

THE RIFF

YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL 2023



Information & Application Pack

The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival 2023 **Information & Application Pack**

Q Theatre champions and celebrates theatre training, development, and presentation for our community from the heart of Penrith. After over 30 years of providing local youth with a platform to express their ideas, Q Theatre's hallmark Annual Youth Theatre Festival has been reimagined as ***The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival*** to stake a claim in our local identity and reflect the changing face of our community.

The Riff program gives **you** – secondary school teachers – and your students the opportunity to explore different theatrical styles through hands-on theatre-making workshops. School groups - usually in Years 10 & 11 - work with industry professionals through a combined in-theatre + in-school residency program **to create an original 10-minute theatrical work** to be performed at **Q Theatre, The Joan, Penrith** as part of ***The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival***.

The Riff program focuses on two experience-based outcomes:

1. Learning the value of each stage in **theatre-making practice** and **theatre performance**; and,
2. Learning the skills, responsibilities, and values of **theatre-making as a collaborative art form**; with creators, technicians, administrators, designers, publicists, and audiences working together to bring it to life.

KEY DATES

- Expression of Interest applications due: extended to **Friday 23 December 2022**.
- Schools notified of participation by: **Wednesday 1 February 2023**.
- Registration payment due: **Monday 6 March 2023**.
- Stagecraft Workshop: 1 x 3 hr session during the week of **13-17 March 2023**.
- Performance Development & Rehearsals (26 contact hours with director): **20 March – 1 June 2023**.
- Technical Rehearsal: 1 x 3 hr session during **29 May – 1 June 2023**.
- The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival performances: **Friday 2 June 2023** (12pm & 7pm).

PARTICIPATION FEE

A participation fee of **\$1,200** per school group covers:

- Festival participation fee of \$600
- Ticketing* of \$600, for thirty (30) student tickets to the 12pm performance of *The Riff*, Friday 2 June.

ACCESSIBILITY

Q Theatre is committed to *The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival* and Program being accessible to all students. We encourage school drama groups who have students identifying as neurodiverse, d/Deaf, and or living with disability to participate in *The Riff*.

While all accessibility and learning requirements for students, during all hours of engagement with *The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival*, are the responsibility of the School - including managing and communicating all access requirements as part of your application process - Q Theatre will work with schools, teachers, support workers and parents to ensure access for all.

STAGE 1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) APPLICATION

Thinking about getting your students involved in *The Riff*? Fill out the EOI application form at the link below. Please note that submitting an EOI does not commit you to participate in the program and festival. Schools can confirm participation following advice of their applications' success on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

[Click here to complete *The Riff* 2023 EOI Application Form](https://form.jotform.com/Joan_IZ/TheRiff-EOI)

OR Copy and paste this weblink:

https://form.jotform.com/Joan_IZ/TheRiff-EOI

EOIs due date is extended to: 5pm Friday 23 December 2022.

If you require more time to get your EOI in, contact Festival Director Shy Magsalin at shy.magsalin@penrith.city.

A Note on Considering Your Group's Theatrical Style

The Riff offers schools groups the choice to work within a theatrical style they have studied and engaged with in class.

Popular theatrical styles from past festivals include:

Classic/Greek Theatre	Comedy	Contemporary
Dance Theatre	Epic Theatre	Mask
Musical Theatre	Physical Theatre	Shakespeare
Verbatim Theatre	Theatre for Children	Theatre of the Absurd

You may also choose a style outside this list that may be better suited to your class. The theatrical style will provide inspiration for your group's stylistic choices, rather than requiring you to adhere rigidly to all its conventions.

Note: *The Riff* aims to support and extend existing theatre skills your students have learned and apply them to a performance preparation & presentation program. *The Riff* is NOT a training course in your chosen theatrical style: please only consider theatrical styles your students have some familiarity with.

STAGE 2. REGISTERING SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

Successful Applicants

Q Theatre will advise schools if their application has been successful by **Wednesday 1 February 2023**. Successful schools are required to:

1. Confirm participation and preference dates for *The Riff* Stagecraft Workshops and Technical Rehearsals by **Wednesday 8 February 2023**;
2. Pay the participation fee of \$1,200 by **Monday 27 February 2023**.

***Ticketing Questions:** Contact the Festival Director if you require more than thirty (30) tickets to meet your matinee numbers. Please ensure you have your calendar dates and your financial requirements arranged before applying.

