

# BALLARAT NATIONAL THEATRE

## PLAY SUBMISSION GUIDE

Considering Directing in 2023 for Ballarat National Theatre?

The submission process is via an online form which you can prepare all your answers for, using this guide.

The following guide will give you everything you need to submit using the online form. Please note that this guide is not the form. It will give an understanding of what is in the form, so you can submit through it on the following link.

If you are unable to submit using the online form, a paper-based version can be provided upon request. Please contact BNT for a copy.

If you have any questions please email [contact@bnt.org.au](mailto:contact@bnt.org.au) or call Robyn on phone 0409 409 572.

Please note that if you have got a script that you would like read or developed, we will not consider it as part of this submission process. Please get in touch if you would like us to organise a script reading or collaborative development process.

The play submissions will be a blind submission process.

This means that the programming committee will see your proposal without identifying information attached. This is done to help to reduce biases and so that the submission is assessed on its own merits.

The board will be able to see your contact information.

## Application section 1.

The online form will ask you for the following information about you as a director to begin. There is an optional section to put in the contact details of a second director if you need.

If you are submitting a show with 2 directors, use the previous experience question box at the bottom of the director section to outline the experience of both directors.

### **Director details**

Name:

Email:

Mobile/Phone:

Current Ballarat National Theatre Member? No/Yes

Will this be your first time directing? No/Yes

Will this be your first time directing in this format (online/stage)? No/Yes

Have you previously directed a production with Ballarat National Theatre? No/Yes

Are you also the playwright of this piece? No/Yes

Previous experience in theatre (this includes all aspects of theatre over the past 5 years).

If you are a first time director, showing your experience in other aspects of theatre will help the board and programming committee know what skills you will be able to capitalise on in the role of director. If you have directed with BNT before, it will help those assessing submissions get a snapshot of your work with the company so far, even if you aren't known to them. While this section says up to 5 years, please include anything beyond that timeframe if you think it will support your application.

## Play Information and Direction details

The first section will ask you for some administrative information about the play.

Online/stage

1. Play title
2. Playwright
3. Has this play been performed before? Yes/No

If you have written this play and it has never been performed before, you would identify that here. If this play has been performed on stage anywhere before, mark it as 'yes'.

4. When it was published?
5. Genre (e.g. drama, comedy, horror, classic)
6. Country of origin (e.g Australia, United States, UK)
7. Do you have a copy of the script you can provide when requested? Yes/No

This question will also have a file upload option beneath it to upload the script if you have a copy already.

Some plays are collaborative or explorative works and are written in the process of production. If this is the case, please state at the beginning of the synopsis.

Please note that if you do not have a copy of the script, you should let us know where we can directly access the script.

8. Synopsis.

If someone has never heard of this show, what would you tell them about it?

This part is your pitch, so help those reading your submission understand why it's a performance worth sharing with audiences. For example, instead of describing *Pride and Prejudice* as "a romantic period piece set in England", try "Jane Austen's most famous novel and beloved characters, *Pride and Prejudice* follows the story of the bold Elizabeth Bennet and her four sisters as a rich, handsome bachelor moves into the neighbourhood. This adaptation won xx awards..."

This section helps us think about how the show may fit with other shows that have been submitted, as well as possible audiences.

### 9. Audience

Here we want to hear about who should be seeing the play. Some plays are on high school study lists. Some plays are classics that everyone loves. Some shouldn't be seen by children. Some are just for kids. This is your chance to tell us who we are going to be promoting tickets to.

Do you/we have a particular fan base waiting impatiently for this show? This is the place to tell us.

Make sure if you think this show is NOT suitable for a particular audience, that is also stated. This helps us avoid choosing solely shows that are for a single audience.

### 10. Difficult content

This is where we would think about things like how to rate the show if we were going to give it a classification (PG, MA etc). This helps us think about marketing, the logistics of production and whether we need to provide audiences with a content warning.

Let us know about anything in the play that may need a content warning such as:

- use of alcohol/drugs
- nudity
- any depictions of violence including hanging, sexual assault
- traumas such as accidents, miscarriages or deaths (slapstick falls etc would obviously be excluded here)
- dialogue that describes any of the above

### 11. Why would you like to direct this play?

What you tell us here will help us understand if this production is special to you, what excites you about it and why you have taken the time to go through this submission process.

### 12. What themes, ideas do you wish to develop?

If this is a play that has been done before, you should highlight anything that will make your proposal unique. For example, social themes from when the play was written may be topical and relevant again now. Perhaps you have a specific casting choice that you think will help provoke questions for the audience that will make it interesting. Is there a particular artistic skill or innovative idea you wish to bring to this production?

## CAST

### 13. Total Number of Characters to cast and age range:

When filling in this section, you should specify if the characters must be portrayed as or by a specific gender. For example, if you are doing *12 Angry Men*, but are interested in casting actors of any gender in those roles, make sure that is clear. Here is an example of how to explain this section:

Total cast 14

4 Male characters - ages 17-60

8 Female characters - ages 30-80

2 characters of any gender - ages 18-40

1 child, female age 6-14

### 14. Special casting (Specify what kind):

BNT aims to have productions with appropriate casting for appropriate ethnicities. For example, characters that are Aboriginal must be played by an Indigenous actor. This is in line with requests from groups within these communities. If you have a particular ethnicity represented in your chosen script, please advise those casting specifications here. If you have connections already established within a community group that is represented in the play that you would like to engage as part of the casting process, you can also mention that here.

Other special castings may include gender-flipped or swapped productions (lead love interest is played by a woman instead of a man, all the cast are women). For example, *Three Sisters* is a play by the Russian author and playwright Anton Chekhov. It was written in 1900 and first performed in 1901 at the Moscow Art Theatre, but recently Inua Ellems directed an adaptation of this play with it set in Nigeria with a black cast.

### 15. Any other casting concerns?

Are you worried about the size of the cast or whether we have people in our community who can capture all the roles? Specify that here.

### 16. Technical Requirements: (Comment on what's needed or your concept of the play)

Unit Set / Number of Settings

Geographic Location

Brief Description of Set Concerns or Special Requirements

Difficult or unusual Props?

Describe Lighting requirements

Describe sound requirements

Describe costume requirements?

Do you require any special effects? If so, how many? (weapons, firearms etc)

Our preferred venue is Mount Rowan School Theatre. If this venue is unavailable or you believe this show would be better suited to another venue, please let us know here

Do you foresee any unique marketing opportunities with this production? Do you have a hook/theme for marketing? Is there a certain look you want for posters, postcards?

For example, when BNT did the production of Creche and Burn, it was advertised to staff of local childcare centres. If a show is on the VCE book list we can promote it to schools. A podcast audiobook could be promoted through bookmarks at bookshops and libraries. Shows with fun costumes can be promoted with surprise appearances at markets.

Do you have preferred time of the year to direct? If so, when?

Are there blackout dates (dates you are away or otherwise occupied) when you cannot direct?

Any other comments.