised mentoring. This support will be offered by a designated staff member from the host organisation. The mentor will assist applicants in developing a concept brief and will also play a vital role in facilitating networking opportunities.

4. About the host organisations

Metro Sydney Host Organisations

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Bangarra is a company of professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers. As one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, they share their culture with Communities and audiences across Australia and the world. The company's contemporary dancers draw on 65,000 years of culture, creating powerful works of theatre that incorporate dance, music, poetry, and design. These works tell the stories of Elders, are often created on Country, and returned to the place they were made. Every year, Bangarra tours a world premiere work across the nation and embarks on an international tour. They are comfortable performing on Country, in small venues in regional centers, and on Australia's most iconic stages. The company also runs education workshops, programs, and special projects to nurture the next generation of storytellers.

Bangarra Dance Theatre location: Wharf 4/5, 15 Hickson Rd, Dawes Point NSW 2000

Website: <https://www.bangarra.com.au/>

Griffin Theatre Company

Griffin is the only theatre company in the country exclusively devoted to developing and staging new Australian writing. Located in the historic SBW Stables Theatre, nestled in the heart of Kings Cross, Griffin has been Australia's home for exploring new stories since 1978. They are a launch pad for new plays, ideas and writing — work that is bold, visionary and risky. Plays like *Prima Facie*, *Holding the Man* and *City of Gold* all had their world premieres at Griffin before going out to capture the national imagination. Griffin Theatre's creative programs provide development pathways for some of Australia's most exciting theatre makers, allowing them to hone their craft with different professional opportunities.

Griffin Theatre Company location: 13 Craighend St, Darlinghurst NSW 2011

Website: <https://griffintheatre.com.au/>

Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is operated and maintained on behalf of the NSW Government and the people of NSW by the Sydney Opera House Trust. Sydney Opera House Presents was founded to complement the work of the resident companies, it is the Opera House's own presenting arm and is responsible for a uniquely diverse program spanning Contemporary Music & Performances, Talks & Ideas, Children, Families & Creative Learning, First Nations cultures, Contemporary Art, Digital Programming and Artist and Sector Development. Sydney Opera House Presents aims to inspire broad and diverse audiences with unmissable performances and participatory experiences both on site and online. Working with the Producing Team, a tailored mentorship will be offered to an emerging or mid-career performing artist with disability.

Sydney Opera House location: Wharf 4/5, 15 Hickson Road, Dawes Point, NSW 2000

Website: <https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/>

Belvoir Theatre

Based in an old factory on Gadigal land, Sydney, Belvoir is one of Australia's most celebrated and beloved theatre companies. Since 1984, when a group of 600 theatre lovers came together to buy a theatre and save it from becoming an apartment block, Belvoir has been at the forefront of Australian storytelling for the stage. Each year the company presents an annual season of shows for this now-iconic corner stage. New work and new stories sit at the centre of Belvoir's programming, alongside a mix of reinvented classics and international writing, and a foundational commitment to Indigenous stories. In short, Belvoir is about theatrical invention, an open society, and faith in humanity. Belvoir has nurtured landmark productions including Counting and Cracking, The Wild Duck, FANGIRLS!, Cloudstreet, Barbara and the Camp Dogs, The Drover's Wife, The Glass Menagerie, Angels in America, Keating!, The Sapphires, and many, many more.

Belvoir Theatre location: 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Website: <https://belvoir.com.au/>

Western Sydney Host Organisations

PYT Fairfield

PYT Fairfield is the only professional theatre company in Western Sydney focused on the development and engagement of local young and emerging artists as core practice. PYT has a reputation as a brave and transformative theatre company who make urgent work that explores the critical issues of our times, challenging the conventions of traditional theatre and responding to the needs and aspirations of the next generation of artists. They do this by creating innovative performance and social artistic experiences in theatre spaces and across diverse urban sites of Fairfield, Western Sydney and beyond, and with a key focus on cultural diversity. From its inception, PYT has been intrinsically engaged with the diverse communities and cultures across western Sydney.

PYT Fairfield location: 19 Harris St, Fairfield NSW 2165

Website: <https://pyt.com.au/>

Penrith Performing and Visual Arts

Penrith Performing and Visual Arts has been making work for more than 50 years, building pathways for established and early-career artists to train, experiment and create. Based at The Joan, Penrith, we offer audiences a chance to see theatre that is provoked, inspired, or exploded out of our local context. Penrith Performing and Visual Arts is delighted to offer a mentorship opportunity to a theatre artist with disability or who is d/Deaf. The artist will have the chance to work with Q Theatre to receive personalised support in their practice, be guided professionally through the development of their project and, where available, have access to resources such as space, depending on project needs.

