

The Blue Room Theatre presents

# WINTER NIGHTS

August 2020

Application Information

# WINTER NIGHTS

2020

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The Blue Room Theatre is thrilled to present Winter Nights 2020, a remote festival that embraces the opportunities and rises to the challenge of our physically distant reality.

This festival encompasses the essence of Winter Nights' past by fostering dialogue, embracing innovation and the creative process. The 2020 offer prioritises these elements and provides a platform for artists to reflect on, recreate and redefine their performance-making practice in the wake of Covid-19.

We invite artists to consider our past, present and future, to interrogate the process of art-making, and explore ways we can transform how we make and experience live performance. We're handing you the reigns to discover and experiment, and to be bold, creative and curious in your practice.

There are three avenues for artists to engage and interact with Winter Nights: through supported creative developments, by hosting a conversation as part of an all-new podcast series; or through an intensive professional development workshop with Emma Valente of THE RABBLE.

## Creative Developments

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The festival will support the development of 4–8 new performance works. Each supported creative development will receive between \$500–\$3000 to explore and develop their idea over July–August.

We are looking for artists to think outside The Blue Room Theatre box and be innovative and ambitious in their approach to form, style, process and even distribution to audiences. Hit us with new ideas; challenging themes; the experimental, the weird, the exciting, the intelligent, and the fun.

During the application process, and after programming, TBRT will work with successful projects on their process and outcomes, approaching the challenges together. Outcomes for creative developments will be decided in conversation and consultation between successful projects and TBRT.

The only requirement we have is for successful projects to participate in a creative documentation of process, some of which may be shared with audiences throughout the festival. All outcomes can be developed and proposed by artists and use a creative medium that reflects their project, practice, and personality.

Projects will also be given the option to share a work-in-progress outcome that plays with the concept of ‘liveness’.

## All Ages Theatre Development

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We are once again thrilled to partner with Barking Gecko Theatre to support the development of an all ages theatre development as part of Winter Nights.

One additional creative development will be supported across a two-stage process that will see the successful project receive \$5,000 cash support, project guidance from BGT Artistic Director Luke Kerridge, plus an additional 20 hours funded mentorship from a mentor of the team's choice. Through this collaboration, Barking Gecko hopes to encourage independent WA artists to explore the possibilities in creating work for children and families.

The seed fund will be distributed between two development stages, the first to take place as a subset of the creative development stream as part of Winter Nights, with a second stage and small work-in-progress outcome to be scheduled for late in 2020, in consultation with BGT and TBRT. Applicants should detail their two-stage development process, along with how they anticipate using the mentorship fund and their intentions for who this will be.

The all ages theatre development will be assessed as part of the creative development process, outlined below.

## Documentation & Outcomes

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All projects must document their project and process creatively, some to be shared publicly during Winter Nights.

This could be a photography journal, video, audio journal, or written documentation. We are open to all suggestions.

Projects may also opt to share an engagement/development as part of the Festival. This is **OPTIONAL**. This could be an outcome that looks at liveness, multi-medium collaboration, offline landscapes, or other. Please refer to the inspiration below for more examples.

## Inspiration

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**ESSENTIAL IDEAS.  
CLICK HERE TO GET INSPIRED  
BEFORE READING AHEAD.**

Inside are some examples of interesting things that have happened pre and post Covid-19 that are good examples of practice.

The sky is the limit but potentially this will help feed into inspiring you.

## Expression of Interest and Application Process

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Due to the unique offer for Winter Nights 2020, TBRT will be running a two-stage application process to ensure that we can work to inspire applicants in putting forward creative, ambitious and innovative projects that align with the aspirations of the festival.

### **Stage 1: Expressions of Interest**

The Creative Development EOI's is an open, public callout, due 20 May. This application is straightforward and short. We're asking applicants to pitch their idea, and how they can innovate their process in a time of Covid-19 to make the idea happen. All EOI applicants must be available for a zoom meeting with TBRT on 28-29 May to discuss their EOI pending invitation to the next round. The EOI round will be reviewed in-house by TBRT.

### **Stage 2: Applications**

Successful applicants from the EOI round will be invited on 28-29 May for a second stage application to provide more detail about their project, due 10 June. The second round will be assessed by a combination of TBRT programming staff and an independent panellist, while the All Ages Theatre Development will be selected by Barking Gecko Theatre. Notification of programmed projects from the second round will be by 19 June, and all second stage applicants must be available the week of 22 June for project meetings pending programming.

