

Young Artist Opportunities across Australia

Many opportunities across Australia are available to Young People no matter what state they live in. Below is a collection of programs and events from the [Gold Coast](#), [NSW](#), [WA](#) and [VIC](#), found online that may be of interest to Meanjin's Young Artist community. If you have any interstate opportunities that you would like to add to this list to inform our local emerging artist community, please email the information and direct links to info@backbone.org.au.

GOLD COAST:

Imperfect Creatives

[Imperfect Creatives](#) is an artist-focused production company and education provider based on Queensland's Gold Coast. Founded in 2020 by industry professionals tired of artists being mistreated and overlooked, Imperfect has rapidly expanded into an everyday name in the Southeast Queensland acting and production communities.

Opportunities:

- [Headshots](#): Book a professional headshot session with Imperfect Creatives photographers and production team.
- [Showreels](#): Imperfect Creatives will guide you through the process of developing a showreel; filming two-hander, 1-2 minute scenes on location. They can also tailor scenes to suit your acting goals with their team of writers.
- [Screen Acting Classes and Holiday Workshops](#) (Ages 8 - 17): Imperfect Creatives offers a variety of classes and workshops in screen acting essentials, voice, and acting work.

Karul Projects

Started by Thomas E.S. Kelly and Taree Sansbury in 2017, [Karul Projects](#) is a performing arts company with a focus to increase First Nations' voices, visibilities, and stories locally, nationally, and internationally.

Opportunities:

- [Shake A Leg](#): A series of free online dance classes made for everyone. Doesn't matter where you are in the world or in your house give these classes a go. Hosted, choreographed, and music by Thomas E.S. Kelly, Karul's Artistic Director, find yourself dancing and moving with a First Nations Fusion.



- [First Nations Residency Opportunity, Yagabaling](#): An opportunity to focus for two (2) weeks full-time that transitions into Ngari Ngali-Wahlu, our First Nations Choreographic Dance Intensive. Residents are given studio time, mentorship from Karul's Artistic Director and Associate Artistic Director, free registration into Ngari Ngali-Wahlu, documentation, the opportunity to share your findings with a First Nations community audience, and \$4,500 to go towards fees, travel, accommodation, etc.
- [Ngari Ngali-Wahlu Dance Intensive](#): Annual 3-day Choreographic and Dance Intensive called Ngari Ngali-Wahlu (*we dance*) led by an all First Nations Facilitation team.

The Farm

[The Farm](#) is a dance company based on the Gold Coast with roots in Berlin.

Opportunities:

- [Bare Bones](#): An annual three-day workshop experience in The Farm studio, the beach and outdoors. Contains Technique classes from leading practitioners, intensive research workshops focusing on the mind and the body, studio showings and discussions, qi gong on the beach, dancing into the ocean, and time to hang out, talk together, walk together, and be silent together.
- [Open Fields](#): Open Fields is a shared professional practice for visual artists, movers, and makers - an invitation to step into the studio with members of The Farm to confront the difficult question - how do we start when we don't know where to begin? Three days of creative questions and techniques drawn from years of collaborative making in Australia and Europe - The Farm will curate a working space where messiness is welcome and deep conversation is expected.
- [The Greenhouse \(Ages 15-25\)](#): A young artists program open to all people aged 15+ interested in dance, theatre, and live performance. Through performances and weekly classes, GreenHouse fosters creativity, collaboration, and experimentation with a focus on physical storytelling.

HOTA

[HOTA \(Home of the Arts\)](#) is an arts centre and cultural precinct on the Gold Coast.

Opportunities:

- [Artkeeper](#): The program places four artists on HOTA's payroll, providing income security, fair work conditions, and organisation-wide support to develop new work and ideas.



- [HOTA Housemates](#): HOTA provides access to short-term development space, technical support, producing advice, and more to develop new work or further develop existing work.

NEW SOUTH WALES:

Sydney Theatre Company

[Sydney Theatre Company](#) is New South Wales' state theatre company, with theatres in Walsh Bay, Sydney (Gadigal Country).

Opportunities:

- [The Patrick White Playwrights Award](#) (Ages 18+): Offers a cash prize of \$7,500 for a full-length unproduced play of any genre written by an Australian playwright over 18 years of age. They are seeking works that are original, artistically ambitious, and have a distinct theatrical voice.

Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)

[Australian Theatre for Young People](#) is the national youth theatre company based in Dawes Point, Sydney (Gadigal Country).

