

The Blue Room Theatre presents

# Summer Nights



## Application Info Pack 2023

*The Blue Room Theatre is located on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk peoples of the Noongar Nation. We offer our respect to the Elders of these traditional lands and through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

Image by Nicolee Fox

## **Welcome to Summer Nights 2023**

We are thrilled to announce our curated program of independent theatre and performance, Summer Nights, will return in 2023.

Straddling the scorching seasons of Birak and Bunuru, we come together at The Blue Room Theatre to bask in good company and share in performance: a whirlwind of new collaborations, social commentary, dance, theatrical playfulness, and heartfelt stories.

The Blue Room Theatre (TBRT) has presented 294 works and supported over 2,500 artists over 12 Summer Nights festivals since it started in 2010.

Summer Nights was a FRINGE WORLD registered program from 2012 to 2020. Returning after a year off in 2021, our 2022 festival saw a return to independent presentation. Carrying on from the success of 2022, we will continue to present our festival independently and not register the venue or shows with FRINGE WORLD in 2023.

### **So, what's happening in 2023?**

Summer Nights will run for 3.5 weeks from 20 January – 11 February. We will present 12 new standalone works and 3 programs of short works across our Theatre, Studio and Kaos Room spaces. Season lengths will vary from 5 to 8 shows total.

Short works programs will also feature at Summer Nights, with *MicroMove* and *900 Seconds* making a comeback. For those of you keen to get involved with short works, which are produced by TBRT, there will be a separate Application Pack and Expression of Interest opening in October. The key dates for this opportunity are outlined in the table below.

In 2022, we were able to improve our artist offer and increase hands-on support compared to previous festivals, and you can expect the same in 2023. From producing, marketing, and tech support, including resources and workshops, to a competitive financial deal including in-kind rehearsal space. Each production will share their performance space with only one other production during season, and for those in the Kaos Room, the space is all yours during your run.

We aim to present a program that champions innovative, playful and diverse stories from artists based in Western Australia and—now that borders are open again—artists from interstate.

Artists that have never done a performance season at TBRT are highly encouraged. First time applicants and artists that have any questions on the application process are invited to drop in to our working sessions Friday mornings at TBRT Bar – check the dates below.

We cannot wait to hear what you have in store, and to curate another fantastic season of performance for Summer Nights 2023.

## **Summer Nights Offer**

- No participation registration fee
- A flat \$2.00 inside ticketing fee on all tickets
- A ticketing commission split on net box office 75% to artists; 25% to TBRT
- Up to 50 hours of in-kind rehearsal room hire per production
- Producing, marketing, technical and Front of House (FoH) support and advice
- In-kind venue hire for performance, and in-kind FoH staffing

## **Selection Criteria**

**Applications are assessed by TBRT Program team on the following selection criteria**

1. Creativity – The project demonstrates a clear artistic vision and rationale. Creativity at Summer Nights means fresh ideas, innovative and playful form, new and diverse voices.
2. Development – The project demonstrates a clear opportunity for professional development and growth in artistic practice of the artists and participants involved.
3. Festival ready – The project is suitable for the festival environment including sharing performance spaces and working with limited storage.

## **Eligibility**

- Works between 45-70 minutes in duration
- Theatre, dance, or performance work suited to a black box theatre (Studio and Theatre applicants)
- Theatre, dance, or performance work with a 'stripped-back' aesthetic, and/or 'story-telling' form (Kaos Room applicants)
- Independent productions by project-based producers, companies, and artists rather than annually funded or commercial organisations
- Works that have obtained or sought rights (for existing scripts only)
- Show team becomes TBRT Members (if you are successful)
- Lead applicant can attend our All-In Meeting **Thursday 29 September** to receive key information and meet your fellow cohort! Zoom is available for this meeting if needed

## **Application Form**

See the end of this document for the Application Form

The completed form and support materials are to be emailed to [apply@blueroom.org.au](mailto:apply@blueroom.org.au) by **11:59pm on Tuesday 12 July**

## **Accessibility**

### **Application Form**

Application Forms can be submitted as Word Doc or PDF.

### **Audio and video**

Audio or video formats can also be used to answer the application questions if you prefer

Please note, you must still fill in an Application Form and questions that are answered via video just write “**See audio / video.**” Please limit audio / video answers to 2 min per question or 10min for your application questions in total.

Video and audio can be filmed or recorded on a phone, please do a soundcheck before recording and submitting your questions.

Video and audio can be attached to the application email, or for larger files please provide a link and any permissions required to access it.

