

THE BLUE ROOM THEATRE'S

2026 Season Application Info Pack



*The Blue Room Theatre stands on the lands of the Noongar people of the Bibbulmun Nation.
We acknowledge Elders past and present, and pay our respects
to the continuing culture and contribution that all First Nations people make to the
life of this city and this region.*

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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 The Blue Room Theatre

Who Are We?

Located in the heart of the Perth Cultural Centre in Boorloo, The Blue Room Theatre (TBRT) has been the creative hub of Western Australia's independent theatre and performance scene for over 35 years. We exist to enable the development of performing artists by providing a venue, resources, and support to create and produce new work. Artists are at the centre of our organisation, and we service their needs through support (financial and in-kind), resources, opportunities, advocacy, information, and advice.

Artists and companies whose work is selected for the 2026 Season are offered unparalleled support across all aspects of their production. This information pack details the support provided across venue, tech and production, along with what artists need to bring to the table; it provides information on the application process and the selection criteria which applications will be assessed by; and answers some questions you may have – **so read on!**

Artistic

The goal of our Season is to minimise the risk involved in independently creating new work, while giving creatives artistic autonomy in this pursuit. Administrative advice and support is available in the development of the work, however, ultimately artists are the guardians of their own work and we do not censor or influence your creativity. **TBRT is not the producer of your work.**

Front of House

The Blue Room Theatre provides ticketing and bar staff to work the season, and tickets are sold by our office and front of house staff through our ticketing system, Ferve.

Application Process

There will be **one application form** where you can tick which program/s you are interested in for your project for 2026.

The form is downloadable from the final page of this application pack.

Applications Open: Thursday 1 May 2025
Applications DUE: 11.59pm AWST Tuesday 1 July 2025

Please note this will be the **only** period that TBRT will have applications open for
2026 Summer Nights, Annual Season & Development Incubator.

Programs

You may be at the initial spark of your idea, or you may have a work that is almost ready to be presented. **You can opt-in to be considered for multiple programs** but please note, **your application will only be successful in one program**. We recommend applying for the program/s that resonate most with your project.

SUMMER NIGHTS

- Festival runs across January/ February 2026
- Works between 45 - 60 minutes
- Number of performances: between 1 – 5
- No seed fund
- Standard Festival Lighting Rig with minimal capacity for Tech
- 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 & Bar staffing

ANNUAL SEASON

- Season runs across April - November
- Works between 50 – 90 minutes
- Performance Slot over 1 – 3 weeks, up to 15 performances (*if your idea sits outside of this standard slot, let us know! We are open to programming differently*)
- 160 hours of in-kind rehearsal space
- \$2,500 Seed Fund
- \$300 Mentorship Fee towards an Industry Professional Mentor
- Exclusive use of performance space (including lighting rig)
- Producing, marketing, technical and FoH support and advice
- In-kind venue hire for performance, and in-kind FoH staffing

EVOLVE (As part of Annual Season in partnership with STRUT Dance)

- o Annual Season offer above plus:
 - o Half rehearsal hours at TBRT (80 hours), half at Kings Street Arts Centre (80 hours)
 - o An additional \$2,500 Seed Fund (total of \$5,000)

DEVELOPMENT INCUBATOR

- **Please note:** This opportunity is not for emerging artists
- For works in development aiming to pitch to mainstage venues/ major festivals/ [APAM](#)
- Up to 4 weeks in-kind rehearsal space
- \$8000 Seed Fund
- Producing, marketing, technical and FoH support and advice
- Opportunity to present a showing for invited guests and industry professionals

Selection Process

Projects for Summer Nights & Development Incubator will be assessed **internally** by staff at TBRT.

Projects for Annual Season will be assessed and programmed by an **independent panel of peer assessors**. The panel members change every season and are inducted by our programming team on our organisational values and strategic objectives.

We aim to curate a season of works from artists who are looking to challenge themselves and their form, grow their skills, diversify participation in the arts, and open up conversations with fresh perspectives and experiences.

Season Eligibility

Projects that fit the following criteria can apply for a 2026 Program. Please consider them carefully to assess the eligibility of your project:

- You are an independent artist
- These opportunities are not for annually funded organisations
- Work that has not been presented in WA, including new local and international plays and timely reinterpretations of current and classic texts
- Works that have obtained or sought rights (for existing scripts only)
- If programmed, show teams must become Members of TBRT

Season Selection Criteria

Creativity: The project and artists demonstrate a clear artistic vision and rationale. Applicants can express creativity in a number of ways, including originality in concept, an innovative form or style, timely and relevant themes, and/or representation of diverse voices and perspectives.