Location: Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, 597 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750

Website: <https://www.qtheatre.com.au/>

Regional NSW Host Organisations

Merrigong Theatre Company

Merrigong Theatre Company is a not-for-profit company operating the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) and the Wollongong Town Hall. It is also a vibrant theatre company in its own right – producing, presenting, and touring exciting contemporary theatre and supporting the development of a wide range of theatre makers, including a professional theatre company The Strangeways Ensemble. Merrigong Theatre Company are delighted to offer a mentorship opportunity to an artist who identifies as being d/Deaf or disabled. Offering a tailored opportunity for the successful applicant to work with their Artistic Development Team and tap into their knowledge and experience.

Merrigong Theatre Location: 32 Burelli St, Wollongong NSW 2500

Website: <https://merrigong.com.au/>

HotHouse Theatre

Located in Regional NSW in the Albury Wodonga border region, Hothouse Theatre's vision is to be nationally recognised as a regional creative powerhouse and a first-class incubator of new Australian theatre. HotHouse Theatre incubates, makes and presents 100% Australian theatre, divergent in form and voice, that speaks to our region and the nation. HotHouse Theatre invests in regional professional practice, collaborates with artists, locally and nationally, to engage and inspire audiences. For over 20 years, HotHouse Theatre has been creating and presenting artistic works on the Border region to enthusiastic audiences of all ages and backgrounds. From humble beginnings as the Murray River Performance Group to standing strong as one of the last remaining professional theatre companies in regional Australia, HotHouse has a rich and celebrated history of commissioning, producing, nurturing and presenting new, contemporary Australian theatre within a vibrant regional setting.

HotHouse Theatre location: Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga VIC 3690

Website: <https://hothousetheatre.com.au/>

5. Access

Applicants must provide information on their access requirements via the application form.

Accessible Arts will provide access support to both the host organisations and the mentees throughout the mentorship program. To ensure that the access support can be tailored to the specific needs of each individual, you will be asked to complete an access rider form provided by Accessible Arts. This ensures that you can fully participate in the program and get the most out of the mentorship experience, where appropriate, participants will be encouraged to use their NDIS package (if available) to support their participation in the program.

Successful applicants and partnering organisations will be provided with Disability Confidence Training facilitated by Accessible Arts.

The Next Level Creative Mentorship guidelines and application forms are available in accessible formats upon request.

6. How to apply

Applicants will be asked to provide the following information:

- Contact Details
- Applicants must identify as being d/Deaf or a person with disability
- An outline of any access requirements you might have.
- Identify the field of your practice
(writer/musician/dancer/choreographer/actor/director, and/or producer)
- A CV and short bio – including examples of relevant work, volunteer, and study experience and/or qualifications
- List the top three organisations that you are interested in working with.
- Describe your career goals and why this is an important opportunity for you at this stage in your career.
- Describe the idea that you would like to develop during the Mentorship Program

Successful applicants will be required to enter into an agreement which will contain additional terms and conditions in accordance with existing policies of Accessible Arts. The successful applicant must provide Accessible Arts permission to promote and/or share the outcomes of the Next Level Creative Mentorship Program. For the purposes of promoting Next Level, the successful applicant must also agree to make themselves available for interviews, filming, and other social media opportunities. All successful applicants and their mentors will attend an online Disability Confidence Training workshop before the mentorship commences.

7. Application Form

Applications can be made online here:

[Next Level Creative Mentorships application form](#)

If applicants cannot access the Survey Monkey application form, please note that applications will be accepted in other formats that are accessible to the applicant including audio, video, and handwritten formats. Please reach out to Accessible Arts before submitting the application in an alternative format to ensure your application is received.

8. When to apply

Applications will be open from **Monday 29 January 2024** and will close at **11pm on Sunday 25 February 2024**.

9. Application assessment

Applications will be assessed by a panel of Accessible Arts staff, including people with disability. Compatibility of the applicant and the project idea with the host organisation will be considered. Applications will be reviewed and selected in consultation with the host organisations, who may wish to interview applicants before the final selection of

the mentees are made. In this instance, interviews will be facilitated by Accessible Arts with staff from partnering organisations also in attendance.

10. Next Level key dates summary

Applications open: **Monday 29 January 2024**

Applications close: **11pm Sunday 25 February 2024**

Applicants notified of funding outcome: **Early March 2024**

Announcement of successful applicants: **March 2024**

Disability Confidence training for mentors and mentees: **March 2024**

20 hours of 1:1 Mentorship to take place **April - June 2024**

Next Level mentee networking event (this will be a hybrid in-person and online event, providing an opportunity for participants to meet up and discuss the program and their creative development thus far): **May 2024**

Final report documents to be submitted to AArts: **July 2024**

Enquiries

Please direct any enquiries to: info@aarts.net.au

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