



FAIRFAX YOUTH INITIATIVE 2017 ARTIST GUIDELINES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR ARTISTS

Please read the following information prior to completing an Expression of Interest (EOI) form.

This submission process is for artists and companies that wish to work with schools in regional North West Victoria to present work adhering to the 2017 Fairfax Youth Initiative theme.

ABOUT THE FAIRFAX YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Fairfax Youth Initiative is a series of workshops, activities and performances specifically for young people aged between 12 and 17 from regional and remote Australia.

Beginning in Swan Hill, Victoria in 1997, the Fairfax Youth Initiative is held annually in memory of George Fairfax, who grew up in Nangiloc, a small town in the Mallee region of Victoria.

He was well known for his support and encouragement of activities that involved young people in the arts, especially through places like Melbourne University, the Victorian College of the Arts and St Martin's Youth Arts Centre.

The Fairfax Youth Initiative has three distinct phases:

- Four days of in-community workshops to assist secondary school students to create a 10 minute micro performance piece.
- Two and a half days of rehearsals and workshops in Swan Hill, Victoria.
- A final community performance at the Swan Hill Town Hall showcasing the new works created, as well as any new specialist skills learned during the week.

The Fairfax Youth Initiative connects professional arts practitioners with youth and their leaders to develop practical performance skills, technical understanding and to create diverse and professional quality theatre work.

The event process promotes skills development, access and inclusion across a wide range of social demographics and communities for young people and their leaders.

The Fairfax Youth Initiative's philosophy has always been that no child should miss out on this life changing experience because they don't live in a big city, come from a low socio-economic background or have physical or learning disabilities.

PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL

The Fairfax Youth initiative connects rural communities with professional artists through onsite residencies.

Artists will work with regional young people, educators and their leaders to equip them with the skills to develop their own arts work and form networks with like-minded young people, artists and educators. The ultimate aim is to increase youth engagement and decrease perceived boredom.

Young people come to the Fairfax Youth Initiative from towns like Birchip, Manangatang, Mildura, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Sea Lake. The Fairfax Youth Initiative also crosses into the small NSW towns of Red Cliffs and Tooleybuc and has been inspirational in keeping young people in school and connecting with their wider communities.

ABOUT THE FAIRFAX YOUTH INITIATIVE TEAM

Artistic Directors

Asking for Trouble makes theatre that challenges audiences to be brave and generous. Founded by Christy Flaws and Luke O'Connor in 2008, Asking for Trouble is a multi-award winning theatre company using circus, physical theatre and clown to make ambitious, high quality, touring work.

Based in Clunes, they have performed seasons in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, regional Australia, The Netherlands, New Zealand and the UK.

Over the last 13 years Christy and Luke have facilitated workshops and directed community performances and projects independently and for a variety of organisations including Circus Oz, Westside Circus, The Womens Circus Kids Own Publishing and Footscray Community Arts Centre. In 2017 they collaborated with Amanda Palmer to create a stop motion music video for her new record 'I Can Spin a Rainbow'.

Management

Yvette Myhill and Sharon Brinkman work at the Swan Hill Town Hall Performing Arts Centre and are responsible for bringing a diverse performing arts program to the local community.

Yvette is new to regional Victoria, having moved to the area from Sydney. She has extensive experience in the arts industry, most recently managing the music portfolio for the NSW State Government.

Sharon has been involved with Fairfax since 2014 and has been actively involved with many amateur theatre companies, on stage, behind the scenes, directing and painting scenic theatre backdrops

Technicians

Craig Martin and Brad Morpeth are the production technicians for the week of the Fairfax Youth Initiative in Swan Hill.

Craig has worked in performing arts centres around Australia and toured internationally with artists.

Brad has worked with the Fairfax Youth Initiative in a technical and production capacity for the last six years, and works on youth and community events around the Swan Hill region.

THE 2017 THEME

Art and Revolution

This year the Fairfax Youth Initiative will explore the art of resistance, looking at how artists can communicate through their work to bring awareness and support to a particular cause or message.

