

THE PHILIP PARSONS YOUNG PLAYWRIGHT'S AWARD

GUIDELINES for 2012

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 Belvoir.

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 (\$12,500) forms a commissioning fee for the writer, with a view to developing a new work with support from Belvoir's artistic staff.

In 2012, 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 treatment of up to five pages for a proposed new work.

CRITERIA

- Writers must be Australian citizens currently resident in New South Wales or persons holding permanent residence visas currently resident in New South Wales. (*Note: Persons who are temporarily overseas or outside of New South Wales may apply, provided that they can demonstrate that New South Wales is their primary place of residence and that they are otherwise eligible*).
- Although the Award is usually awarded to an individual, joint applications may be accepted under certain circumstances. 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.
- Writers must be under 35 years of age on **31 May 2012**.
- 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 **01 June 2011** and **31 May 2012** (*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.

- Applications will not be considered from:
 - previous recipients of this Award
 - previous recipients of other Arts NSW grants, fellowships or scholarships who have not fulfilled the conditions of their funding.
- Only one application may be submitted for this Award. Applicants may also apply for other relevant Arts NSW fellowships and/or scholarships. However, applicants may only be awarded one fellowship or scholarship in any given year.

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

Belvoir 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 01 June 2011, but some performances need to have taken place within the specified period and before the cut-off date of 31 May 2012.

DATES AND DEADLINES

26 September 2012	Award applications open
5 October 2012	Award applications close
11 October 2012	Shortlisted writers notified

Shortlisted writers will then be required to submit a treatment of up to five pages for a proposed new work within four weeks. The Award recipient will be announced at the Philip Parsons Memorial Lecture in December at Belvoir St Theatre.

HOW TO APPLY

Download the application form from www.belvoir.com.au/parsons or email tahni@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 Belvoir's Associate Director – New Projects, Literary Manager and Resident Playwright.
- Shortlisted writers will be asked to prepare a treatment of up to five pages for a proposed new work and to submit this within four weeks.
- Shortlisted works and treatments will be assessed by the full Award panel which is comprised of Belvoir's Artistic Director, Associate Director – New Projects, Literary Manager, Associate Artists and an external peer.
- The full panel will decide the Award recipient.

OUTCOMES

Belvoir will negotiate a schedule for the new commission work with the Award winner. The fee for a successfully completed commission is \$12,500. The winner receives the initial \$5,500 award money when the commission is contracted, and \$3,500 upon successful delivery of a first draft. Payments of \$2,000 and \$1,500 will be paid on receipt of a further two drafts, with assessment and notes from Belvoir between each draft.

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

Applications must be received by 6PM FRIDAY 5th October 2012

Philip Parsons Young Playwright's Award 2012
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Enquiries:

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