

The Blue Room Theatre presents

Summer Nights



600 SECONDS 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

600 SECONDS Applications Now Open

After some time off, Boorloo's favourite short works program, 600 SECONDS, will return to Summer Nights in 2023!

If you have the nugget of an idea that might not be a fully-fledged festival show, 600 SECONDS could be perfect for you. You will create and present a 10-minute performance piece and receive a small seed fund and support from a program mentor.

In 2023 there will be three 600 SECONDS programs, with 5 shorts in each program for a total of 15 works. Here's a snapshot of the programs:

- 600 SECONDS – HIIT (High Intensity Interval Theatre), for text-based works, mentored by Andrew Sutherland
- 600 SECONDS – MOVEMOVEMOVE, for movement works, mentored by Janine Oxenham
- *NEW* 600 SECONDS – AFTER HOURS, for more experimental/performance art works, mentored by Ash Baroque

Each program will present in the Theatre for a week during Summer Nights over three consecutive weeks, with HIIT first up, then MOVEMOVEMOVE, finishing with AFTER HOURS.

Through these programs, The Blue Room Theatre will provide opportunities for early and mid-career artists alike, providing a platform for both emerging artists to develop their skills alongside more experienced artists trying something new.

All applicants and pitches should demonstrate a consideration of the selection criteria: their creative vision and a desire to meaningfully engage with the mentorship offer and development opportunities of participating in the programs. More on the selection criteria below.

Timeline

Applications Open	Wednesday 12 October 2022
Applications Close	5pm, Tuesday 1 November 2022
Notification By	Friday 18 November 2022
All In Meeting at The Blue Room Theatre	Thursday 24 November – late arvo
Production Schedule (All Day Tech Rehearsal)	
HIIT	Thursday 19 January 2023
MOVEMOVEMOVE	Monday 30 January 2023
AFTER HOURS	Monday 6 February 2023
Season Dates	
HIIT	Friday 20 – Saturday 28 January 2023
MOVEMOVEMOVE	Tuesday 31 January – Saturday 4 February 2023
AFTER HOURS	Tuesday 7 – Saturday 11 February 2023

Contact

Once you've read this information pack, we're more than happy for you to get in touch. If you'd like to discuss the program and artist offer, get in contact with Producer Amy at amy@blueroom.org.au or on 9227 7005.

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 8 min 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.

How it works

600 SECONDS is an independent initiative by The Blue Room Theatre presented as part of our Summer Nights festival.

Applications are welcome from artists from emerging to experienced, from any performance practice, discipline, or form, who have an idea they want to explore and can engage and benefit from the mentorship.

Programming – Each program of works will be selected by The Blue Room Theatre Program Team and the relevant curator/mentor.

Support – Artists will receive a \$500 seed fund, plus individual mentorship and with the curator/mentor. Each project can access up to 10 hours of in-kind rehearsal room hire at The Blue Room Theatre, on a 'first-in best-dressed' basis.

Venue & Tech – all three programs will be present in the Theatre black box performance space at The Blue Room Theatre. Programmed artists will have access to technical support and a dedicated technical operator for the performance season. Technical rehearsals will be scheduled as per dates in the timeline above, and the venue will be set up with a festival rig (general wash with a few specials) with access to a fixed projector and a sound system.

Marketing & Publicity – The Blue Room Theatre is responsible for marketing and publicising the season, and we encourage programmed 600 SECONDS artists to promote and share their season with their own networks.

The Work – We expect that artists will enthusiastically develop and present a high-quality short work that engages with the mentorship offer throughout the creative process, and are available for key milestones outlined in the timeline above.

Mentoring – Artists will need to coordinate the timing and structure of their mentoring sessions with their Mentor. Each artist will get 2 x 2hr sessions with their Mentor. The Mentors will also have some capacity for email correspondence, providing feedback on things synopses/ scripts or bouncing around design ideas.

Meet the Mentors/Curators

The three Mentors are looking for artists who want to develop their existing practice or engage in new and unexplored mediums, discovering the most effective way to express an idea. They will quickly immerse themselves in the imagined world of your work and help you find the tools, questions, and methodologies that will manifest your vision. They encourage artists to approach this opportunity with a spirit of experimentation, risk taking, and collaboration.

