

**CANBERRA
YOUTH THEATRE**

**2022
SEASON**

#50YEARSYOUNG



2022 SEASON

**THE VOICE OF YOUTH
EXPRESSED THROUGH
INTELLIGENT AND
CHALLENGING THEATRE.**

WELCOME TO OUR 2022 SEASON	4
50 YEARS YOUNG	6
PRODUCTIONS	8
WORKSHOPS	18
EDUCATION	23
EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAM	24
WRITING	30
GET INVOLVED	32
SUPPORT US	34
OUR TEAM & SPONSORS	35

WELCOME

Canberra Youth Theatre makes an essential contribution to cultural vibrancy through the commission, creation, production and presentation of new and high quality artistic experiences, and the opportunities this provides for young and emerging artists. Young people are brought together with professional artists to collaborate, learn new skills, create powerful performances and build pathways to sustainable artistic careers. Now in its 50th year, Canberra Youth Theatre continues to both cement and build on its reputation as one of Australia's leading youth arts companies and a destination for young people looking to explore theatrical experiences.

This impressive 2022 season is the latest showcase of professional standard artistic works that are challenging, intelligent and leave a lasting impact and impression—both for the artists and their audiences—and befitting of the incredible milestone of 50 years of Canberra Youth Theatre.

This is a season which celebrates Canberra Youth Theatre's position in the arts and cultural landscape of both the ACT and national youth sector, with four major productions, including three world premieres and an Australian classic that began at Canberra Youth Theatre. This 50th anniversary season duly heralds the impact—and the legacy—of investing in new works created with and for young people.

This is also a season which champions partnerships. It celebrates the long-standing collaboration with Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres: the home of Canberra Youth Theatre for the last 40 years, and the dynamic hub for its workshop and professional development programs. From the partnership with Canberra Theatre Centre, which is presenting the entire production season, to new and exciting collaborations, to more engagement with both existing and new artists and audiences, this season anticipates amplified attendance and participation which will undoubtedly be realised.

It has been an incredible 50 years—and this is a very worthy celebratory season. Congratulations Canberra Youth Theatre!



Tara Cheyne MLA
ACT Minister for the Arts



2022 SEASON

In 2022 we are celebrating a phenomenal 50 year legacy of bringing young people together to create challenging and intelligent theatre. We have put together one of our biggest artistic programs ever, including three world premieres, and revisiting an Australian classic that started right here.

To kick off our 50th anniversary, we're going back to the 1980s with *Dags* by Debra Oswald. Commissioned by Canberra Youth Theatre in 1985, and now one of Australia's most popular plays for young people ever, *Dags* is an hilarious, quirky journey through adolescent anguish, the struggle to be popular and the need to be true to yourself, all set in the coolest/cringiest decade of all time.

The Initiation by Cathy Petocz is a new play created with our young artists, exploring the horrors of the early teen experience, the deep fears young people face journeying into adulthood, and the spiritual site of Black Mountain.

We're back in The Playhouse with a new commission, *How To Vote!* by Julian Larnach. This epic comedy unveils the treacherous political landscape of university life, set amongst a cut-throat election campaign, filled with ambitious student politicians, journalists, and theatre-makers, all fighting to make it to the top.

We finish the year with the world premiere of *Soul Trading* by Kate Walder, where our youngest artists will take us over 50 years into the future, to a world where humans are created with gene selection technology, Artificial Intelligence is everywhere, and children's best friends are robots.

But that's just the beginning! There's also our Emerging Artists program, workshops, plus a bunch of new initiatives for young and emerging theatre makers to get involved in.

This is Canberra Youth Theatre in 2022. Our 50th year promises exciting opportunities for young artists, sophisticated productions for our audiences, and a bold vision for our future.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year!



Luke Rogers
Artistic Director & CEO





50 YEARS YOUNG

From our early beginnings as Canberra Children's Theatre, through the Youth Theatre Workshop years of the 1970s, and decades more as Canberra Youth Theatre, we are now one of the leading youth arts companies in Australia.

In 1981, Canberra Youth Theatre moved from its first home at Reid House to Gorman Arts Centre where we are still a resident company, and have since collaborated with thousands of young artists through productions, workshops, creative developments and community events.

