

600 SECONDS



Application 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.

Image by Aaron Claringbold

600 SECONDS Applications Now Open

Our Short Works Program, 600 SECONDS will return to Summer Nights in 2024!

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.

Each program will present in the Theatre over a week during Summer Nights. Artists will be supported by The Blue Room Theatre and their program mentor to test out their idea in a lineup format set against the backdrop of a fun and exhilarating festival environment.

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.

In 2024 there will be two 600 SECONDS programs, with 5 short works in each program.

Which Program is Right for You?

1. 600 SECONDS – *MAKES*

Produced by The Blue Room Theatre

Mentored by Ofa Fotu

For live performance works

Jan 29 – Feb 3

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. We are excited to see all kinds of genres of performance presented in the 2024 Season!

2. 600 SECONDS – *MOVES*

Produced by The Blue Room Theatre in Partnership with STRUT Dance

Mentored by James O'Hara & Sofie Burgoyne

For body-based/ movement works

Feb 5 – Feb 10

This program of works will be curated with a strong physical current. This encapsulates work that have a deep consideration of 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.

**Applications for both Programs are due by 5pm WST,
Tuesday 17 October.**

How it works

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 **\$750** seed fund, plus at least **4 hours** of **individual mentorship** with the curator/mentor.

Each project in **600 SECONDS – MAKES** can access up to **15 hours** of in-kind rehearsal room hire at **The Blue Room Theatre**, on a 'first-in best-dressed' basis.

Each project in **600 SECONDS – MOVES** will be able to access **15 hours** of in-kind rehearsal room hire at **Kings Street Arts Centre**. This will be booked through **STRUT Dance**.

Venue & Tech – Both programs will 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 below, 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 – The emphasis is on testing an idea. We expect that artists will enthusiastically develop and present a short work (10min max) that engages with the mentorship throughout the creative process and be available for key milestones outlined in the timeline below.

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, and will be there for the tech rehearsal to help with feedback on direction.

Timeline

Applications Open	Tuesday 26 September 2023
Applications Close	5pm AWST, Tuesday 17 October 2023
Compulsory All In Meeting at The Blue Room Theatre	Tuesday 7 November – 5.30 – 6.30pm
Tech Rehearsals 600 SECONDS - <i>MAKES</i> 600 SECONDS - <i>MOVES</i>	Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 January 2024 Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 February 2024
Season Dates 600 SECONDS - <i>MAKES</i> 600 SECONDS - <i>MOVES</i>	Wednesday 31 January – Saturday 3 February 2024 Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 February 2024

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.

600 SECONDS - MAKES **With Ofa Fotu**

Ofa Fotu has been working as an artist and creative professional for the past 15 years. In order to survive and thrive within her career locally, nationally and internationally, she has fulfilled varying roles including; Front woman and vocalist of multiple nationally nominated & WAM award winning soul outfit “Odette Mercy & Her Soul Atomics”. Collaborator and Ensemble Performer (singing, dancing, acting, physical performer) of internationally acclaimed, Green Room and Helpmann award winning theatre production, “Hot Brown Honey”. Events Manager, Arts Manager, Consultant, Guest Programmer and Musical Director for local councils such as City of Vincent, City of Fremantle, City of Swan, City of Joondalup.

“Whether on stage or behind the scenes, I’ve accumulated a vast and rich currency of experience. Success in the Arts Industry not only requires talent but, resilience, being commercially savvy, and the continual professional development in as many general areas crossing disciplines and platforms as possible. I would love to share my knowledge and experience with those keen to learn and upskill in the industry.”



Image by Leo Flander

600 SECONDS - MOVES

In partnership with STRUT Dance

This year The Blue Room Theatre will be partnering with STRUT Dance for the movement-based short works program. The mentors for this program will be STRUT Dance Co-Directors James O'Hara and Sofie Burgoyne.

STRUT Dance is a choreographic centre based in Boorloo, STRUT's purpose is to nurture and sustain a thriving community of diverse dance artists and connect them with audiences to share their work. Their vision is a local, national and global network of dynamic dance artists whose work reflects and contributes to our understanding of the world and celebrates dance as a driver of human connection. As Co-Directors, James O'Hara and Sofie Burgoyne bring a breadth of vision reflecting their respective careers. James has worked for 20 years with the most celebrated dance artists of our time on the world's great stages while Sofie's independent practice has been focused on research, producing dance in regional Australia and site-specific curation. STRUT champions diverse voices, experimental practice and cross artform collaboration and in doing so develops new audiences and new understanding of what contemporary dance can be and who it is for.



