

guidelines



The **Queer Playwriting Award** (formerly Playtime) is an exciting initiative presented by Gasworks Arts Park and Midsumma Festival that encourages the creation and development of original Australian theatre with a queer focus.

Background

The **Queer Playwriting Award** is a partnership between Gasworks Arts Park and Midsumma Festival, which cements many years of Midsumma arts events every summer at Gasworks. We frequently attend performing arts markets and showcases, and have noticed that the plays presented for touring to mainstream audiences seldom deal with queer themes.

It is time to change that!

The **Queer Playwriting Award** aims to identify, support and develop new talent and get queer issues out there

for mainstream audiences to consider and enjoy. The LGBTQIA+ community is diverse, exciting and has stories and ideas that deserve to be heard on the stages of performing arts venues throughout the country. This is the chance you have been waiting for to tell a bold, funny, new, important, or exciting story to Australian theatre audiences.

The Opportunity

Creators of new or developing works of theatre are invited to submit their proposals for consideration by a panel of supportive industry professionals. If you have an idea for a show, a completed script, or anything in between, we want to hear from you. Up to 4 works will be selected by the industry panel, and invited to present a 15 minute staged reading on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at Gasworks Arts Park as part of Midsumma Festival. One work will be selected to receive ongoing support and development with a view to becoming a full-scale work to be presented in Midsumma Festival 2021 or beyond. The ultimate aim of the **Queer Playwriting Award** is to tour the work nationally to expose it to a wide range of metropolitan, regional and rural audiences.

Get Involved

Read through the eligibility requirements and selection criteria on the following pages and then submit your application online at www.gasworks.org.au/queer-playwriting-award

If you have any queries, contact Gasworks Arts Park on 03 8606 4200 or email marisa@gasworks.org.au

Applications close **Sunday 8 September 2019**, and applicants will be notified of the outcome by late September.

Tickets for the **Queer Playwriting Award Showcase** on **Tuesday 28 January 2020** at Gasworks Arts Park will be on sale from mid-November 2019 in line with the official Midsumma 2020 program launch.

For updates and more information, keep an eye on the Gasworks and Midsumma websites, and follow us on social media.



selection criteria

Queer themes

It is important that your work incorporates an exploration of queer themes in some way. Obviously how you achieve this is up to you. The panel will be looking for works that progress audience understanding of queer issues.

Audience appeal

To ensure the longevity of your work, it is vital that it appeals to a range of audiences. This doesn't mean that everyone has to love it, but consider where this show may be seen in the long-term - for example, your show may end up touring rural Australia, it may end up playing to a variety of age groups, and so on. If your work only appeals to a very specific market segment, it will be challenging to expose it to a broad audience. The panel will be looking for works that have a broad appeal, and that can be experienced by a range of audiences.

Authenticity

We are eager to uncover original, unique and authentic stories. The panel will be looking for works that clearly communicate engaging stories or captivating commentary upon current or historical events.

Style

While your work may not have a design concept in mind, it is important to consider the look of your work. The panel will be looking for works that aim for arresting style in design and/or visual presentation. Remember that a dynamic visual presentation and design does not necessarily mean a huge budget! The panel is looking for creative ways of creating dynamic productions. Design elements are not expected to be realised. If your work is selected for the showcase, as this takes the format of rehearsed readings. Think about style in terms of how the work might look if it were to go on to a creative development and full-scale production.

Accessibility

It is often said that the best stories are those of universal appeal. While you are welcome to tell your personal story, remember to transcend personal expression in order to create work that is of interest to an audience.

Excellence

Are you dedicated to your idea? Passionate about the arts and queer issues? Committed to creative development? Yes? Perfect, you've just fulfilled this criteria. The panel will be looking for dedication to excellence in craft.

Creative team

The panel will be looking for a creative team which radiates energy and passion.

Capacity to tour

The long-term aim for this program is to tour your work, so keep this in mind from the very beginning. If your show features a cast of ten people and takes three days to bump in, it will be difficult to create an efficient and affordable tour. Be conscious of the logistics of your show; particularly complicated tech requirements, large scale casts and set/design requirements.



eligibility

Conditions of Entry

- Entries are welcome from people who identify as GSD (gender and sexually diverse) as well as allies.
- The creative team must be based in Victoria and generally available during January to develop and rehearse in readiness for the public showing on Tuesday 28 January 2020.
- Your submission must be an original Australian work that has yet to be professionally produced.
- If your application is successful, you will be required to sign a document outlining the Terms and Conditions of the opportunity on offer. You will also be required to confirm that if any music or script rights clearances are required for public presentation of your work, those licenses have been obtained.
- If your work is selected for the showcase, Midsumma Festival and Gasworks Arts Park will provide the venue, MC, Front of House staff and operating technician free of charge. While the event will be promoted in the Midsumma Guide and on the Midsumma and Gasworks Arts Park websites, selected artists are encouraged to contribute to event promotion through their own networks.
- Applications are accepted via the online portal only.
- The panel's decision is final and no communication or correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection or judging of the selected applications.



Image credits: Suzanne Balding (*The Book of Ducks* by Glenn Saunders, Playtime 2019)