As an ACT Key Arts Organisation, we have created work across all of Canberra: in our major theatres, public spaces, and national cultural institutions. We have toured around the country, and internationally.

Canberra Youth Theatre has grown and evolved significantly over the past five decades, constantly responding to the passions and perspectives of generations of young people, and adapting to changes in the way we create and experience live performance. We remain at the forefront of Australian youth theatre practice, creating innovative, accessible and challenging opportunities for young people to access and engage in professional-quality theatrical experiences.

Through decades of turmoil and many triumphs, our wonderful company has continued to nurture and develop young people, giving them a place to belong, to share their voice, and to inspire audiences of all ages. It is an amazing legacy to celebrate.

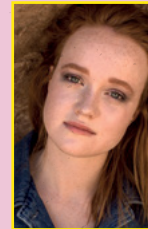
Here we are, the voice of youth expressed through challenging and intelligent theatre. 50 years young, and loving every minute of it!



SHARE YOUR STORY

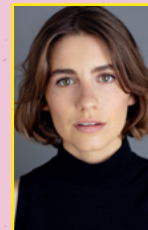
We have connected with thousands young people over the past 50 years. We are going to be diving into the archives, reaching out to our alumni, and inviting you to share your story.

If you have been involved with Canberra Youth Theatre, please reach out. Send us an email, drop into our DMs! We'd love to hear from you and include you in our anniversary celebrations.



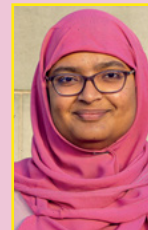
"Canberra Youth Theatre was a lifeline for me. My time there was invaluable, personally and professionally. From the workshops I first attended at 14, to the plays I would go on to be in, to the stretch of time I was lucky enough to spend as a company ensemble performer. It's the first stage I was ever on, first place to ever commission writing from me. It was an environment of creative, passionate peers. It gave us all the opportunity to hone our technique, grow together, and play together. It's where I learned to be an actor."

- **Liv Hewson**, Actor and Playwright



"Canberra Youth Theatre was insanely fun, but it was also very ambitious and disciplined. We chose complex plays, and rehearsed them rigorously until we found magic. I fell in love with the craft of storytelling at Canberra Youth Theatre, and I gained all the tools I needed to get into drama school and pursue a career as an actor."

- **Nathalie Morris**, Actor



"Canberra Youth Theatre is where I first started learning how to write for the theatre and met others who really loved telling stories in the same way. There were lots of steps along the way but it still amazes me that ten years on from my first workshop, I get to work as a professional playwright, often with people I met there."

- **Tasnim Hossain**, Playwright, Screenwriter, NIDA Artistic Associate



"In 1996, the Canberra Youth Theatre produced my first play. I owe this company much. They introduced me to the rigours of script development, the professional rigour of the rehearsal room and the thrill of delivering a new play to an audience. They got me hooked on aspects of the job that I carry through my working life today as a writer for stage and screen."

- **Tommy Murphy**, Playwright and Screenwriter

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/ALUMNI

DAGS
(1985)

#50YEARSYOUNG



PRODUCTIONS

DAGS

BY DEBRA OSWALD

1-9 APRIL

THE INITIATION

BY CATHY PETOCZ

15-19 JUNE

HOW TO VOTE!

BY JULIAN LARNACH

7-10 SEPTEMBER

SOUL TRADING

BY KATE WALDER

5-8 OCTOBER



“In 1984, when I was 24 years old and desperately hoping to make my way as a playwright, Canberra Youth Theatre asked me to write a play for the company. To be offered a commission with the promise that the work will make it onto a stage, that’s rocket fuel for a young writer’s creative life. After that first 1985 production, *Dags* has gone on to have a life around Australia, Britain and the US. I’m thrilled to know that schools and youth companies are still performing *Dags* all these years later and that’s thanks to Canberra Youth Theatre giving me a go.”

