

The Blue Room Theatre presents

WINTER NIGHTS

A mid-year festival of experimentation and ideas

Application Information

2019

Winter Nights is a festival created by The Blue Room Theatre to foster artistic exploration and dialogue around the practices of Western Australia's theatre artists. This year, the program will expand into both the Main and Studio spaces at The Blue Room Theatre over two weeks, from 23 July – 3 August.

Through a series of opportunities to present and converse, Winter Nights provides a creative space for artists to share, engage and discover their practice in form, craft and process; a testing ground to sample work and establish early engagement with active, eager audiences.

Artists with a new collaboration, work, idea or approach to making theatre and performance are invited to submit an application to be part of Winter Nights 2019.

Check out the offers below, and let the possibilities fill your imagination.

“Showing work in a vulnerable state to an interrogative community provided a great opportunity to create a blueprint for further creation.”

– Jeffrey Jay Fowler
The Do Not Get Eaten Machine, Winter Nights 2018

Ground Up

New to 2019, Ground Up is a space to enact, envision and evolve new work in real time in The Blue Room Theatre's Main Space.

Each project will present three sessions of performance on intermittent days across the two-week festival, using the time and space in between to explore and respond to the experience of each presentation. It's an iterative process in which artists meet audience in the development of work with the freedom to experiment, develop and refine the ideas, form and content of their work in response to the feedback of their audience and peers. On application, each project should articulate how they will garner the responses they need to help their work-in-process.

Five projects will receive \$1000 towards creative costs along with 80% of box office for the three sessions, dedicated rehearsal room space and time in the venue ahead of each presentation.

All Ages Theatre Development

We're thrilled that Barking Gecko Theatre will partner in Winter Nights for the second time to support the development of a new theatre work for an all-ages audience.

The selected project will receive \$5,000 towards creative costs; project guidance from BGT Artistic Director Luke Kerridge; up to 20 hours funded mentorship for the development; and up to 30 hours of in-kind rehearsal space at The Blue Room Theatre.

PLAYING UP

A pathway and supportive opportunity for plays in development, PLAYING UP will foster and champion new Australian Stories from local emerging playwrights. Three unproduced scripts will be selected for a guided script development process with mentoring from Chris Isaacs, playwright, deviser and performer at The Last Great Hunt, and a self-produced public reading opportunity as part of the 2019 Winter Nights season.

Applicants will be required to submit a detailed synopsis and script excerpt (up to 10 pages) as part of their application. Playwrights should be under 26 years old or in their first five years of practice.

Winter Words

This year we're inviting artists to curate a series of Winter Nights panels, forums and conversations addressing their burning questions, provocations or inspirations in theatre and performance. Whether local or global, about craft or culture, Winter Words will profile timely conversations relevant to our here and now. Two selected forums will be livestreamed to [Howlround](#), a global theatre commons for the free sharing of intellectual and artistic resources and expertise, giving international exposure to conversations emerging from the Western Australian theatre sector.

Five Winter Words projects will receive \$500 funding each in support of research and payment of panellists and facilitators. Applicants are encouraged to be ambitious in the ideas put forward and experts curated for this program funded by the City of Perth. What do you want to talk about and why? What does your dream panel of experts look like? And, in what form do you want to have the conversation?

The Unexpected

Set your spirit free in this wild card of Winter Nights.

The Blue Room Theatre invites artists to trial their experiment in live performance for a session as part of the Festival. Be it a performance, an event, an interaction, a happening; artists are encouraged to blur the boundaries, innovate artform and challenge conventions. The theatre is your canvas for one hour of experimentation. Get something in front of a crowd and see if it sticks.

Artists will receive 90% of the Box Office for their performance or event and time in the venue ahead of their presentation.

Workshops

Winter Nights is proud to host a series of workshops across State Theatre Centre of WA and The Blue Room Theatre in the second week of Winter Nights. The Middar Room at STCWA will play host to workshops and forums facilitated by local artists to explore ideas and approaches to artmaking.

Van Badham, playwright and public intellectual, will also journey west for Winter Nights to engage with local theatre makers for a one day workshop taking people through the go to whoa of running a political action, how that works with media, what it means theatrically and how the action feeds back into play development.

All workshops are free, and places are strictly limited, please [head here](#) to register your interest.

Workshops

The dramaturgy of our ridiculous dreams

Tuesday 30 July, 10am – 5pm

A workshop for the formally experimental, conceptually complex, and performatively ludicrous. Facilitated by Joe Lui (Renegade Productions), this workshop will provide a space for artists wanting to learn how to think about and develop work in an imagistic, post-dramatic fashion.

Through a one day workshop, participants will partake in a crash course into practical Post-Drama for the discerning theatre maker whilst learning Lui's methodology of $\text{Experiment} = k[\text{entertainment}]$, a play on the mathematical equation for proportionality that serves to embrace the silly and fun as a means to approach the sublime. This workshop is for aspiring theatre-makers, writers, devisors and directors with a goal to inspire makers with fresh ideas and collaborations for new work and as well as existing work.

