

The Blue Room Theatre presents

Summer Nights

Hot nights. Hot performance.



Application Info Pack 2024

We acknowledge the land on which The Blue Room Theatre sits, Whadjuk Noongar Boodja and we pay our respect to the elders of this land, past and present. We acknowledge that stories have been shared on these lands for thousands and thousands of years and that our theatre marks a footprint on what will always be Aboriginal land.

Contents

Welcome to Summer Nights 2024	2
Summer Nights Offer	3
Selection Criteria.....	3
Eligibility	3
Summer Nights, the Annual Season or Short Works?	4
Assistance with Applications	4
Key Dates	5
Marketing and Publicity	6
Our Venue & Spaces for Summer Nights	7
Technical Information & Specifications	8
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	9
Accessibility.....	10
Application Form	11

Bionic Reading & Plain English

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

There is also a **Plain English** version of this document. To receive either of these versions, please contact us: apply@blueroom.org.au

The Blue Room Theatre
Perth Cultural Centre
53 James St, Northbridge WA
(08) 9227 7005
www.blueroom.org.au

Office hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am – 5pm

Welcome to Summer Nights 2024

Located in the heart of the Perth Cultural Centre on Whadjuk Noongar boodja, The Blue Room Theatre has been the creative hub of Western Australia's independent theatre and performance scene for 30 years.

We are thrilled to announce our curated festival of independent theatre and performance, Summer Nights, will return in 2024. Straddling the scorching seasons of Birak and Bunuru, we come together at The Blue Room Theatre to bask in good company and share in live performance: a whirlwind of new collaborations, social commentary, dance, theatrical playfulness, and heartfelt stories.

The Blue Room Theatre (TBRT) has presented 306 works and supported over 2,500 artists over 13 Summer Nights festivals since it started in 2010. Carrying on from the success of the last two Summer Nights, we will continue to present our festival independently and not register the venue with FRINGE WORLD in 2023.

Keep reading for everything you need to know about applying for a season within Summer Nights. The Application Form is linked on the final page.

Applications for Summer Nights are due by 11:59pm AWST Tuesday 4 July 2023.

So, what's happening in 2024?

Summer Nights will run for **3.5 weeks from 19 January – 10 February 2024**. We will present a minimum of 12 new standalone works across our Theatre, Studio and Kaos Room spaces. We will also run a Short Works program as part of the festival – applications for this will open later in 2023.

We provide producing, marketing, and tech support, including resources and workshops, and a competitive financial deal including in-kind rehearsal space. Each production will share their performance space with one other production (on average) during the season. Average season lengths are 5 shows.

Summer Nights is all about championing fresh ideas, innovative and playful forms, and red-hot performance. In 2024, we will continue to **program mostly local shows**. If you are an interested interstate artist, please register your interest with our Program Manager [Rose](#).

Artists that have never staged a performance season at TBRT are highly encouraged to apply. First time applicants and artists that have any questions on the process are invited to **drop into our working group on Thursday mornings at TBRT Bar** – check details below.

We cannot wait to hear what you have in store, and to curate another fantastic season of performance for Summer Nights 2024.

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 (air-conditioned) 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, new stories, innovative and playful forms.
2. Development – The project demonstrates a clear opportunity for professional development and growth in artistic practice of the artists and participants involved.
3. Representation – The project involves people from underrepresented communities as artistic leaders of projects and/or within the artistic team, in line with our Equity and Justice Plan – have a read here: [page 13 terms and definitions](#)
4. Planning – The project is doable within the festival deal and environment including sharing performance spaces and limited storage.

PLEASE NOTE: Not all selection criteria will be met by each applicant in an equally strong way. TBRT encourages authenticity and intentionality in creating and presenting work and does not require all successful applications to be strong in all areas. If you have any questions, get in touch.

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/low-tech' aesthetic, and/or 'storytelling' 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 presentation rights (for existing scripts only)
- If successful, team becomes TBRT Members (\$55 each) – covers your PLI
- Lead applicant can attend our All-In Meeting **Thursday 28 September** to receive key information and meet your fellow cohort! Zoom is available for this meeting if needed.

Summer Nights, the Annual Season or Short Works?

TBRT offer 3 streams for programming in 2024: Summer Nights, Shorts Works, and our Annual Season. We suggest deciding up front which season works best for your project.

Summer Nights: it's a summer festival and we want shows that will bring the heat! Works are shorter than the Annual 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 it as part of a showcase line-up at Summer Nights.

Annual Season: this is our main program that runs April-November. 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.

Assistance with Applications

Chat with our Producer

If you have not been the lead applicant on a successful Summer Nights application before and would like to have a one-on-one chat with our Producer, you can book in for a private 15-min meeting to discuss your application.

10am – 12pm

Thursday 8 June; Thursday 15 June; Thursday 22 June; Thursday 29 June

RSVP essential: <https://calendly.com/briannah-br53/applications>

(Zoom option available)

If you're unavailable on Thursday mornings and would like some more information, please reach out to our Acting Producer [Briannah](#) directly.

Summer Nights Applications Working Group

The Blue Room Bar

No RSVP, just drop in

If miss you out on a meeting or just want some motivation/space to get the application done, then join our weekly working group! Simply head along to The Blue Room Bar Thursday mornings, please note this is completely optional.

Information Sessions

Application Info Session Thursday 1 June 2023

5.30 – 6.30pm at The Blue Room Theatre: [RSVP here](#)

**This session will also summarise information on Annual Season and Short Works. Don't worry if you miss this, we will post resources and FAQs at blueroom.org.au/artists/usefulinfo

Grant Writing Info Session with Katt Osborne on Wednesday 28 June 2023

Find out about funding practices and get some hot tips on applying for additional funding.