- Debra Oswald, Playwright

DAGS

BY DEBRA OSWALD



A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY REVIVAL

I'M GOING TO ADMIT SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ADMIT TO ANYONE EVER. I'VE GOT A CRUSH ON ADAM. HEAD OVER HEELS. UNCONTROLLABLE PASSION... UNREQUITED PASSION, OF COURSE... I KNOW HE'D NEVER GO FOR A DAG LIKE ME.

Gillian is 16. She's interesting, erudite, soulful, romantic... and she's a dag. I mean, *daaaaaaag!* She's a misfit, an outcast, a chocolate addict, on a desperate quest to be beautiful and popular. Oh yeah, and she's hopelessly in love with Adam – and I mean hopelessly – like, a negative vacuum of sub-atomic non-hope.

Follow Gillian's pursuit of romance and happiness, as she navigates overbearing sisters, schoolyard politics, head-over-heels crushes, and first kisses, to discover that maybe finding out who you really are isn't so bad after all, even if you are a dag.

Dags is an excruciatingly funny and compassionate journey through the world of adolescent anguish. Originally commissioned by Canberra Youth Theatre in 1985, it has become one of the most definitive and popular Australian plays for young people ever. Of course, life as a teenager has changed so much since the 80s... hasn't it?

Whether you're living it for the first time, or have been reliving it ever since, *Dags* is the ultimate show about the awkward glory of never fitting in, 'cause who the hell would even want to?

DIRECTOR
LUKE ROGERS

DESIGNER
AISLINN KING

LIGHTING DESIGNER
ANTONY HATELEY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SOPHIE TALLIS

AGE RECOMMENDATION 13+

**1-9
APRIL**

**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

TIMES

WED - SAT 7:30PM
SAT 2PM, SUN 5PM
THU 7 APRIL 11AM

VENUE

THE COURTYARD STUDIO
CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE
CIVIC SQUARE, LONDON CIRCUIT

TICKETS

\$18 - \$30 (+ BOOKING FEE)
SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

BOOKINGS

CANBERRATHEATRECENTRE.COM.AU
02 6275 2700

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS

THE INITIATION

BY CATHY PETOCZ



WORLD PREMIERE

THERE'S A PLACE IN THE BUSH BALANCED BETWEEN STONE, SKY, WATER.
PAST STARS SENDING ANCIENT LIGHT.
YOU'LL FIND WHAT YOU NEED FOR THE INITIATION
AND YOU WILL COME OUT CHANGED.

A double-dare draws six seemingly normal teenagers into the twilight bush of Black Mountain. As night falls and time keeps shifting around, they realise they are lost. When a knife keeps turning up, despite their efforts to get rid of it, they fear they'll never come out alive.

DIRECTOR
CATHY PETOCZ

COLLABORATOR
ETHAN BELL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CAITLIN BAKER

AGE RECOMMENDATION 13+

The Initiation is about the horrors of the early teen experience; that uncanny period between childhood and fully becoming an adult, and the scary things you feel you have to do to get through. Exploring teen horror movie tropes, real teen experiences, and the deeply spiritual site of Black Mountain, *The Initiation* asks us to find our way to the core of our fears in order to discover where the real threat lies.

The Initiation is a new play written and developed with young artists from Canberra Youth Theatre.

**15-19
JUNE**

TIMES

WED - SAT 7:30PM
SAT 2PM, SUN 5PM

TICKETS

\$18 - \$30 (+ BOOKING FEE)
SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

VENUE

THE COURTYARD STUDIO
CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE
CIVIC SQUARE, LONDON CIRCUIT

BOOKINGS

CANBERRATHEATRECENTRE.COM.AU
02 6275 2700

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS

HOW TO VOTE!

OR, THE REPERCUSSIONS OF POLITICAL AMBITION AND PERSONAL RIVALRIES WITHIN STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND MEDIA ORGANISATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE POST-COVID 19 NEOLIBERAL UNIVERSITY INSTITUTION

BY JULIAN LARNACH



WORLD PREMIERE

I'M ADDICTED. I'M SICK. I'VE BEEN DIAGNOSED, I'VE GOT ALL THE SYMPTOMS AND NO AMOUNT OF MEDICINE OR BED-REST IS GOING TO STOP ME FROM GETTING WHAT I WANT, GETTING MORE OF WHAT I WANT, GETTING ALL OF WHAT I WANT. POWER. REAL POWER.