FLOCK

Thursday 1 August, save the date

An initiative by artists, for artists. The brainchild of Daisy Sanders, Alex Desebrock and Elizabeth Pedler, FLOCK is a monthly forum for Perth's independent artists to share practice and facilitated discussion with each other. The creative workshop artist will be announced alongside the Winter Nights program in June, and in the meantime you can save the date so you know you won't miss this collaborative hub.

Workshops

The Red Queen's Badassery Workshop

Monday 5 August, 10am – 5pm

Activist and playwright Van Badham will lead participants through the process of theatre as a political event, using strategies of improvisation and generative performance development within the context of an activist project to inform narrative text-based script outcomes. There may be a bit of tweeting, marching and shouting.

Van Badham is a writer, commentator, activist, occasional broadcaster, theatremaker and one of Australia's most controversial public intellectuals. In addition to a weekly column for Guardian Australia, her work has appeared in The Age, Australian Cosmopolitan, Daily Life, Southerly, Women's Agenda, Britain's Daily Telegraph and in anthologies for UQP, Hardie Grant and Monash University Press. As a playwright, her work has been performed across Australia and the UK, in the US and Canada, and in Iceland, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Germany and Austria, and she is the recipient of three Premier's awards for stage writing.

Suddenly 30

The final fiesta.

In the spirit of last year's WHOA MAMA!, in 2019 Winter Nights will once again conclude with a closing night bash around an evening of loose acts; this time in honour of our 30th anniversary in 2019!

While last year the Western Australian theatre community raised money to contribute towards rebuilding the iconic and much loved La Mama in Melbourne, this year we will join forces with the Equity Benevolent Guild (AKA Performing Arts WA) to raise funds to support performing artists in hardship. We're inviting all artists who have performed and been nurtured by The Blue Room Theatre's walls, past and present, to join in the rambunctious fun and band together in support of a good cause. We are asking that you donate your time and energies to your theatre peers in need and we will donate the door and half the bar profits from the night.

The Brief:

What is the five minute random bit of performance you want to offer in tribute to thirty years of The Blue Room Theatre? Is it a bit from a past show? A reinterpretation of a classic Blue Room production or moment? From the heartfelt to the hilarious, let us know why your act speaks to you of The Blue Room Theatre's thirtieth birthday.

“Winter Nights gave space, time, resources and a supported work-in-progress presentation outcome that allowed my team to explore the concept for our new work. It assisted us to build a strong foundation to move forward into more supported development time in the future.”

– Katt Osborne
The Town, Winter Nights 2018

The Nitty Gritty Details

All projects will present approximately one hour of content per session (be it Ground Up, Winter Words, The Unexpected or PLAYING UP) as part of Winter Nights 2019. The venue will have a limited festival style technical set up; while Winter Nights will provide a Production Manager to supervise the festival, it is the responsibility of each project to provide their own operator/designers where needed.

There will be a mix of free and ticketed events set at Winter Nights' accessible festival prices, of which Ground Up and The Unexpected projects will receive no less than 80% of box office income. The Blue Room Theatre will coordinate bookings and front of house during the Festival, and will promote the overall Winter Nights season alongside marketing support for each individual project.

A panel consisting of two theatre industry peers and The Blue Room Theatre Producer will assess Winter Nights Proposals in consideration of the following criteria:

VIABILITY

- The skills and experiences of the participating team are artistically, professionally and culturally appropriate for the proposed activity.
- Realistic and achievable management and planning for the creative process.
- Confidence in the applicant to deliver the project as outlined in application.

TIMELINESS AND RELEVANCE

- Explores timely themes relevant to contemporary Australian culture and beyond.
- Contributes to the ongoing professional development of the key artists involved and delivers benefits for the artistic practice of all participants.
- Considers participants and audiences from diverse experiences.

ARTISTIC EXPERIMENTATION AND RISK

- Develops new ways of making work or contributes to the diversity of contemporary artistic practice in Australia
 - New ideas presented in innovative ways
- Provides audiences and participants with new experiences

How to apply

Applications for Winter Nights are to be completed online and received by 5pm, Wednesday 3 April 2019.

To apply for a Ground Up, Winter Words, All Ages Theatre Development, PLAYING UP or The Unexpected, please complete this [application form](#).

To register your interest for a workshop; complete this [EOI form](#).

To register your interest in Suddenly 30 fill in this [form](#).

Please note, RSVP's to the FLOCK workshop will open in June.

Contact

Whether you'd like a little more information about the Winter Nights offer, would like to chat about your project idea or are experiencing technical difficulties, please feel free to contact;

Producer Harriet Roberts at harriet@blueroom.org.au or call the office on (08) 9227 7005.

Winter Nights is proudly supported by professional development partner the Minderoo Foundation.

**The
Blue Room
Theatre**



City of Perth

