



**ANNUAL
YOUTH
THEATRE
FESTIVAL
2019**

**Information Pack
&
Application Weblink**

ANNUAL YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL 2019

Q Theatre's **Annual Youth Theatre Festival (AYTF)** gives high school drama students – traditionally in years 10 and 11 – the opportunity to explore different theatrical styles through hands-on theatre-making, working with industry professionals to create an original performance they can share with their peers and public audiences on stage at The Joan.

Each year, Q Theatre aims to provide a variety of schools from around the region access to theatre-making opportunities. With AYTF we offer time and space for schools to work on their theatre making processes, challenge and develop their creative voices, and expand their community of support in performing arts by creating new contacts in the industry.

The Festival brings together eight schools from across Western Sydney and pairs them with eight professional theatre artists. Each group will develop their personal response to the provocation for 2019's festival. Through workshops and rehearsals, each group creates a performance ready for the Q Theatre stage for their peers and public audiences. The Festival champions and celebrates theatre practice, with a strong focus on two areas:

1. Learning the value of each step in the *processes of 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.

INFORMATION PACK

This document serves as an introduction to the AYTF 2019 program and processes for teachers and students. It includes a weblink to AYTF's Application Form for Schools on the last page of the document: teachers wanting to apply for their school group are to click on the link, complete the Application Form and click the submit button.

Please review the entire document carefully before completing your application at the weblink at the end of this document, and contact the Festival Coordinator Ian Zammit if you have any questions:

Ian Zammit | AYTF 2019 Festival Coordinator | 02 4723 7606 | ian.zammit@penrith.city



AYTF PARTICIPATION PROCESS

There are seven distinct Stages in the development of engaging in the Festival.

STAGE 1. CHALLENGES, LEARNINGS, AND THEATRICAL STYLES

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

- What do you believe is the most important thing your students will learn by participating in AYTF 2019?
- What is your group’s preferred theatrical style/s? Why has each style been chosen for your group’s theatre-making development?

Theatrical Style: your choice of theatrical style can be linked specifically to styles being studied within a school’s curricula. Some popular styles from past festivals include:

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

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.

We recommend your choice of theatre style/s and techniques are ones that you and your students are familiar with, to get the most out of the limited time available to you in the Festival. Styles you and your students are unfamiliar with and will take time to learn will take away time from the purpose and processes of AYTF.

NOTE: your theatrical style is to provide inspiration for your group’s stylistic choices, rather than requiring you to adhere rigidly to all its conventions. It is recommended you consider 1-2 additional theatrical styles in the event we are unable to accommodate your first choice.

STAGE 2. COMPLETE & POST YOUR APPLICATION

To apply to participate in the Festival please 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 24 hours. Contact the Festival Coordinator with any queries regarding AYTF 2019.

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 1 March 2019.

Applications will be assessed by the Q Theatre team, based on the criteria in Stage 1. Schools will be notified regarding their application’s success by **Wednesday 13 March 2019**.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Schools successful in their application will receive:

- A message confirming your successful application into AYTF 2019
- The Provocation for AYTF 2019 (see Stage 3)
- A **Festival Registration Form** to complete your school details (due **Friday 29 March 2019**)
- The **Invoice** for the \$550.00 entry fee for your school (payment is due **Friday 4 May 2019**)
- The **Invoice** for your school's 30 student tickets to the 12pm matinee performance in the AYTF, on Friday 28 June 2019. (*Contact the Festival Coordinator **before Friday 11 May** if you require more than 30 tickets booked, and to re-issue the invoice for your final numbers. Payment of the ticket invoice is due **Friday 15 June 2019.***)

STAGE 3. PROVOCATION

“Provocation: an act of incitement or stimulation, that elicits a response in a subject.”

Each school in AYTF will respond to a *provocation*: an inciting concept that forms the leaping off point for ideas for AYTF 2019. This year's provocation will be revealed on the day the successful schools are announced, **Wednesday 13 March 2019**.

Examples of previous AYTF provocations:

- 2018's provocation was DECODED, the concept of several groups attempting to decode a mysterious black box's beeps and communications;
- 2017's was THE TOWER, an imposing landmark to provoke the eight groups' imaginations and respond to in their creations for the festival.

Your response to the provocation as a group will begin from the moment you engage with your Artist at the Stagecraft Workshop in May. 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.

For example: responses to 2018's provocation DECODED ranged from realistic and absurdist acts of decoding a message; discussing the challenges of decoding specific forms of communications across cultures, time or mythology; and symbolic physical theatre performances relating to how we experience or perceive the concept of decoding and communication through physical theatre interpretation. The provocation is intended to *stimulate* the early creative process with your teaching artist: is not required to be a prominent feature of your finished work.

STAGE 4. ENGAGING YOUR ARTIST

Schools accepted into AYTF 2019 will be a theatrical style and paired with an artist who has expertise in that theatrical style. These will be confirmed by **04 May 2019**.

You may nominate an area of performance craft which you would like your artist to focus on, such as physical or vocal skills, acting, writing or directing, and we will consider your preferences when selecting your artist. You will also receive an audio and/or visual element

intended as an additional provocation for your group. More information will be provided closer to this time.

Between the Stagecraft Workshop and your performance, your Artist will spend a total of **twenty face-to-face hours** working with your group. The Schedule for these meetings is decided between yourself and the artist. This time includes your Stagecraft Workshop and Technical Rehearsals in the Q Theatre, which together total around ten hours.

Over the rehearsal process your artist will introduce your chosen style, facilitate the generation of ideas and performance material and help guide the creative and artistic development of your performance.