Election season is upon us! When the incumbent President of the University Student Council mysteriously steps down, new players must enter the arena. But behind the three-word slogans and non-core promises lies an underbelly of secret deals and divided loyalties, corruption and ambition; all designed to win the hearts and minds of the student body.

Following an entire election cycle within a prestigious university, *How To Vote!* explores the treacherous political landscape of campus life, and what happens when you put the word 'student' before journalism, politics and theatre.

Commissioned by Canberra Youth Theatre, this world premiere whip-smart political comedy is set in an election year (topical!) in a city that's definitely not Canberra (it's totally Canberra!).

Featuring a massive ensemble cast of university-aged artists, *How To Vote!* smashes together *Secret City* and *Sex Education* in an epic exploration of power and what it takes to wrestle it from your enemies' cold, dead hands - all while scraping through your end-of-semester exams.

DIRECTOR
LUKE ROGERS

LIGHTING DESIGNER
ANTHONY HATELEY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
SOPHIE TALLIS

AGE RECOMMENDATION 15+

**7-10
SEPT**

TIMES

WED - SAT 7:30PM
SAT 2PM

TICKETS

\$18 - \$30 (+ BOOKING FEE)
SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

VENUE

THE PLAYHOUSE
CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE
CIVIC SQUARE, LONDON CIRCUIT

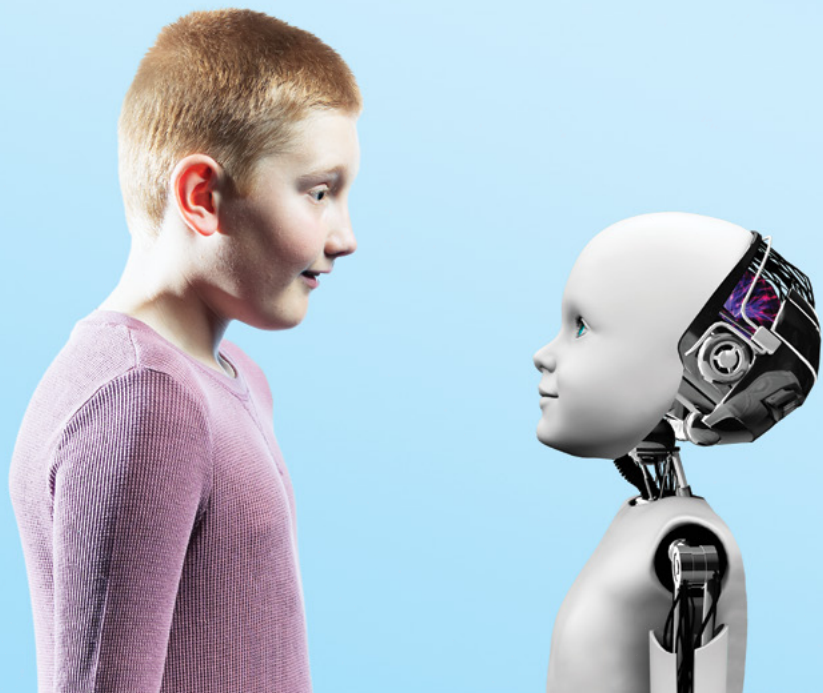
BOOKINGS

CANBERRATHEATRECENTRE.COM.AU
02 6275 2700

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE PRESENTS

SOUL TRADING

BY KATE WALDER



WORLD PREMIERE

I CAN SEE YOUR SOULS.
THEY MIGHT BE IMPERCEPTIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE
BUT IT'S VERY CLEAR TO US THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT WE DON'T.

The year is 2079. Humans are created with gene selection technology, Artificial Intelligence is part of everyday life and children's best friends are their Learning Bots. Except for Jerry. Jerry is not like the others. Neither is Neutron Finch, an exceptionally clever Learning Bot who seems to appear out of nowhere. He is smarter than most Bots, funnier and also possibly illegal. It doesn't take long for the status quo to unravel and one night, Jerry and his classmates are summoned to the oval...