5.30 – 6.30pm at The Blue Room Theatre: [RSVP here.](#)

Key Dates

This timeline also includes key dates for Annual Season Applications and other opportunities.

Applications Open – Summer Nights	Wednesday 31 May 2023
Applications Info Session	Thursday 1 June 2023
Applications Close – Summer Nights	Tuesday 4 July 2023
Applications Open – Annual Season	Wednesday 12 July 2023
Summer Nights Successful applicants notified	By Wednesday 9 August 2023
Applications Close – Annual Season	Tuesday 22 August 2023
Short Works – Expressions of Interest open	September onwards
Summer Nights Compulsory All-In Meeting	Thursday 28 September 2023
Draft show copy and image concepts due	Wednesday 4 October 2023
Final copy due	Thursday 12 October 2023
Final hero image due	Wednesday 18 October 2023
TBRT campaign photoshoot (optional attendance)	w/c 22 October 2023
Media release due	Wednesday 1 November 2023
Summer Nights on sale	Wednesday 15 November 2023
Tech form due	Thursday 16 November 2023
TBRT closed for holidays	22 December 2023 – 2 January 2024
Teams become TBRT Members	By Tuesday 9 January 2024
Housewarming (Summer Nights Opening Night)	Friday 19 January 2023
Summer Nights Season	Friday 19 January – Saturday 10 February 2023
Reconciliations and Debriefing	w/c Monday 19 February 2023

“Our experience participating in the Summer Nights program was really empowering for our team. We were able to put on a multi-night show for the first time in our careers and the audience reception was overwhelming to say the least. We, as a team, have a renewed energy and sense of purpose, especially knowing that we’re bringing more diversity and culture to the stage. We are eternally grateful for the opportunity to showcase.”

– Kuda Ndlovu, *An Evening of African Poetry and Storytelling, 2023*

Marketing and Publicity

Every year we organise a new campaign concept (2023 was community sports festival!) We promote the Summer Nights festival as a whole using dedicated campaign photography and video 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 14,700+ engaged Facebook and Instagram followers, 6,800+ 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 2024, your hero image will be due to us by Wednesday 18 October 2023.

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.



Our Venue & Spaces for Summer Nights

The Blue Room Theatre has been operational for 30+ years and attracts 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 can be removed from the performance space within 15 minutes of the show ending and 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 (usually used for rehearsals), 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. 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. 30 - 36.

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).

“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, 2020

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 entirely from the venue **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

Approx 30 - 36 pax Kaos Room stage dimensions – 5m x 5m

**Kaos Room Stage Plan to be confirmed with programmed artists.

Seating Plans

[Download Stage Plan – Theatre](#)

[Download Stage Plan – Studio](#)

[Download Stage Plan – Kaos Room L Shape](#)

[Download Stage Plan – Kaos Room End On](#)

Lighting Plans

[Download Lighting Plan – Theatre](#)

[Download Lighting Plan – Studio](#)

[Download Lighting Plan – Kaos Room](#)

“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, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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 and/or general feedback.

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

Only if you are successful. Annual membership (\$55 per person, \$40 renew) covers your public liability insurance for the show and gives you access to benefits at TBRT for the year.

What are the venue hire costs for Summer Nights venues?

None! You also have up to 50 hours of in-kind rehearsal room hire on a first come first serve basis (valued at \$12 per hour for members). You can book additional time, if you need it.

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

None again! We run Front of House, Box Office and The Blue Room Bar at no cost to artists. We provide a Technical staff member to assist you but supply your own Stage Manager.

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

Summer Nights presents works by independent makers, but we do not buy shows. All artists maintain an independent status and have artistic control and ownership of their work.

What's happening with Short Works (also known as *600 Seconds and MicroMove?*)

We will be running a Short Works program of 10 minute works as part of Summer Nights 2024, however details will be confirmed and published later this year.

Does Summer Nights provide a publicist for my show?

We have a festival 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.

Can I also apply to be part of FRINGE WORLD 2024?

Successful Summer Nights shows are exclusive to TBRT in Boorloo during summer. We program before FRINGE WORLD closes so you can still apply there if you would like.

Is there anything else we should be aware of around this time of year?

There will likely be planned renovation work in the Perth Cultural Centre that will impact the area outside of TBRT. Once we know more, we will be in conversation with programmed artists. Our ability to present works within the venue will not change.

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

Check the [Financial Transparency](#) document to help with your planning. Most shows that perform 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. Plus [RSVP](#) to our grant Writing Workshop – 28 June 2023, 5:30pm!

Accessibility

Application Form

Application Forms can be submitted as Word Doc or PDF. See the end of this document for the Application Form.

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 for our reference** – with 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.

Wheelchair Access

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

Contact Us

If you would like to discuss access requirements or have questions about inclusivity, please get in touch with the contact below. We acknowledge this can look different on a case-by-case basis, and we will do our best to accommodate any access/inclusivity-related requests.

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 the application deadline, and require a few additional days, please contact us prior to the closing time to discuss.

The Blue Room Theatre
Acting Producer
Briannah Davis
briannah@blueroom.org.au

(08) 9227 7005

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 10am – 5pm

“The Blue Room staff were extremely supportive and encouraging of the work. They took care of everything related to the venue which allowed us to focus completely on the creative side, which was vital to the success of the work.” – Sam Bruce, Conception 2023

Application Form

Applications for Summer Nights are due by **Tuesday 4 July 2023 11:59pm AWST**.

[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

All the best with your application!



All images provided by Nicolee Fox.

*"It's always such a joy to have a reliable and supportive environment to present festival style work." –
Sam Nerida, Mother of Compost, 2022*