Andrew Sutherland – HIIT (High Intensity Interval Theatre)

Andrew Sutherland (he/they) is a Queer Poz (PLHIV) writer and performance-maker creating work between Boorloo, Western Australia and Singapore. His collaborative performance works include *Salome delta*, *Mother of Compost*, *small & cute oh no*, *30 Day Free Trial*, *Poorly Drawn Shark*, *Unveiling: Gay Sex for Endtimes* and *a line could be crossed and you would slowly cease to be* (Intercultural Theatre Institute 2019, Esplanade Singapore 2021).

As a poet, Andrew was awarded *Overland's* Fair Australia Poetry Prize 2017, placed third for the Tom Collins Prize 2021 and runner-up in the Gwen Harwood Poetry Prize 2022. His poetry, fiction and non-fiction can be found in a raft of national and international literary journals and anthologies, including *Cordite*, *Westerly*, 聲韻詩刊 *Voice & Verse*, *Running Dog*, *Fourteen Hill's* Queer Sci-Fi issue, *EXHALE: an anthology of Queer voices from Singapore*, and Margaret River Press' *We'll Stand in That Place*. His debut collection, *Paradise (point of transmission)*, was published by Fremantle Press in August 2022. He is grateful to reside on Whadjuk Noongar boodja.

Janine Oxenham – MOVEMOVEMOVE

Janine Oxenham is a Malgana Yamatji woman from the Shark Bay area in WA. She has studied dance at both NAISDA college, NSW and WAAPA, WA.

She has choreographed and performed as a freelance contemporary Indigenous dancer for numerous festivals in regional WA. In 2015 she mounted the work *Willy Willy* as part of the Ausdance's Future Landings project. She has facilitated community dance groups and performed as part of the core crew for the travelling festival Gascoyne in May for the past 9 years.

More Recently, Janine has worked as Movement Director and choreographer for Yirra Yaakin (YY) and Perth Festival productions of *Hecate* and *Panawathi Girl*. She is currently working on various independent projects including working on telling stories of the Gondwana link with Annette Carmichael Projects, Josh Pether's experimental durational work *The Reckoning* and her own work *Contours*, created of and for Country of the Gascoyne.

Ash Baroque – AFTER HOURS

Infamously revered as The Prize Vulgarian, Ash Baroque is a theatre artist, creative director and producer. His work oscillates between provocative anarchy and tender ruminations on the human condition. Baroque's performance proposes a myriad of questions and confronts a vast array of subject matter, whilst plotting a revenge fantasy on the patriarchy. Born from queer art punk, Ash's powder-keg persona is an homage to hedonism, reclaiming the individualist amidst an increasingly homogenised society.

An authentic radical! In 2009, founder Ash Baroque & co-director Strykermeyer birthed Voix de la Ville. Together they devoted their energy into fostering a space that facilitated visibility for queer arts and a platform for alternative performance. Throughout the last decade, they produced a plethora of performance works and parties. In 2019, Voix de la Ville's final instalment "Bonfire of the Vanities" was presented in the opening program of The Rechabite.

Most recently, Ash Baroque supported Methyl Ethel throughout their national tour of Australia, adding to his growing list of performance spaces; Glastonbury (UK), NYC Downlow (UK), Kashpoint (UK), Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras (NSW), Perth Festival (WA) amongst many more...

Which Program is Right for You?

HIIT (High Intensity Interval Theatre)

In the spirit of storytelling and connectedness, crack open the kernel of a great idea you've been sitting on and bring it to life with a generosity of spirit and an openness to fun, truth and chaos. For theatre and other text-driven performance work.

MOVEMOVEMOVE

This program of works will be curated with a strong physical current. This encapsulates work that has a deep consideration of its physical and spatial architecture; an innovative play with blocking; stylised interaction of performance with its space; to pure physical theatre or dance of any style.

AFTER HOURS

This program is inspired by late night forms of entertainment that don't necessarily fit into text or movement-based pieces. This could include anything from club-style spots such as drag and cabaret, performance art, to comedy bits. This is a brand-new program for the night owls lurking after hours.