### **Bionic Reading**

This Application Pack and Application Form can be supplied in large print or in **bionic reading text**. This typeface can assist neurodivergent readers.

### **Wheelchair Access**

Our office, performance spaces and ground level bathroom are wheelchair accessible.

**If you have further access requirements or questions, please get in touch with our team on (08) 9227 7005.**

## **Assistance with Applications**

### **Summer Nights Applications Working Group**

If it is your first time applying, you have not been successful in a Summer Nights application before, or want some motivation to get the application done, join our weekly working group!

Simply head along to The Blue Room Bar Friday mornings, and a member of our Program team will be there for questions or just a chat. Please note, this is completely optional.

The Blue Room Bar

No RSVP, just drop in

10am - 1pm

Friday 10 June; Friday 17 June; Friday 24 June; Friday 1 July; Friday 8 July

### **Contact Us**

We are here to answer your questions about the eligibility of your project or clarifications about the selection criteria and application process.

If you are unexpectedly unwell or experience some other last-minute interruption that means you will not be able to meet this deadline, and require a few additional days, please contact us prior to the closing time to discuss.

The Blue Room Theatre

Program Coordinator

Amy Howell

[amy@blueroom.org.au](mailto:amy@blueroom.org.au)

(08) 9227 7005

Office House are Tues – Fri, 10am – 5pm

## Key Dates

This timeline also includes key dates for Short Works and Annual Season Applications.

<b>Applications Open – Summer Nights</b>	<b>Wednesday 1 June 2022</b>
Applications Info Session	Wednesday 1 June 2022
<b>Applications Close – Summer Nights</b>	<b>Tuesday 12 July 2022</b>
Applications Open – Annual Season	Wednesday 13 July 2022
Summer Nights Successful applicants notified	By Wednesday 10 August 2022
Applications Close – Annual Season	Tuesday 23 August 2022
Summer Nights Compulsory All-In Meeting	Thursday 29 September 2022
Draft show copy and image concepts due	Wednesday 5 October 2022
Short Works – Expressions of Interest open	Wednesday 12 October 2022
Final copy due	Thursday 13 October 2022
Final hero image due	Wednesday 19 October 2022
TBRT campaign photoshoot (optional attendance)	w/c 24 October 2022
Short Works – Expression of Interest close	Tuesday 1 November 2022
Media release due	Wednesday 2 November 2022
<b>Summer Nights on sale</b>	<b>Wednesday 16 November 2022</b>
Tech form due	Thursday 17 November 2022
TBRT closed for holidays	23 December 2022 – 2 January 2023
Teams become TBRT Members for PLI Insurance	By Tuesday 10 January
Productions bump in	Monday 16 – Thursday 19 January
Housewarming (Summer Nights Opening Night)	Friday 20 January
<b>Summer Nights Season</b>	<b>Friday 20 January – Saturday 11 February</b>
Reconciliations and Debriefing	w/c Monday 20 February

## Summer Nights, Short Works, or the Annual Season?

TBRT offer 3 streams for programming in 2023: Summer Nights, Shorts Works, and our Annual Season. We suggest deciding up front what season works best for your project.

Annual Season: this is our main program that runs April-December. The focus is on a team developing a work over a few months and sustaining a presentation season for up to 15 performances. Teams have exclusive access to the theatres to create their vision.

Summer Nights: it's a summer festival and we want shows that will bring the heat! Works are shorter than the Season, require less tech and can be packed up swiftly before and after. Less marketing and producing experience is required compared to Annual Season.

Short Works: Got a nugget of an idea, but not a full show in sight? This is a supportive program with a mentor to help you test out as part of a showcase line-up at Summer Nights.

## **Marketing and Publicity**

We'll promote the Summer Nights season as a whole using dedicated campaign photography across print and digital mediums including:

- Our Summer Nights brochure, which we distribute far and wide across Perth
- Social media and e-news, talking to 13,500+ engaged Facebook and Instagram followers, 7,000+ subscribers, and 400+ members.

You will have access to How-To guides in the Producer Pack that cover things like media releases, social media strategies and nailing your hero image. We're also here for marketing support and advice – we'll proof all your collateral so info is bang-on, and are happy to recommend publicists, photographers, designers, printers, and distributors.

### **What We'll Need from You**

Each programmed production is responsible for generating marketing material for, and publicising, their show. We'll work with you to advise on the best possible campaign for your show, alongside our dedicated Summer Nights campaign.