## Selection Criteria

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Throw out the playbook – all bets are off!  
We're fascinated by your process and how you're working creatively in this new physically distant world.

We will be selecting projects based on how clearly and confidently you speak to the following criteria:

### **Innovation**

HOW are you evolving your practice and new ways of making work?

### **Practice Development**

HOW are you rising to the challenge of the here and now?

### **Viability**

HOW are you going to undertake this process with your team?

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If you have selected to have an audience interactive/live outcome as part of your project:

### **Audiences**

HOW will you achieve interaction or a sense of 'liveness' in a digital and/or remote form?

## Conversations

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We're calling on artists to come forward with their hot topics and best radio voice to host an all new podcast series. Discourse and discussion exist at the heart of Winter Nights, and there has never been a better time to interrogate the questions of why we engage with creative practice, how we can continue to do so despite our challenges, and what our hopes and dreams are for the future.

Whether you want to interview or have a chat with someone who inspires you, talk about the craft and culture of theatre, or examine the impact of Covid-19 on our industry and process – nothing is off limits. Conversations will be broadcast live from The Blue Room Theatre Bar and shared as a podcast. All you need to bring is a well-researched topic, a willing interviewee and an inquisitive mindset – we'll take care of the rest.

Co-Founder of Barefaced Stories and ABC Radio presenter Andrea Gibbs will curate four conversations as part of the series, mentoring each host in interviewing and broadcasting skills. Each conversation host will receive \$250 plus a \$100 fund to engage up to two panellists/interviewees.

## Professional Development

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Winter Nights loves to host a guest artist to join in the fun and share their skills and experiences with artists. In 2020, we're thrilled to welcome Guest Artist Emma Valente from THE RABBLE into the virtual fold to run a week-long online professional development intensive.

From the comfort of your lounge room, Emma will introduce her practice as a feminist artist and will work with ten workshop participants to develop their own performance ideas and methodologies. The workshop introduces artists to a range of techniques for generating material for performance, offering participants a chance to get feedback and to develop their own ideas throughout the week.

The workshop is geared towards lead artists of all disciplines (directors, writers, performance-makers, composers, choreographers, designers etc) who are interested in learning more about devising, dramaturgy, material generation and feminist practice.

The workshop will run from Monday 27 – Friday 31 July and will be conducted through a series of online sessions alongside guided exercises and development.

## Professional Development cont.

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Each participant will be paid a \$500 stipend for their dedication to the workshop and process and are expected to commit to the best of their abilities.

Emma is the Co-Artistic Director of THE RABBLE and a freelance director, dramaturg and lighting designer. THE RABBLE is a group of visionary women who have consistently produced bold, provocative and visually stunning theatrical experiences. The company has forged an unrivalled reputation for producing experimental theatre of the highest quality – theatre that interrogates the human condition through a combination of surreal and visceral aesthetics, a feminist sensibility, and the application of intellectually rigorous research. The results have shifted the paradigm of what is possible in theatrical culture in Australia.

This workshop is suitable for both emerging and experienced artists, however participants must have previously been a creative leader on a minimum of one professional/independent project (writer, director, co-creator/devisor or co-creator/designer). Participants for this workshop will be selected in consideration of a variation of practices and experiences, in consultation between Emma Valente and The Blue Room Theatre Producing Team.

## How to Apply

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Expressions of Interest for Creative Developments (including the All Ages Theatre Development) are due by 5pm on Wednesday 20 May using THIS FORM.

Successful EOI Meetings and second round applications for Creative Developments will be open Thursday 28 - Friday 29 May. Second Stage Creative Development applications are due Wednesday 10 June and will be conducted via a closed round for invited applicants from successful Expressions of Interest.

Applications for the Podcast Series, and to participate in the Virtual Workshop Intensive with Emma Valente are due 5pm, Friday 29 May, via THIS FORM.

## Contact

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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](mailto:harriet@blueroom.org.au).

# WINTER NIGHTS



## Partners

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Winter Nights is proudly presented with the support of the Minderoo Foundation



### Government Support



City of Perth

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## The Blue Room Theatre