

THEATRE WORKS

Directors Lab: Melbourne is an intensive creative laboratory for professional theatre directors from Australia and around the world, taking its model from the long-running Lincoln Center Directors Lab. Following its successful inaugural delivery in 2015, and a fantastic follow-up year in 2016, Directors Lab: Melbourne returns for the third time in 2017; running in tandem and in partnership with Melbourne Festival.

The dates for the 2017 Lab are **October 15 – 22**. The schedule includes: masterclasses, dynamic conversations, investigations, creative explorations and facilitated discussions following various Melbourne Festival shows attended by the participants. Directors will be actively involved as participants and presenters; sharing their skills, methodologies and techniques with a community of national and international directors.

This opportunity is open to professional theatre directors and is without charge. For more insight into the Lab, check out our [short video](#) from last year's lab. To get in touch, email directorslab@theatreworks.org.au

Applications for the 2017 Lab open 1 July, 2017

ELIGIBILITY

The Lab is a professional development opportunity for directors who have several years experience working in live performance, including: theatre, dance theatre, community theatre, devising, opera, circus and puppetry.

We are interested in directors with unique and refined working processes from varied artistic traditions and diverse cultural backgrounds. We welcome interstate and international applications.

THE COMMITMENT

The 2017 Lab will run from 8am – 8pm over 8 consecutive days from October 15 - 22. When applying for the Lab, please take into consideration that this is a full-time commitment and you must be available and committed for the full 8 days.

THE 2017 EXPLORATION

Each year, the Lab takes a different subject/s as a point of exploration. This year's exploration:

MANIFESTO!

Exploring community, resistance and utopian futures.

The 2017 Lab will explore the role of declaration, organisation, resistance, community and protest – in our art and in our culture. What role does art play in imagining utopian/dystopian futures? How are communities dissembled/built in crisis? How does our theatre, our art, challenge and reinforce our culture's status quo? What does complicity and complacency look like? What is the place for rebellion, in form and content? How do you speak the truth in a hostile environment? How do we unite and work together as theatre makers? How do we move the culture forward?

COSTS

Directors Lab: Melbourne is a free development opportunity for successful applicants. However, please note that any living, transport, travel and accommodation costs associated with attending the Lab must be met by participants.

TRAVEL & ACCOMODATION SUPPORT

We have a limited amount of bursary funding available to support regional and interstate directors who may not be able to attend the Lab without financial assistance. If you think you will need help and support getting to Melbourne, and/or finding a place to stay while you're here, please indicate so on the application form. Note that any bursary granted will only be a part-contribution to costs and that accommodation is likely to be privately sourced, i.e. the spare room of a local director rather than a hotel.

ABOUT THIS APPLICATION

Directors Lab: Melbourne is an active exchange between directors from across Australia and around the world. You will work with other directors as collaborators and be involved in open conversation about the craft. You may also be asked to lead or co-lead a session. This is not an opportunity to secure work, or a showcase, it's about you and your development. To deepen the exchange, finding directors working across the full spectrum of live performance is important to the success of the Lab. We want to expose you to different ways of working; different mediums, methodologies and different views. When we assess the applications we will look for a diversity of experience and thought to ensure that the final group of directors will inspire, challenge and inform one other.

The information and ideas you share in your application are confidential to the selection panel. We invite you to be as honest as you can. As well as helping us to pull together a dynamic group of people, the application form is your opportunity to tell us what the best version of the Lab would be for you. So don't hold back.

Tell us what you think we need to know (and enough for us to get a sense of who you are), what you want from this experience, and why it's important to you at this point in your career.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this application, or have a general question about Directors Lab: Melbourne, email Belinda Kelly at directorslab@theatreworks.org.au or 0422 557 127.

Applications close 28 August 2017.

Directors Lab: Melbourne is developed by Theatre Works and presented in partnership with Melbourne Festival.

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