Image by Emma Fishwick

James O'Hara has been a collaborator his entire career. With 20 years of experience as a dance performer, teacher, choreographic assistant and director, James is immersed in dance communities all around the world. Born and raised between the Swan River and the Indian ocean in Walyalup (Fremantle) WA, James was a member of Ballet Junior de Genève and recipient of a Princess Grace Foundation Bursary in 2004. He has worked with Ballet Preljocaj, Matthew Lutton (Malthouse, Melbourne), Ross McCormack (Muscle Mouth, NZ), Yang Liping (China), Marina

Abramović (USA) and Stephanie Lake (Australia). As a guest he has performed with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet/Ohad Naharin, The Australian Ballet/Gideon Obarzanek, The Norwegian National Ballet, The Paris Opera Ballet and The Bolshoi Theatre. He has collaborated extensively as both performer and assistant with Marina Mascarell, Michael Keegan-Dolan (Teac Damsa), Damien Jalet and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (Eastman). Growing up involved in STEPS Youth Dance Company in Perth, a collaboration that continued for over 16 years, fuelled a passion for youth dance and ignited his investment in community engagement. He was Assistant Director at the National Youth Dance Company at Sadler's Wells (London) 2015-17 and has taught at many universities and institutions throughout the world. James was a full time tutor at the New Zealand School of Dance 2017-18. James has made works with STEPS, Cross Connections (Copenhagen), Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts, University of Melbourne, New Zealand School of Dance, Purchase (NY), Transformation Montreal, Footnote Dance (alongside Eliza Sanders), and with the Royal New Zealand Ballet. He has been nominated for Helpmann, Green Room, and Australian Dance Awards and is a recipient of a West Australian Dance Award. James was Co-Artistic Director of the New Zealand Dance Company from 2020-2022. James commenced as STRUT Dance Co-Director in June 2022.

Sofie Burgoyne is an artist and cultural worker with a background in dance and choreography who gestures towards culture and community through performance, creation, collaboration, curation, and teaching. Sofie's choreographic work has been presented in the USA, UK and throughout Australia and she has worked internationally as a performer with choreographers such as Miguel Pereira, Eszter Salamon, Thomas ES Kelly, Theo Clinkard and Jean Claude Gallotta. Sofie has collaborated with a number of visual artists and institutions including Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Dark Mofo, Constance ARI, Pope Alice, A Published Event, Diana Baker Smith and Seaborg, with music group "Group A", with theatre companies Frantic Assembly, Erth Visual and Physical Inc., Terrapin Puppet Theatre and the Channel 3 (UK) television series, 'HUMANS'. In 2021, Sofie completed a Masters in Choreography with a specialisation in New Performative Practices at Stockholm University of the Arts and previously completed a Graduate Diploma of Art in Public Space at RMIT University (2019) and a Bachelor of Arts (Dance) at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (2006). Recent artist credits include a curatorial role for 'Rehearsing the future' at Contemporary Art Tasmania, authoring a publication 'Red Sandstone' for A Published Event's 'Lost Rocks' project as well as the choreography and staging of 'Close Encounters' for Pope Alice at Dark Mofo 2021 and 2022. Sofie commenced as STRUT Dance Co-Director in June 2022

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 Perth
- Theatre, dance, or live 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 **Tuesday 7 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

Planning

- 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 both Programs are **due by 5pm WST, Tuesday 17 October.**

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 the application questions should be **no longer than eight minutes** in length (total) and provided via an accessible online link.

Applications are required to submit the following support material:

- **Biographies** of all confirmed team members (compiled into one document, up to two pages).
- For 600 SECONDS – *MAKES* applications, **up to five written pages** (for example, a script segment, score, creators' statement) **OR** up to 5 minutes video footage demonstrating your practice.
- For 600 SECONDS – *MOVES* applications, **up to 5 minutes video footage** demonstrating your practice.

Accessibility

Application Form

Application Forms can be **submitted via the JotForm link below**, otherwise emailed to our Producer Briannah (see below) in a 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 responses. Video and audio can be attached to the application email, or for larger files please provide a link and any permissions.

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

**This includes 600 SECONDS – MOVES applicants with a separate section for video support material

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

**Click here to submit a video/voice memo answering the selection criteria

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, artist offer, or any further accessibility requirements **then get in contact with our Producer Briannah at briannah@blueroom.org.au or on 9227 7005.**

FAQs

Are these programs part of Summer Nights?

Yes! 600 SECONDS will be presented as part of the Summer Nights festival in 2024.

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 intention 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 2024?

You absolutely can! 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 2024 if I am in the Summer Nights 600 SECONDS Program?

Yes, you can, if the Tech Rehearsal and Presentation dates 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 2024 program during the summer festival period.

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 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 2024 Artist Pass if I am selected to participate in 600 SECONDS?

You sure will! Perks you'll get during the 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.