Development: The project demonstrates a clear opportunity for professional development and growth in artistic practice of the artists and participants involved.

Planning: The project is realistic and achievable within the time, space, budget and resources.

Selection Criteria	Form Questions
Creativity	1, 2
Development	3, 4
Planning	Planning Section

PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATION - REPRESENTATION

The Blue Room Theatre is committed to equity of opportunity and addressing the underrepresentation of marginalised people in the arts sector. We encourage applications from people with diverse lived experiences.

Assistance with Applications

Chat with our Programming Team

We are here to help you with your application! Our Program & Engagement Manager and Program and Engagement Coordinator will be available for one-on-one meetings to listen to and soundboard your ideas as well as help you to understand and navigate our application and opportunities. **We highly recommend first time applicants to connect with us**, as well as returning artists to discuss how you can take your next steps.

Let's have a phone call, online meeting or even grab a coffee to discuss your thoughts! Please reach out to schedule in these chats with someone from the team: apply@blueroom.org.au

Public Co- Working Space

The Blue Room Theatre Bar is open as co-working space Tuesday – Friday 10am – 5pm with access to photocopying, Wi-Fi and shared kitchen facilities. You are welcome to come and sit down anytime to get some work done in our space! Note that the Bar is open to the public for shows most nights from Tuesday to Saturdays from 6pm to late.

Key Dates and Timelines

Applications Open	Thursday 1 May 2025
Applications Close	Tuesday 1 July 2025
Application Outcomes	August/ September 2025
Summer Nights Season	Jan/Feb 2026
Annual Season & Development Incubator	April – November 2026



ASK by Barbara Hostelek
Image by Andrea Mae

Venue and Tech

The Spaces

The Blue Room Theatre **has two intimate black box performances spaces (Theatre & Studio), and one low fi performance space (the Kaos Room)**. The intimacy of these spaces make them ideally suited for new and emerging artists to develop and showcase new work, and for experienced makers to experiment with something new.

The Theatre (max capacity 61)

The Theatre is the slightly larger of our two performance spaces, the space is 75 square metres with a wooden floor. The entry room to this theatre contains an extraordinary heritage listed floor to ceiling mural painting which can be masked as a backstage area leading to the theatre space through two open doorways.

Theatre list of the available equipment and seating configuration's [here](#).

The Studio (max capacity 49)

The Studio is approx. 70 square metres in size with MDF flooring. The Studio has a small anteroom leading into the space from the bar, and also has entry point connecting to backstage hallway; both doors can be used in performance.

Studio list of the available equipment and seating configuration's listed [here](#).

Kaos Room (max capacity 30 – 36)

The Kaos Room is approx. 25 square metres, it makes for a cosy experience, suitable for stripped back performances. The room has wooden floorboards, a black curtain bordering three walls, with the fourth exposed wall painted black. There is limited capacity for tech in this space.

Kaos Room configuration listed [here](#).

Venue Equipment

The Studio & Theatre have access to an ETC Nomad connected to 3 x 12 way dimmer racks, along with a range of lights including, profiles, fresnels and LEDs; use of 8 CH mixer, speakers, a MacBook Pro with QLab 5 with a full audio and video licence. For the full list of what's available in each space, head to the links below.

The Kaos Room has access to 4x LED RGBWAUv pars, a 48 channel lighting desk, 10-inch powered speakers with a mixer, and a laptop with Qlab4.

Summer nights has less capacity for changing the Lighting Rig. See the links to each space:

[Download Summer Nights Lighting Plan – Theatre](#)

[Download Summer Nights Lighting Plan – Studio](#)

[2025 Theatre LX Asset list](#)

[2025 Studio LX Asset list](#)

Our Technical Coordinator is available to discuss any tech and equipment use your show may require. If you would like more information on the venues tech capacity please contact:

tech@blueroom.org.au

Differences between Summer Nights and Annual Season:

Resources, Technical Support & Finances

	SUMMER NIGHTS (SN)	ANNUAL SEASON (AS)
TECH	Seating Banks fixed in 'standard' position	Seating banks have capacity for alternate set ups
	Lighting rig is set with a capacity for refocus of specials only.	Rigging lights is the responsibility of the artistic team, with greater capacity for a self designed rig
	Minimal capacity for set <i>(must be able to be bumped in and out within 15 mins of showtime)</i>	Exclusive use of performance space <i>(e.g. paint the space, build and leave set & props in space)</i>
	No capacity for set/ prop storage	
	Bump in must be managed within 4 hrs	Bump in and tech occurs across 1 week
	Bump out after final performance	Bump out across 2 days following final performance
	Provide your own Technician/ Stage Manager to tech & operate your season	
FINANCIAL	Receive 75% of box office sales <i>(after ticketing fees and other reimbursable expenses)</i> <i>*If your season sits outside of our typical programming structure these amounts can be negotiated</i>	Receive 70% of box office sales <i>(after ticketing fees and other reimbursable expenses)</i>
	If you are successful in gaining addition funding in support of your project, TBRT's venue commission cost will adjust as follows –	
	\$10,000 – \$25,000 = 70%	\$10,000 – \$25,000 = 65%
	\$25,000 – \$50,000 = 65%	\$25,000 – \$50,000 = 60%
	\$50,000+ = 60%	\$50,000+ = 55%
	Ticket prices estimated to range between \$25 - \$32	Ticket prices estimated to range between \$27 - \$34
	Ticketing Fees inclusive of ticket price promoted and charged to audiences.	
	No Seed Fund	\$2,500 Seed Fund \$300 Mentorship fund to engage with an industry professional
	Check the Summer Nights Financial Transparency Document	Check the Annual Season Financial Transparency Document

FAQs

My project has already been presented in WA, but I want to redevelop and/or expand the work. Is this eligible for a 2026 Season application?

To be eligible for 2026 Season, the project needs to be a West Australian premiere. Remounts and touring works are not eligible, and this existing work would need to be redeveloped to an extent that it would be a new presentation. Within your application, ensure that you advocate for why there is cause to redevelop and/or expand the work.

I am an artist who is based interstate or overseas, can I apply?

Yes, however, we will only be accepting applications from teams where the majority of members are based in WA. Exceptions may be made for roles in the artist team that can be managed remotely.

Will you buy my show to be part of the 2026 Season?

No. TBRT is not able to commission or buy shows; our Season exists for independent artists to create and present new work.

What is the Development Incubator?

Up to 4 weeks of in-kind space to best support the goals of each successful applicant. Upon receiving your acceptance, TBRT staff will meet with you/your team, to negotiate how best to support your development within this opportunity.

If I am programmed, how do I increase my show budget?

Most shows that perform at TBRT apply for [Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries funding](#) (Please note funding body name change occurring mid 2025). We recommend marking out important deadlines in your diary and chatting with them about your idea before applying. TBRT will also prepare a Letter of Support for your application, including a summary of the support we provide your show.

How does the mentorship fund work?

Annual Season teams can apply for a \$300 Mentorship Fund to engage with an industry professional to support the development of skills of an artist/s on the production team. This mentor is not intended to work directly on the project, but instead to advise and teach the skills necessary to complete an aspect of their production. After being programmed, access and use of the fund needs to be rationalised, applied for and approved through TBRT Programming team.

What am I responsible for as a presenting artist at TBRT?

- Administering and managing own budget, inclusive of all additional production costs (set, costume, consumables)
- The communication to and management of the artistic and creative team, including their engagement in the production and contract with the producer
- Meeting production and administration deadlines with TBRT
- Being answerable to the status of the project during its development
- The generation and provision of all show specific marketing materials
- Marketing and Publicising your show
- Delivering a production to their best standard, with rigour in rehearsals and presentation

Accessibility, Application Form & Submission

Application Form

Applications for 2026 opportunities are due:
11.59pm AWST Tuesday 1 July 2025.

2026 Season Application Form: [Download the Application Form Here](#)

Support Material

Mandatory:

- Artist Bios for all confirmed team members

Optional Additional Support Material

- Maximum of two additional pieces of support material
- Refer to Application Form for limitations and specifics

Submit Your Application

Submit **Application Form & Support Material** to: apply@blueroom.org.au

Email Subject: APPLICATION: *Title of your Production_Name of your Presenting Company/ Person*

Application Forms & Support Material 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**.

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.

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 have further questions or experience any technical difficulties, please get in touch with our Programming team below:

Email: apply@blueroom.org.au

Phone: 08 9227 7005

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

All the best with your application! 😊