STAGE 5. STAGECRAFT WORKSHOPS

Your creative process begins with the **Stagecraft Workshop**. This is a single day in Term Two of 2019, within the dates **Monday 14 - Thursday 17 May 2019**.

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

- **The first three hours** makes up the first of your **Performance Development Workshops** led by your Artist: using the time to introduce yourselves and the processes of the festival, begin exploring your theatrical style and the provocation, set expectations and develop a schedule for meetings at the school. This three-hour block will be divided into two 90-minute sessions, one in the Q Theatre, and then swapping to Mullins Studio, or vice versa (to be confirmed when the successful schools have been notified.)
- **Your final hour** will be back in the Q Theatre to “buddy” with a partner school group in AYTF to share your experiences and support each other through the process, and to meet members of The Joan’s technical and production teams for a brief **Technical Production Workshop** to give you an insight into the layout, dimensions and technology available to you for your production, before wrapping up the day with your Artist.

The Stagecraft Workshop is an excellent opportunity to identify potential performative or technical production challenges 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 earlier we receive your enquiries, the earlier we can provide solutions to them.

Session times are available as follows – please indicate your preferences in your application:

Mon 13 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM
 Tue 14 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM
 Wed 15 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM
 Thu 16 May: 9:00AM - 1:00PM, or 01:30PM-5:30PM

Following the Stagecraft Workshop will be your time to arrange **Performance Development workshops** with your Artist. Each Artist is available for 10 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 ahead with your teaching artist at the Stagecraft Workshops (or in earlier consultation if you are able) for the best use of your time together.

STAGE 6. PRODUCTION WEEK & TECHNICAL REHEARSALS

Production Week begins with a Technical Rehearsal within **Monday 24 – Thursday 27 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:

- 3 hours in a Technical Rehearsal session on the Q Theatre stage (if there is time, it will also include one or more dress rehearsals); and,
- 3 hours spent rehearsing / fine-tuning your performance with your artist in a rehearsal venue.

The sessions are morning (9:00AM start) and afternoon (1:00PM start), with a break for lunch in between. One school group will be booked in for the Technical Rehearsal in the morning session, with the buddy school rehearsing at the same time, and then the schools will swap sessions for the afternoon. Schools in Technical Rehearsal have the opportunity of welcoming their buddy school groups to watch their Dress Rehearsal, who can provide a supportive audience in their dress rehearsal towards the end of the session.



STAGE 7. PERFORMANCES & REFLECTION

Two Performances of AYTF 2019 will be held on **Friday 28 June** in the Q Theatre:

- 12pm for school audiences;
- 7pm for the general public.

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

Post-AYTF Reflection: In the week following the performance, the Festival Coordinator can arrange a time to come to your school for a post-show reflection and debrief. We also present a Certificate of Achievement to the class group for their efforts on AYTF 2019 and as a memento of the event. Please contact the **Festival Coordinator** to arrange a Post-AYTF Reflection session at your school.

REHEARSAL LOGISTICS

Artists 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
- 10 x hours of **Performance Preparation Workshops**, at your school or at The Joan*
- 6 x hours on your **Technical Rehearsal Day**:
 - 1 x 3-hour **Technical Rehearsal** in the Q Theatre
 - 1 x 3-hour final **Performance Preparation Workshop** in one of The Joan's rehearsal venues
- In addition, the Artists are invited to either of the **AYTF Performances** on Friday 28 June.

* *To be arranged between the School teacher and the Artist*

A suggested model for the Performance Preparation Workshops process: 4 x 2 ½ hour sessions, led by your artist 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 artist and students time to reconnect, generate and refine performance material with some depth, and plan activities to be conducted before the next workshop.

NOTE: 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 of 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: contact the **Festival Coordinator** early to look at space at The Joan for your workshops.

SOME TIPS FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE

It is our belief that, with support, young local artists can create theatre that is as powerful, relevant and engaging as that made by professionals. We also acknowledge that those participating are likely at a very early stage in their personal artistic development.

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

- Duration** Your work must aim to be within **8-12 minutes**, once performance-ready.
- Audience** Have in mind that your audience will range in age from year 7 students to adults, so **consider content accordingly**.
- Use of Space** 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.

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-realized 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 2019 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 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 date. This experience will count toward VET Entertainment hours where applicable. Please contact the Festival Coordinator for more information.

We understand that the final weeks of rehearsal are a period of rapid development and change, however we request that you submit all technical requirements two weeks prior to the performance to allow adequate time to source and prepare the necessary equipment. **Email ALL technical specifications to the Festival Coordinator by Friday 14 June.**

SPECIAL NOTE: The use of recorded music and/or sounds in a professional performance

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: for 2018, we ask that you provide any desired recorded music / sound requests by **Friday 17 May**.

Use the APRA/AMCOS Works Search (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 artist 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 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. Please also note that you may not parody or change the lyrics of an existing work.

Lighting 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 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.

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.

Remember you can arrange your **Post-AYTF Reflection** session with the **Festival Coordinator** to discuss your group's feedback (see Stage 7).

MARKETING THE FESTIVAL

AYTF 2019 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

Contact Ian for all queries relating to the running and logistics of this year's festival, as well as any urgent after-hours enquiries. For creative, technical, and venue-related queries please also contact Ian in the first instance.

Emele Ugavule – Festival Producer

4723 7605 / emele.ugavule@penrith.city

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

Geoff Turner – Technical Manager

4723 7608 / 0414 983 316 / 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.

AYTF 2019: APPLICATION FORM

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

OR

Go to this weblink: <https://form.jotform.co/90207967603864>

Applications will be accepted until Friday, 1 March 2019.

**APPENDIX 1
Q THEATRE STAGE PLAN**