The Bots want souls. Specifically, theirs. It's up to six young minds to solve the greatest existential question of all time within 24 hours. Will their soul-searching provide the answers they need to stop AI destroying the world as they know it?

DIRECTOR
JENA PRINCE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
CAITLIN BAKER

AGE RECOMMENDATION 8+

Soul Trading, winner of the 2019 Junior Australian Theatre for Young People Foundation Commission, is a funny, fascinating and eye-opening sci-fi adventure that asks vital questions about human connection, and our rapidly-evolving relationship with technology. We are proud to present this world premiere production during the October school holidays.

**5-8
OCT**

TIMES

WED - SAT 7PM
WED & FRI 11AM, SAT 2PM

TICKETS

\$18 - \$30 (+ BOOKING FEE)
SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

**CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE**

VENUE

THE COURTYARD STUDIO
CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE
CIVIC SQUARE, LONDON CIRCUIT

BOOKINGS

CANBERRATHEATRECENTRE.COM.AU
02 6275 2700

**KIDS'
LAND**
(1979)

#50YEARSYOUNG

ME

WORKSHOPS

Find your voice.
Explore your craft.
Share your story.

Our workshops bring young people together to think imaginatively, express themselves artistically, and discover the joys of performance.

We treat young people as artists in their own right, empowering them to find their own unique voice and share their stories.

We create a space for young people to connect, collaborate and belong. We bring them together with professional artists to discover new skills, build self-confidence and learn how to make theatre in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Our Workshop Artists are professional theatre-makers who are passionate about collaborating and creating work with young people. Together they make exciting work that challenges us to see the world from new perspectives.

Our weekly Ensembles are semester-long programs that run in line with school terms. Participants learn a wide range of skills across many performance styles, creating an end of semester showcase performance for family and friends.

Whether you are considering pursuing a professional career in the arts, or simply want to expand your skills, make new friends, and have fun, Canberra Youth Theatre is a safe, inclusive space for all young people to be creative, share their voice, and explore their passion.

In 2022, we will be delivering our workshop programs at **Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres, Belconnen Arts Centre, The Q - Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre**, and in **Gunghalin**.

[CANBERRYOUTHTEATRE.COM.AU/WORKSHOPS](https://canberrayouththeatre.com.au/workshops)

ENSEMBLES

PRIMARY

YEARS 1 - 3

Discover and delight in the joys of theatre. Young people explore creative play and storytelling to free their imagination, build skills in collaboration, confidence and creative problem solving. This introduction to performance enables young artists to invent themselves, find their voice, and share their story by creating an original piece of theatre and presenting it to friends and family.

YEARS 4 - 6

Explore the foundations of theatre making and performance. Young artists collaborate with professional theatre makers to develop their skills in improvisation, creating characters, devising new stories, voice and movement, collaboration and creative thinking. This opportunity to discover specific performance techniques provides young people with a space to express themselves, learn the fundamentals of stagecraft, and empowers them to share their stories. Young artists develop and present an original piece of theatre for an audience of their family and friends.



SECONDARY

YEARS 7 - 9

Establish a toolkit for theatre making. Young artists collaborate with professional theatre makers to develop skills in acting, improvisation, devising, script analysis, character development and stagecraft. Through a practical exploration of many and varied performance styles, young artists take ownership of their craft, hone their creative voice, and become confident theatre makers. Young artists collaborate to devise and present an original performance piece for their friends and family.

YEARS 10 - 12

Initiate a pathway to professional creative practice. Young artists delve deep into the theatrical process, exploring sophisticated acting and theatre making techniques. Ideal for dedicated drama students to expand their understanding of theatre making and refine their personal creative practice. Weekly exploration of new acting techniques and methodologies sharpens skills in acting, devising, voice, movement, stagecraft, monologues and scene work. Young artists perform scenes from plays, devise their own works, and collaborate on an original performance to hone their craft and establish their practice as emerging theatre makers.



CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/WORKSHOPS

SCHOOLS PROGRAM

We work with primary schools across the ACT to provide quality after-school drama programs. Participants work with a professional Workshop Artist on a weekly program that builds creativity and confidence through collaboration, improvisation, and performance. They discover new skills, express themselves creatively, and work as an ensemble to create a performance at the end of the term for their family and friends at their school. Visit our website to see participating schools.