Opportunities:

- [Foundation Play Commissions](#) Two Foundation Commissions, one for 10-13-year-old performers and one for 14-17-year-old performers, are awarded each year to playwrights of **any age**. Both plays are published by our partners Playlab.
- [Fresh Ink Mentoring Program](#) (Ages 18 - 26): The program, for emerging writers, runs annually from April–December in selected states across Australia. The initiative engages industry professionals to mentor our young writers. Young playwrights will write two new original works in the program; one 15-minute and one 30-minute play.
- [The National Studio](#) (Aged 18-26): A program dedicated exclusively to emerging playwrights and their practice. Each year, twenty emerging writers (aged 18-26) are selected from all over Australia to spend a week in rural NSW. During the residency, the writers are mentored and nurtured by playwrights and dramaturgs through masterclasses, small group tutorials, and one-on-one sessions in a formative creative experience.



PACT Centre for Emerging Artists

[PACT](#) is an Australian performing arts organisation and theatre company located in Sydney, New South Wales, catering to new and emerging artists.

Opportunities:

- [PACT Artist Residency](#): The annual residency program will provide time, space, mentorship, and financial investment for two emerging artists or emerging artist collectives to develop new work in 2024. Each artist will be guided through the showing process with tailored support and mentorship from the Artistic Directorate. Interstate artists could allocate part of their financial investment to pay for flights/accommodation in Sydney for the duration of the residency.
- [Queer Development Program](#): The annual program will connect you to an intergenerational community of queer makers and allow you to present new material to the public as part of the QDP Showcase (fka Queer Nu Werk). The QDP is a two-week-long professional development program focused on practical and creative skills for queer performance-making.

Belvoir St Theatre

[Belvoir St Theatre](#) is a theatre company based in an old factory on Gadigal Land (Sydney).

Opportunities:

- [The Balnaves Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellowship](#): The Fellowship is open to FN playwrights to write a new play and also to directors or writer/directors that can lead the creation of an Indigenous-led new stage work, whether that be a new play, an adaptation or through a devised process. The selected Fellow will receive \$45,000 over 18 months to create new work as a resident artist at Belvoir. The 2024/25 fellow has already been announced but note the opportunity for years to come.
- [25a Independent Theatre Program](#): Seven independent theatre teams are selected each year, out of over 150 applications. They are provided rehearsal space and the Downstairs theatre for free. Their task is to make a show for \$1500 or less, which includes their set, costumes, and marketing. There are no wages, but 100% of the box office goes to the artists, who split the profits evenly between them. **If you are intentional with your budget, you could subsidize some of the cost of travel and accommodation.**



KXT on Broadway

KXT on Broadway is a not-for-profit organization that operates as a creative collective, based in Sydney.

Opportunities:

- [Bakehouse Residency](#): KXT offers free use of their unique space The Vault on Broadway for successful residency applicants.
- [The David Bathur Creative Fellowship](#): The fellowship offers a week-long residency in the KXT Vault at KXT on Broadway (with potential additional time throughout the year should further development be beneficial), creative mentoring from the KXT Creative team, and a \$1000 stipend for the selected artist.

Legs On the Wall

[Legs On the Wall](#) is an aerial physical theatre company based in Sydney, Australia.

Opportunities:

- [Leg Room](#): The annual residency program offers artists space, to provide an opportunity to practice their craft and test ideas without the pressure of outcomes, with priority given to independent and/or unfunded artists. Successful applicants have the support of the Legs team and our venue resources, as well as the option to share their work with a group of invited peers and industry professionals.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

Black Swan Theatre Company

[Black Swan Theatre](#) is the WA state theatre company based in Perth, Western Australia.

Opportunities:

- [Script Feedback](#): Black Swan is passionate about Australian writing and is willing to read your plays, hear your pitches, and discuss your ideas, big or small. You've spent time writing, so our Artistic department will spend time reading. Due to staffing capacity, times of response may take up to three months. All submissions will be responded to.



YOUTH WEEK

KCAB
BONE

VICTORIA:

Melbourne Theatre Company

Melbourne Theatre Company is the VIC state theatre company based in Melbourne, Victoria.

Opportunities:

- [Cybec Electric](#): An annual series of play readings, selected by application. With scripts in hand, actors present works-in-progress with the assistance of directors and dramaturgs. This provides a crucial step in the creation of new work – bringing them to life in front of an audience. Information for the 2024 program will be released in May 2024.

