

# 2013 NSW PHILIP PARSONS FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING PLAYWRIGHTS GUIDELINES



Belvoir St Theatre, photograph by Helen Coetzee

**Closing date: 6pm Friday 4 October 2013**

The NSW Philip Parsons Fellowship for Emerging Playwrights is presented by Belvoir, in partnership with the NSW Government, through Arts NSW.



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## GUIDELINES

Closing date: 6pm Friday 4 October 2013

The NSW Philip Parsons Fellowship for Emerging Playwrights 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 1970s. Both the Fellowship and Lecture are part of artist development activities at Belvoir.

The Fellowship is presented, in partnership with Arts NSW, to an emerging playwright whose work demonstrates an original and compelling theatrical voice. The Fellowship comprises a \$12,500 commissioning fee for the writer and \$7,500 towards a creative development workshop and reading with a professional cast, with dramaturgical support from Belvoir's artistic staff. Please see breakdown of fees in Outcomes on page five. (*Note: This Fellowship replaces the Philip Parsons Young Playwright's Award previously offered by Belvoir and Arts NSW*)

**In 2013, applications will be accepted from NSW-based writers whose plays have had a public showing or season in Australia or internationally within the last 12 months.**

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

**Shortlisted writers will be asked to submit a brief treatment and up to five pages of scene work for a proposed new play.**

## ELIGIBILITY

- Writers must be Australian citizens, 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 Fellowship 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 may be of any age but must be within the first eight years of their professional practice as a playwright. For the purpose of this Fellowship, professional practice is generally considered to start with the public presentation of a writer's work in a professional context – for example a professional production of a work.
- Writers may submit one play only. This work must have had a public showing by a professional or co-operative company in Australia or overseas between **1 June 2012** and **31 May 2013** (\*see clarification below).

### **\* What constitutes an eligible public showing?**

Belvoir and Arts NSW acknowledge that the independent scene provides valuable production and development opportunities for many emerging writers. To be eligible for the Fellowship, a playwright's work may have been presented publicly 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 public showing may constitute a one-off showing, public reading or a season of dates at one or more venues. The public showing may have commenced prior to 1 June 2012, but some performances need to have taken place within the specified period and before the cut-off date of 31 May 2013.

- 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 the Philip Parsons Young Playwright's Award
  - previous recipients of other Arts NSW (previously Ministry for the Arts) grants, fellowships or scholarships who have not fulfilled the conditions of their funding.
- Only one application may be submitted for this Fellowship. 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.

### **CRITERIA**

The assessment panel will select the shortlist based on the play submitted with your application.

The shortlisted writers will be asked to submit a treatment and scene for a new play to be commissioned by Belvoir.

The panel is looking for writing that shows:

- Artistic merit
- Craft (plot, dialogue, characterisation, relationship between form and content)
- Unique voice of the writer
- Strong and considered ideas, an interesting perspective on the world, and a work that excites us

Applications will be assessed based on these criteria.

### **\*What does a treatment look like?**

Make sure your treatment is a pitch not a draft of your idea.

Your treatment must include:

- What your idea is
- Why you are passionate about your idea and how the idea developed

- What form does the piece of theatre you want to write for us take (is it dance/theatre? Is it naturalism? Is it going to be a musical?)

Your treatment should be no longer than two A4 pages and should be accompanied by a draft scene up to five pages long from the new play.

It is essential that your idea is new and available for commission by Belvoir. Belvoir is unable to commission work that is already associated with another theatre company. Belvoir will not commission a playwright for another draft of a work that already exists.

## **DATES AND DEADLINES**

<b>23 September 2013</b>	Fellowship applications open
<b>4 October 2013</b>	Fellowship applications close
<b>25 October 2013</b>	Shortlisted writers notified

Shortlisted writers will be required to submit a treatment of up to two pages and scene of up to five pages for a proposed new work within three weeks.

The Fellowship recipient will be announced at the Philip Parsons Memorial Lecture on Sunday 1 December 2013.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Download the application form from [belvoir.com.au/parsons](http://belvoir.com.au/parsons) or email [tahni@belvoir.com.au](mailto:tahni@belvoir.com.au) to request one to be sent to you.

**Applications must be emailed to [literary@belvoir.com.au](mailto:literary@belvoir.com.au) and include:**

- The completed application form.
- A PDF of the existing script. Text should be double-spaced in 12 point legible font (Courier, Times New Roman, Arial or Verdana). Pages must be numbered.
- A current CV (no more than 3 pages).

## **ASSESSMENT**

- Applications will initially be assessed and shortlisted by Belvoir's Associate Director New Projects, Literary Manager and Associate Artist.
- Shortlisted writers will be asked to prepare a treatment of up to five pages for a proposed new work and to submit this within three weeks.
- Shortlisted works and treatments will be assessed by the full Fellowship panel which is comprised of Belvoir's Artistic Director, Associate Director New Projects, Literary Manager, Associate Artist and an external peer.
- The full panel will decide the Fellowship recipient.

## **OUTCOMES**

Belvoir will negotiate a schedule for the new commission work with the Fellowship recipient. The fee for a successfully completed commission is \$12,500. The Fellow receives the initial \$5,500 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 Fellowship is a development initiative, a further \$7,500 will be put towards a creative development of this commission including a reading with a professional cast. Belvoir will provide guidance, dramaturgical assistance and other forms of script development support.  
*Please note: this is not a fee paid to the Fellowship recipient.*

The Fellowship recipient will be required to provide reports to Arts NSW on the progress of their commission. They may be required to brief the staff of Arts NSW on the outcomes of the Fellowship.

The Fellowship recipient is also required to acknowledge Arts NSW and Belvoir on any collateral relating to the commission.

## **ADVICE ON YOUR APPLICATION**

Belvoir staff are available to address questions relating to your application. Belvoir can be contacted on:

Email: [literary@belvoir.com.au](mailto:literary@belvoir.com.au)  
Telephone: (02) 9698 3344

**Applications must be received by 6PM FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2013**

Email your application to [literary@belvoir.com.au](mailto:literary@belvoir.com.au) with the subject line:  
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