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/SCHOOLS

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

We deliver fun and engaging theatre workshops during school holidays for young people in Years 1-12. Primary aged programs engage and stretch the imaginations of young people as they discover new skills, create characters, tell stories, make new friends, build confidence, learn about performance, and most of all have fun in a collaborative and supportive environment.

Secondary aged programs offer specialised intensives that develop performance skills and introduce young artists to new techniques in areas such as devising, scenework, movement, auditions, screen acting, musical theatre, and much more.

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/HOLIDAY



EDUCATION

WORKSHOPS BY DESIGN

Workshops By Design offer students a practical experience of drama, performance and theatre making within their school environment. These custom-designed workshops bring a professional theatre artist to your school to enliven and engage students across a range of topics and arts practices. Our experienced Workshop Artists deliver practical, curriculum-aligned workshops, either at your school, at Gorman Arts Centre, or via live digital-stream into your classroom. With a team of specialist professional artists, we deliver high-quality programs for a wide range of ages, year groups and curriculum topics across the Canberra region. See our website for our Workshop By Design programs, or get in touch and we'll be happy to design a workshop to suit the needs of teachers and students.

ENRICH YOUR EXPERIENCE

We want to enrich the experience of young people engaging with theatre, as both makers and audience members. We provide students and teachers with the opportunity to see our productions, engage with our professional artists, and participate in Q&A sessions and workshops associated with our productions. These experiences can support classroom learning through unique and memorable experiences. Get in touch to find out more.

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/EDUCATION



**THE
MAZE**
(1997)

#50YEARSYOUNG

EMERGING ARTISTS

We are passionate about creating pathways for early career artists aged 18-25 to achieve their creative ambitions.

We offer opportunities to participate in artistic training and creative development, explore and shape individual artistic practice, and build professional networks.

Our Emerging Artists program is made possible thanks to the Jeremy Spencer Broom Legacy and Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres.



“Canberra Youth Theatre supported me to write one of my first commissioned plays, *versions of us*, in 2017 after I finished my postgraduate studies in playwriting. Working with the company as an emerging artist gave me the opportunity to continue to develop my skills, to grow, to collaborate and to be part of a company that was committed to developing and elevating new, Australian voices.”

- Emily Sheehan, Playwright

[CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/EMERGING](https://canberrayouththeatre.com.au/emerging)

RESIDENT ARTISTS

Our Resident Artists program is an incubator for early career theatre-makers aged 18–25 years who are passionate about creating new works, and dedicated to exploring their artistic practice. These artists are embedded in the life of our company, building leadership skills, collaborating on productions, running creative development workshops, and developing their own artistic projects. Our Resident Artists are ambitious, emerging professionals ready to push their creative practice and careers to the next level.

We are proud to introduce our Resident Artists for 2022: Caitlin Baker and Sophie Tallis.

“As an early career creative, finding the space to be trusted and supported to take the next step into your own creative independence is really hard to find. I want to make theatre that has to be theatre, and I believe this residency can give me the space and mentorship to take that on” - Caitlin Baker

“I’m so excited by the opportunity to meet and work with other young artists, explore and experiment with forms, styles and new works in a collaborative environment” - Sophie Tallis



CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/RESIDENTS

EMERGE COMPANY

Emerge Company is our training and professional development program that brings together emerging theatre makers aged 18-25 to collaborate, train, and create their own work as a company. The Emerge Company explores collaborative theatre-making processes and equips artists with the skills to develop their own work and produce independent theatre. This program is for emerging artists eager to discover creative skills, define their own artistic practice, and gain practical tools to build a sustainable career in the arts.

The Emerge Company will work together to create a dynamic new work, and collaborate on a range of additional artistic projects across the company. The Emerge Company showcases the work of our most promising emerging theatre makers.