STAGE 3. PROVOCATION

Each year, participating schools respond to a provocation: an inciting concept that is the starting point for ideas for your school group's development and production. Previous years' provocations have included: *The Butterfly Effect*, *Split* and *Mother*. We have found each school group's response unique and comes from key ideas they are keen to discuss and share through performance.

The provocation is a tool to stimulate the early creative process with your Director. It can feature as prominently, or as lightly, as your group desires in the finished work.

Schools will receive the provocation shortly after advice of successful applications so they can begin brainstorming in class.

STAGE 4. ENGAGING YOUR DIRECTOR

For *The Riff*, each school will work with a professional Theatre Director. Your group will begin working with your allocated Director at your Stagecraft Workshop at The Joan in May. This will begin your eight weeks of development together. Your Director will spend a total of **twenty-six (26) face-to-face hours** working with your group during *The Riff's* in-theatre + in-school residency program.

This time includes:

- 13-17 March: Your 3-hour introductory **Stagecraft Workshop*** at The Joan.
- 20 March – 1 June: 26 contact hours with your Director for **Performance Development workshops** that take place at your school, as negotiated, and mutually agreed between your School Group Contact and the Director; and,
- 29 May – 01 June (session tbc): Your final 3-hours with your Director, the **Technical & Dress Rehearsal*** in the Q Theatre.

*Session times allocated based on preferences advised and confirmed following registration in *The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival*

During this period of engagement, your Director will collaborate with you to guide and facilitate your school group's performance development for the festival. Your Director is your school group's link to years of theatre-making experience: utilise their time well!

You may need in-school sessions outside the hours scheduled with your Director. We recommend you plan together for how you can best use this time in your Director's absence.

STAGE 5. STAGECRAFT WORKSHOPS

Your creative process begins with the **Stagecraft Workshop**. This consists of a **single 3-hour session** in Term One, within the week of **Monday 13 - Friday 17 March 2023**.

You and your students will undertake a 3-hour workshop at The Joan, which includes:

- a **welcome to Q Theatre** and a chance to meet Penrith Performing & Visual Arts, Theatre Team including:
 - Director, Theatre – Suzanne Pereira
 - *The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival 2023* Director & Associate Artist, Theatre – Shy Magsalin
 - Producer, Theatre – Melissa Cannon
- a **Performance Development Workshop** led by your Director to:
 - begin exploring your theatrical style and the provocation
 - set expectations for how you wish to work together; and
 - develop a schedule for your school meetings.
- a **Technical Workshop** run by a member of The Joan's technical team to learn about the technical opportunities and possibilities available when working in the Q Theatre.
 - Bring a pen and paper to take notes, and your curiosity and enthusiasm: it is the perfect time to ask questions about what is possible for the Festival!

STAGE 6. PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Held between Friday 29 April – Wednesday 08 June

We recommend using the end of the Stagecraft Workshop to arrange your Performance Development workshops with your director. Each Director is available for a further 18 hours' face-to-face time in the weeks leading up to Production week and your Technical Rehearsal Day (see **Stage 6**).

Note that the Technical Rehearsal Day includes up to an additional 3 hours for a final Performance Development workshop. It is highly recommended this 3-hour session is included in your rehearsal schedule with your Director.

STAGE 7. PRODUCTION WEEK

Part A - Technical & Dress Rehearsals

Production Week begins with a Technical Rehearsal taking place between **Monday 29 May – Thursday 01 June**. Each school group will return to Q Theatre at The Joan on one of these dates for a full day of rehearsals.

The day consists of two sessions, with 30 minutes for lunch:

- **Technical Rehearsal (3 hours):** a session on the Q Theatre stage. If there is time, this session will also include one or more dress rehearsals); and,
- **Optional Extra Rehearsal (3 hours):** spent rehearsing/fine-tuning your performance with your Director in a rehearsal venue.

Part B - Performances

The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival takes place over two Performances on **Friday 02 June** in the Q Theatre:

- **12.00pm** for schools' audiences - including thirty (30) students from your school; and
- **7.00pm** for general public.

Schools are encouraged to invite their whole school community to attend either performance.

QUESTIONS?

Your contact for all questions and queries about your involvement throughout all stages of ***The Riff: Youth Theatre Festival 2023*** is:

Festival Director

Shy Magsalin

(02) 4723 7605 / shy.magsalin@penrith.city

Shy is Associate Artist, Theatre at Penrith Performing & Visual Arts and works closely with Director, Theatre – Suzanne Pereira. Shy will lead the engagement with Directors and School Group Contacts at each school. She is also responsible for the curation and design of this year's festival.

Contact Shy for all queries relating to festival coordination and the creative and technical content of your work.