Your Best Images: We use your image to sell your show. If you're accepted into Summer Nights 2023, your hero image will be due to us by Wednesday 19 October 2022.

Think About Publicity: You'll be up against hundreds of other shows happening in Perth around the same time – cut through the noise and make yourself heard.

Collateral: We'll create and distribute collateral for the Summer Nights program as a whole, but it's up to you to have your own posters and/or flyers designed, printed, and distributed.

Get Amongst It: Make sure your whole team is on board in promoting your show, start early and go hard. Get them talking about the show with their friends, families, baristas – use your networks! Contribute to discussions on social media and share other people's content



## **Summer Nights at The Blue Room Theatre**

The Blue Room Theatre have been operational for 30+ years and attract audiences who are willing to take risks, enjoy diversity of performance and champion innovation. The theatres are upstairs in our heritage-listed venue adjacent to our renovated bar which is open for walk-ins as well as your audiences. Drinks are cheap and audiences and artists alike hang around post-show to make the most of this fun-filled time of year.

### **Black Box Spaces**

The Blue Room Theatre (61 capacity) and Studio (49 capacity) are intimate and flexible black box spaces.

Please be aware that the seating is fixed and won't be able to shift per performance.

The venues are intimate and can accommodate small-to-medium productions with professional design that do not require a large amount of space for storage. Each venue has an accompanying dressing room which is shared with all productions in that performance space.

### **Kaos Room**

We also program a pop-up performance space in the Kaos Room, downstairs at our venue. The space has previously hosted interactive murder mysteries, dynamic contemporary performance and text-based theatre performance.

Used for public performance, The Kaos Room makes for a cosy experience, suitable for stripped back performances. You will not be sharing the space with another show though, so you can set and forget. The room has a black curtain bordering three walls, with the fourth exposed wall painted black. Its technical capacities include 4x LED RGBWAUv pars, a 48 channel lighting desk, 10-inch powered speakers with a mixer, and a laptop with Qlab4.

The capacity of this room will be approx. 40.

### **Roaming Performances**

In addition, we welcome applications for work that sits outside traditional performance spaces; whether that be outdoors, in a shop front, found spaces, or on the move – as long as the space is in the immediate area of TBRT (e.g., Northbridge).



## **Technical Information & Specifications**

### **Staffing**

We will provide a staff member who will be present for your technical rehearsal and available during all changeovers between shows.

Please be aware that you will need to provide a **Stage Manager** for your project who will be responsible for operating each of your performances.

### **Bump-In and Out**

Each production will be given allocated time for **four hours** to bump in and tech your show.

The bulk of the light and sound will be **pre-rigged** as per specifications outlined in technical information forms you will complete prior to Summer Nights. You will be required to bump-out your show immediately following the final performance of the night you finish your run.

### **Technical Setup**

Pre-rigged lighting and sound and you will have the option for AV in each room.

### **Stage Dimensions**

61 pax Theatre stage dimensions - 7.84m wide x 4.37m deep

49 pax Studio stage dimensions - 7m wide x 5m deep

40 pax Kaos Room stage dimensions – 5m x 5m

### **Seating Plans**

[Download Stage Plan – Theatre](#)

[Download Stage Plan – Studio](#)

[Download Stage Plan – Kaos Room](#)

### **Lighting Plans**

[Download Lighting Plan – Theatre](#)

[Download Lighting Plan – Studio](#)

[Download Lighting Plan – Kaos Room](#)

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **What are the expectations of putting in a video or audio application?**

We don't need anything too slick. Just use your phone or computer to video or record yourself answering the application questions. Each video / audio answers should be no more than 2 minutes long.

### **Will I receive feedback on my application if it's not successful?**

Yes. You will receive notice via email that your application was unsuccessful, but due to the high volume of applications, this will include only brief feedback.

### **Is Summer Nights different to FRINGE WORLD?**

Summer Nights is an independently curated program. In 2023, Summer Nights will not be presented as part of FRINGE WORLD.

### **Do I need to be a member of The Blue Room Theatre to apply for Summer Nights?**

You and your team will need to become members of TBRT if you are successful for the Summer Nights program, but you do not have to become a member prior. Annual membership (\$50 per person) covers you for public liability insurance for the length of your run and gives you access to benefits at TBRT for the year.

### **What are the venue hire costs for Summer Nights venues?**

There are no venue hire costs for Summer Nights productions, and you also have up to 50 hours of in-kind rehearsal room hire on a first come first serve basis. If you need more time than this, space is very cheap at \$10 per hour.