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/EMERGE

“The opportunity to devise an original work from the ground up – to be given the tools needed and then guided through the process of developing an idea to the stage – has been invaluable in instilling confidence in brave young artists to go and create.” - Jack Shanahan



MASTERCLASSES

Join us throughout the year for a series of specialised masterclasses with leading industry professionals. These programs connect emerging creatives with the arts sector through intensive workshops exploring a diverse range of disciplines. Our masterclass programs provide practical training for emerging artists looking to develop their skills and collaborate with professional arts practitioners in a challenging and supportive environment. Programs include:

DIRECTING INTENSIVE

This new program offers emerging theatre makers the opportunity to discover the skills and processes necessary for a theatre director. Working with Artistic Director Luke Rogers, over eight sessions participants will explore the dramaturgical aspects of directing, discover how to analyse the action of the text, unlock the creative ideas within a play, develop production concepts, collaborate with designers, and successfully work with actors. This masterclass empowers emerging theatre makers to discover the kind of director they want to be, understand the type of work they want to create, and gain the confidence to realise their artistic vision.

DRAMA SCHOOL AUDITION MASTERCLASS

Thinking of applying for drama school? Join us for an intensive workshop series specifically focussed on the unique experience of the drama school audition. Gain insider knowledge on the audition process, receive guidance on selecting your monologues, learn how to approach both classical and contemporary pieces, and develop confidence and spontaneity in taking direction during the audition. This masterclass is ideal for young actors who are applying to drama schools, or who simply want to learn how to prepare for the challenges of an audition, so you are equipped to do your best work.

"The Drama School Audition Masterclass relieved all the anxiety I had about the process. We learnt to trust ourselves and our personal artistry. Luke guided us through monologue choices, audition etiquette, school options. But most importantly, we were reminded of the benefits that we will receive from putting ourselves out there and feeding our passion. With this knowledge, I was offered a place at Actors Centre Australia and I am forever grateful for the experience I had at Canberra Youth Theatre." - Grace Easterby



"The Drama School Audition Masterclass provided me with a nurturing space to expand my techniques and push me to reach my full potential. I came out more confident in my work and creative choices for both my specific audition pieces, and my artistic practice as a whole. Thanks to this program, I performed auditions that I was proud of and that gained me entrance to WAAPA in 2022." - Tiahna Johnson

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/MASTERCLASSES

WRITING

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS PROGRAM

Canberra Youth Theatre's Young Playwrights Program is for emerging writers aged 16–25 years to develop their skills in writing for performance.

Led by professional playwright Mary Rachel Brown, with mentorship from professional industry guests, writers will be encouraged and supported to experiment and develop their voice as playwrights through a series of creative, practical workshops.

Young playwrights will explore creative processes to develop their writing, receive dramaturgical support, have their scripts workshopped with our Resident Artists and an ensemble of actors, and see their work performed.

This program offers young and emerging playwrights the opportunity to be part of a collaborative network with other artists, learn new skills, discover their voice as a writer, unlock creative possibilities, and create new works for performance.

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/YPP



EMERGING PLAYWRIGHT COMMISSION

The Emerging Playwright Commission offers a professional commission to an emerging Australian playwright, to create a new full-length work that brings the voices and stories of youth to the stage.

Canberra Youth Theatre is committed to investing in the creation of new Australian plays for young people. This initiative places emerging playwrights at the centre of the creative process, and is specifically designed to springboard writers at a crucial point in their career.

The successful writer receives ongoing dramaturgical support, collaborates with an ensemble of young emerging artists, participates in a series of creative development workshops, and sees their script come to life in a staged reading of their work.

Our 2021 Emerging Playwright Commission recipient is Joanna Richards.

"I am overwhelmed and ecstatic to receive this commission which will offer me an enormous opportunity to develop as a playwright. To write material for young people — about what is arguably one of the most formative times in any person's life — is such a gift. I am excited to create a work that is intellectually meaty and performatively fun for an ensemble to work on. I am indebted to Canberra Youth Theatre for giving me this opportunity."

