

# **THE PHILIP PARSONS YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT'S AWARD**

## **GUIDELINES for 2009**

The Philip Parsons Young Playwright's Award and Memorial Lecture commemorate the life's work of Philip Parsons AM (1926-1993). Dr Parsons was an influential teacher and mentor to many of the students, scholars, actors, directors and playwrights who created the new wave of theatre and drama in the 1970's. Both the Award and Lecture are part of the artist development activities of Company B.

The Award is presented each year to a playwright under the age of 35, whose work demonstrates an original and compelling theatrical voice. The Award money (\$5,000) forms part of a commissioning fee for the writer, with a view to developing a new work.

**In 2009, applications will be accepted from writers whose plays have been produced in Australia or internationally within the last year.**

**Submitted plays will be assessed by the Award panel and shortlisted writers chosen on the strength of these works.**

**Shortlisted writers will be asked to submit a 1-2 page treatment for a proposed new work.**

### **CRITERIA**

- Writers must be under 35 years of age on **31 May 2009**.
- Writers must be NSW residents.
- Writers may submit one play only. This work must have been produced as a season by a professional or co-operative company in Australia or overseas between **1 June 2008** and **31 May 2009** (\*see clarification below).
- The running time of the play must be no less than 45 minutes.
- There is no restriction on theme, style or genre. We are interested in vital, contemporary theatre that is strongly written, socially relevant, compelling, entertaining and challenging for our audiences.
- Team writing is eligible, but for the purposes of the commission, work needs to be submitted in written form and the creators of the work must be formally identified.

### **\*What constitutes an eligible season/production?**

Company B acknowledges that the independent scene provides valuable production opportunities for many developing writers. To be eligible for the Award, a playwright's work may have been produced by a professional mainstream company or by a co-operative at a fringe venue in Australia or overseas. For the purposes of assessment, a co-operative is identified as a team of independent theatre makers, furthering their professional development or interests.

The production must constitute a season; ie plays that have been given one-off showings or moved/rehearsed readings are not considered produced works. The production season may have commenced prior to 1 June 2008, but some performances need to have taken place within the specified period and before the cut-off date of 31 May 2009.

### **DATES AND DEADLINES**

**31 JULY 2009** Award applications close  
**21 AUGUST 2009** Shortlisted writers notified

Shortlisted writers will then be required to submit a 1-2 page treatment for a proposed new work within two weeks. The Award recipient will be announced at the Philip Parsons Memorial Lecture in October.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Download the application form or email [bsharp@belvoir.com.au](mailto:bsharp@belvoir.com.au) to request one to be sent to you.

#### **Applications must include:**

- The completed application form.
- 2 x A4 single-sided photocopies of the produced script, without staples or binding. Text should be double-spaced in 12 point legible font (Courier, Times New Roman, Arial or Verdana). Pages must be numbered.
- A current CV.

### **ASSESSMENT**

- Applications will initially be assessed and shortlisted by Company B's Downstairs Theatre Director, Artistic Associate and Literary Associate.
- Shortlisted writers will be asked to prepare a 1-2 page treatment for a proposed new work and to submit this within 2 weeks of being shortlisted.
- Shortlisted works and treatments will be assessed by the full Award panel which is comprised of Company B's Artistic Director, Artistic Associate, Downstairs Theatre Director, Literary Associate, Associate Artists and an external peer.
- The full panel will decide the Award recipient.

## **OUTCOMES**

Company B will negotiate a schedule for the new commission work with the Award winner. The fee for a successfully completed commission is \$10,000. The winner receives the initial \$5,000 award money when the commission is contracted, and \$2,500 upon successful delivery of a first draft. An assessment of the work by Company B determines if the commission will proceed to a further draft and a final payment of \$2,500.

As the Award is a development initiative, Company B will provide guidance, dramaturgical assistance and other forms of script development support.

### **Applications must be received by 6PM FRIDAY 31 JULY 2009**

**Philip Parsons Young Playwright's Award 2009**  
**Company B**  
**18 Belvoir Street**  
**Surry Hills NSW 2010**

**Enquiries:**

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