Protest art aims to challenge, to agitate and to mobilise a wide audience

We hope that this theme allows for discussion around the connections between art, activism and freedom both within Australia and Internationally

WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Artists that can work with students to create work that is innovative and entertaining.
- Work that is appropriate to a school and community context.
- Work that stimulates ideas and generates discussion.

The pieces created in collaboration with schools do not need to be a particular 'protest' in themselves. It is expected that artists will use their own creative process to interpret the theme in a variety of ways. Short works created with young people might be inspired by or respond to:

- Pieces of visual art e.g. Picasso's Guernica
- A particular artist e.g. Ai Weiwei or Bertolt Brecht
- A specific historical protest e.g. the Suffragette movement
- Companies e.g. Belarus Free Theatre
- Styles of theatre making which come out of a desire for social change e.g. Theatre of the Oppressed
- Popular musicians using their music to address social themes e.g. Bob Dylan, Rage Against the Machine, A.B. Original
- True/fictional stories, scripts or music etc.

Christy and Luke are available to talk with artists directly to workshop ideas/processes for working with young people in this context.

TIMELINE

- Wednesday, 14 June 2017 5pm: Expression of interest due.
- Wednesday, 21 June 2017: Successful artists/companies notified
- Wednesday, 28 June 2017: Finalised schools dates/program, artists contracted
- From 1 July 2017: Workshops commence in Schools
- Monday, 18 September 2017: Artists planning session/welcome in Swan Hill
- Tuesday, 19 September 2017: Schools arrive in Swan Hill and Opening Night Event
- Wednesday, 20 & Thursday, 21 September: Fairfax Youth Initiative Workshops and Performances

COMPLETING YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

It is important for you to complete each section of the Expression of Interest form. Read below for guidance to assist you in preparing your answers to each relevant question. If you have any questions please contact Christy and Luke via email info@askingfortrouble.com.au

SNAPSHOT OF YOUR PAST WORKS

Provide a brief summary of relevant past works and please include video or YouTube links. Works that touch upon the 2017 theme, or that show experience mentoring secondary school students will be looked upon favourably.

AVAILABILITY

Confirmation of your availability for two weeks to provide an in-school workshop at a school in North West Victoria in July or August (we will work with successful candidates to lock in dates that suit both the artists and the matched school during these months), as well as for a week in Swan Hill from the 18 – 21 September 2017.

If an art/group company are working with a school, it is expected that the same artists will attend both the workshops and Fairfax week.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Please provide a copy of your CV.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

A valid Working With Children (WWC) card must be provided by all artists as part of their application. A confirmation of application will be accepted during the EOI process, but the card will need to be provided prior to commencing work with students.

CONTRACT FEE

Successful artists/art companies will be paid a fee of \$3,200 (ex GST). A 20% deposit will be paid upon receipt of invoice after signing the contract. The balance will be paid upon receipt of an invoice at the end of Fairfax week.

The Fairfax Youth Initiative organisers will book and pay for accommodation close to the matched school and in Swan Hill for Fairfax week. Organisers will also provide meals during Fairfax week.

Artists are expected to organise their own travel to and from matched schools for workshops and to and from Swan Hill for Fairfax week, and their own meals during the in-school workshops. These costs should be covered by the total contract fee paid to the artist.

The Fairfax Youth Initiative organisers will book and pay for accommodation close to the matched school and in Swan Hill and provide meals during Fairfax week.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE (PLI)

A copy of current PLI to be supplied

OPTIONAL PRESENTATION

Although this expression of interest is regarding your ability and desire to provide artistic workshops for secondary school students, there are opportunities for artists and groups to present works of their own during the Fairfax Week in Swan Hill in September.

If you are interested in presenting a work, please get in touch with us about potential fees and a brief synopsis of the work. Works that align with the 2017 theme will be given preference.

APPLICATION FORM AVAILABLE HERE: <https://www.formpl.us/form/5031658602364928>