- Joanna Richards

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/COMMISSIONS



GET INVOLVED SCRATCH

Scratch is an opportunity for emerging artists aged 18–25 years to meet, network, experiment, and share their work. Held throughout the year at Smith’s Alternative, these events showcase new works-in-progress, the early beginnings of a creative idea, a new song, some comedy, improv, spoken word poetry, dance – anything at all – however rough or ready it may be. Audiences are then invited to participate in a guided critical response process to offer feedback and insights into the artists’ work. *Scratch* is for performers, writers and theatre makers who are itching to share ambitious ideas, make new connections, and be supported to develop their creative projects.

CANBERRYOUTHTEATRE.COM.AU/SCRATCH



ENGAGE

Engage is for young people aged 16–25 years to get together for play readings, see theatre performances, participate in post-show discussions, and learn how to critically reflect on the art they engage with. If you are eager to develop your creative thinking and analytical skills, expand your knowledge of the performing arts, and explore work with others, then this program is for you. *Engage* will increase access for the next generation of creative thinkers, foster new critical voices, and provide them with a platform to share their responses and reviews through Canberra Youth Theatre’s website and social media. The views and perspectives of young people are an essential part of the conversation around the work on our stages, and invite you to come make your voice heard!

CANBERRYOUTHTEATRE.COM.AU/ENGAGE

AUDITIONS

We hold open auditions for every production, and performers of all levels of experience and backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Subscribe to our e-news and follow us on Facebook or Instagram to be the first to know about upcoming opportunities. You can sign up to audition on our website.

CANBERRYOUTHTEATRE.COM.AU/AUDITIONS

BACKSTAGE

If you are in Years 9–12, love theatre and want to be part of the team who make it happen, come join us backstage. Offered in collaboration with Canberra Theatre Centre, our new *Backstage* program gives young theatre makers hands-on experience to develop their technical skills and knowledge, working with industry professionals. You will learn how to rig and focus lights, set up and operate sound equipment, gain insights into the technical design process, and apply these skills throughout the year on Canberra Youth Theatre productions. *Backstage* is a great way to discover how theatre is created and provide you with the skills to be a part of a production team, all in a world class theatre environment.

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“My time at Canberra Youth Theatre allowed me to learn a lot about technical theatre, the arts industry, and the professional opportunities available. Being able to work on, and be mentored by professional artists on their productions, gave me the skills and confidence that got me into NIDA to study a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Technical Theatre & Stage Management.”

- Ethan Hamill, Lighting & Video Designer, Production Manager

SUPPORT US

For 50 years, Canberra Youth Theatre has empowered young people through theatre productions, workshops, and creative pathways to challenge, reflect, and transform our perspectives of the world. We have given voice to thousands of young artists, providing an inclusive space for them to discover and express their creative selves.

We are working to generate more opportunities for young people to engage in our programs, by establishing scholarships that remove barriers to access and participation. We are aiming to establish a Donor's Circle to help raise funds for our Emerging Playwright Commission.

We rely on the generous support of our community. All donations, no matter how big or small, have a direct impact. Your support enables us to enhance our level of engagement with artists and audiences, ensure the sustainability and growth of our theatre company, and help us create more opportunities for youth.

Canberra Youth Theatre are determined to grow our legacy as one of Australia's leading youth theatre companies that fiercely advocates for the voice of youth, expressed through intelligent and challenging theatre. We invite you to join us.

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/DONATE

We are a charitable organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission and a Deductible Gift Recipient. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

TEAM

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CASSANDRA HOOLIHAN
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PARTNERS

Canberra Youth Theatre gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our partners:



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THEATRE
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**THE
JEREMY SPENCER BROOM
LEGACY**



netier.

If you would like to know more about how you can support us, or are interested in partnering with us, please contact luke@canberrayouththeatre.com.au

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE

#50YEARSYOUNG

**THE VOICE OF YOUTH
EXPRESSED THROUGH
INTELLIGENT AND
CHALLENGING THEATRE**

GORMAN ARTS CENTRE
H BLOCK - BATMAN STREET BRADDON ACT 2612

02 6248 5057
INFO@CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU



@canberrayouththeatre

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Canberra Youth Theatre acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we collaborate, share stories and create art. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present and emerging, and recognise their enduring culture and contribution to our community. We celebrate their rich history of over 60,000 years of storytelling, and are privileged and grateful to share our stories here. This is Ngunnawal country. Always was. Always will be