Interested in 600 SECONDS?

Eligibility

Projects that fit the following criteria are eligible to apply for a short works presentation. Please consider them carefully to assess the eligibility of your project.

- Works in development that will culminate in a 10-minute (maximum!) short presentation as part of a larger program
- Works from artists based locally in Western Australia/Perth
- Theatre, dance, or performance work suited to a black box theatre
- Show team must become The Blue Room Theatre Members (if you are successful)
- You can attend our All-In Meeting **Thursday 24 November** to receive key information, meet your Mentor, and meet your fellow cohort!

Selection Criteria

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
- The skills and abilities of the people involved are artistically and professionally suited to the activity which is realistic and viable

Development

- Makes good use of the mentorship opportunity and format of the relevant short works program
- The project demonstrates a clear opportunity for professional development and growth in artistic practice of the artists and participants involved

Is it doable

- Each program has 5 short works per program. Can you tech it in 1.5 hours and get in and out at 10min max? We are looking for big ideas that can be made compact.

How to Apply

Applications for all three Programs are **due by 5pm WST, Tuesday 1 November**.

Applicants are welcome to respond to the application questions via a written form or a recorded video depending on their preference, strengths and accessibility needs.

Please follow the relevant form link below depending on the application medium - the questions are the same, however video applications still need to respond to a few small written questions and checkboxes that aren't worth speaking to in video form.

Video responses answering to the application questions should be no longer than eight minutes in length (total) and provided via an accessible online link. They should be simply recorded on a smart phone – production values will not be assessed.

Within the framework of the leading questions, each application should aim to respond to the selection criteria above.

Applications are required to submit the following support material:

- Biographies of all confirmed team members (compiled into one document, up to two pages).
- For dance and movement-based applications, up to 5 minutes video footage demonstrating your practice.
- For other applications, up to five written pages (for example, a script segment, score, creators' statement) OR up to 5 minutes video footage demonstrating your practice.

Head [here](#) to submit a written application

Head [here](#) to submit a video-based application

FAQs

Are these programs part of Summer Nights?

Yes! 600 SECONDS will be presented as part of the Summer Nights festival in 2023, with each week of the festival a different program.

The last time The Blue Room Theatre ran a short works program was back in 2021, when we were having a year off Summer Nights and short works was presented as a standalone season. When Summer Nights returned in 2022, short works was missing. We're stoked Summer Nights and short works will be back together in 2023!

Note, Summer Nights—and therefore 600 SECONDS—is *not* being presented as part of FRINGE WORLD Festival 2023.

Can I apply as an interstate applicant?

These programs are only open to local artists in WA.

Can I apply for more than one short-works program, or with more than one work?

Artists are welcome to apply for multiple programs, multiple times, however a different application must be submitted for each work, and each work must be different. Artists are strongly encouraged to genuinely consider and respond to each individual program intentions when framing and pitching their work for competitive applications.

I've been part of a previous Short Works Program produced by The Blue Room Theatre, can I still apply for 2023?

You absolutely can! If you're an artist with a few years of experience under your belt, use 600 SECONDS to experiment with a new style or form. As long as you can address the Selection Criteria and demonstrate the learning and development opportunity for you and your practice, you will be considered.

Can I also apply to be part of FRINGE WORLD 2023 if I am in the Summer Nights 600 SECONDS Program?

Yes, you can, if the Tech Rehearsal and Presentation dates (in the timeline above) do not clash with your FRINGE WORLD season. Note – the idea you pitch to 600 SECONDS will need to be exclusive to the Summer Nights 2023 program during the summer festival period.

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.

Do I need to be a member of The Blue Room Theatre to apply for 600 SECONDS?

You and your team will need to become members of The Blue Room Theatre if you are successful for a 600 SECONDS 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 The Blue Room Theatre for the year.

Will I get a Summer Nights 2023 Artist Pass if I am selected to participate in 600 SECONDS?

You sure will! Perks you'll get during festival include discounted drinks and toasties at our bar, cheaper tickets to Summer Nights shows, and the ability to use your pass to get into shows that have capacity.