### **Are there any staff costs associated with presenting at Summer Nights?**

TBRT run Front of House, Box Office and The Blue Room Bar at no cost to artists. In addition, we provide a Technical staff member to help with bump ins and outs, as well as changeovers. As mentioned in the Technical section, you will need to supply a Stage Manager to operate the show. If you are successful, we are happy to help you find one.

### **Will you buy my show to be a part of Summer Nights?**

Summer Nights presents works by independent theatre makers, but we are not in the position to buy shows. All artists maintain an independent status and have total artistic control and ownership of their work.

### **What's happening with short works – 900 Seconds and MicroMove?**

*900 Seconds* and *MicroMove* are short works programs produced by TBRT. In 2023 there will be 3 short work programs:

- 900 Seconds: Theatre or text-based works
- 900 Seconds: Late Night – new option for more experimental/performance art works
- MicroMove – Dance and physical works

If you have the nugget of an idea that might not be a fully-fledged festival show, our short works programs could be perfect for you. You will create and present a 15min performance piece (900 seconds) and receive a small seed fund and support from the program mentor.

**If I apply for Summer Nights, can I also apply for The Blue Room Theatre Annual Season and/ or for Short Works?**

These three programs all offer something different. We encourage you to have a think about your project, what conditions best suit your needs.

A successful project in one program cannot apply for another of our programs, however, if you are unsuccessful for Summer Nights, you can review your feedback and apply for either Annual Season or short works. Chat to our programming team about the options.

**Does Summer Nights provide a publicist for my show?**

All successful shows will be part of our extensive marketing campaign but we won't provide a publicist specifically for your show. We do recommend you hire an experienced publicist and can provide you with a contact list.

**If I am coming from the eastern states or overseas, will The Blue Room Theatre pay my flights or accommodation?**

We have limited resources and cannot pay for interstate flights or accommodation. We run a billeting program with our membership base for touring artists and do our best to connect you with a place to stay where possible. We are not accepting overseas applications.

**Can I also apply to be part of FRINGE WORLD 2023?**

Yes, you can. We will program prior to the closing date of FRINGE WORLD opportunities, so if you are not successful with your Summer Nights Application, you can pursue alternatives. If your show is successful, it will be exclusive to the Summer Nights 2023 program during the summer festival period.

**What is the usual amount of money people walk away with?**

Check the [Financial Transparency document](#) to help with your planning.

**How do I increase my show budget?**

Most shows that perform at TBRT as part of Summer Nights apply for [Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries funding](#). We recommend getting used to the processes on their website, marking out important deadlines in your diary and chatting with them about your idea before applying to give you the best shot at receiving a grant.

**RSVP** for our [Info Session with DLGSC on Wednesday 22 June](#) and find about funding practices and get some hot tips. It's happening at 5.30pm here at TBRT.

## **Application Form**

Applications for Summer Nights are due by **11:59pm AWST Tuesday 12 July 2022**.

[Download the Application Form – Word Doc](#)

[Download the Application Form – PDF](#)

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with any of the Application Form, please call us at The Blue Room Theatre on (08) 9227 7005 or email [apply@blueroom.org.au](mailto:apply@blueroom.org.au).

## **What's it like to be part of Summer Nights?**

Here's what some previous Summer Nights artists have said about our festival:

"The resources are outstanding from the documentation - checklists, producer updates etc, to the website, housewarming party, wonderful audiences, loveable staff - there is not an aspect of this space and this program that isn't truly delightful" - Emily Stokoe, *Quokka Apocalypse*

"It felt like being part of a warm, welcoming and inclusive community and the season itself was a privilege to be a part of." – Clea Purkis, *She's Terribly Greedy*

"It's always such a joy to have a reliable and supportive environment to present festival style work." – Sam Nerida, *Mother of Compost*

"I feel certain that my production would not have met the standards it was able to achieve without the support of The Blue Room Theatre. The Blue Room Summer Nights program provided me a great opportunity to elevate my work as an emerging artist, and be inspired by the fantastic shows in the program" - Sian Murphy, *BITE ME*

"I felt really supported as an artist to work within a professional season. The Blue Room Theatre offering rehearsal space is a life-saver, as it can be the hardest thing to arrange as an independent." – Brianna Davis, *Salome δ*

"The environment TBRT creates allows you to feel safe and trusted as an artist, while creating a strong sense of community amongst people in other shows and the audience." – Brianna Davis, *Salome δ*