

Next Level Creative Mentorship Program: 2025 Guidelines

About the Program

The **Next Level Creative Mentorship Program**, run by [Accessible Arts](#) and [Access2Arts](#), will take place across New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia (SA) in 2025. This initiative offers emerging and mid-career performing artists a unique opportunity to:

- Receive \$3,000 in project funding.
- Participate in a mentorship hosted by leading performing arts organisations.

The program will support 10 artists (6 from NSW and 4 from SA) working in fields such as writing, music, dance, choreography, acting, directing, or producing. Participants will receive professional guidance to develop innovative new projects and gain the skills needed to pitch their ideas to industry professionals, including companies, venues, artistic directors, and producers.

Combining mentorship with hands-on project development, Next Level provides artists with a focused pathway to turn creative ideas into actionable opportunities.

Mentorship Structure

Over four months (March–July 2025), mentors will provide participants with 20 hours of professional guidance to:

- Assess your creative concept
- Develop your concept into a project brief

- Provide advice on drafting a detailed project outline, including budgets, timelines, deliverables, and key contacts.
- Provide guidance regarding potential pitch meeting opportunities with relevant companies, venues, artistic directors and/or producers

Sessions will include both facilitated sessions with your mentor and self-directed tasks. Your mentor will provide a total of 20 hours of support. Scheduling will be coordinated directly between you and your mentor to allow for flexibility, with support available from Accessible Arts and Access2Arts if needed.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Reside in New South Wales or South Australia
- Identify as being d/Deaf or a person with disability.
- Be an emerging or mid-career writer, actor, musician, dancer, choreographer, director and/or producer.
- Be over 18 years of age at the time of application.
- Have previous experience at any level in the performing arts industry.
- Demonstrate a proactive approach to completing the program.

Partnering Organisations

Below is a list of our partnering organisations. Take note of their locations and visit their websites to learn more about the work that they do and how it may align with the goals of your project proposal. Mentors within these organisations will be assigned, you will not be able to select your mentor.

While our partner organisations will endeavour to meet participants' access needs, there may be some limitations in certain circumstances. We encourage applicants to reach out with any questions about access requirements before the application deadline.

Bangarra Dance Theatre – Metro Sydney, NSW

Bangarra is a company of professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers. As one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, they share their culture with Communities and audiences across Australia and the world. The company's contemporary dancers draw on 65,000 years of culture, creating powerful works of theatre that incorporate dance, music, poetry, and design. These works tell the stories of Elders, are often created on Country, and returned to the place they were made. Every year, Bangarra tours a world premiere work across the nation and embarks on an international tour. The company also runs education workshops, programs, and special projects to nurture the next generation of storytellers.

Location: Wharf 4/5, 15 Hickson Rd, Dawes Point NSW 2000

Website: <https://www.bangarra.com.au/>

Bell Shakespeare – Metro Sydney, NSW

Bell Shakespeare is Australia's national theatre company specialising in the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Established by renowned Actor/Director John Bell, what began in a circus tent in Sydney in 1990 has grown into a theatre company with unrivalled reach and impact, delivering mainstage productions and an education and outreach program to every state and territory, ensuring classic theatre experiences are accessible to all Australians.

Location: 1/13A Hickson Rd, Dawes Point NSW 2000

Website: <https://www.bellshakespeare.com.au/>

Belvoir St Theatre – Metro Sydney, NSW

Based in an old factory on Gadigal land, Sydney, Belvoir is one of Australia's most celebrated and beloved theatre companies. Since 1984, Belvoir has been at the forefront of Australian storytelling for the stage. Each year the company presents an annual season of shows for this now-iconic corner stage. New work and new

stories sit at the centre of Belvoir's programming, alongside a mix of reinvented classics and international writing, and a foundational commitment to Indigenous stories.

Location: 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Website: <https://belvoir.com.au/>

Merrigong Theatre Company – Wollongong, NSW

Merrigong Theatre Company is a not-for-profit company operating the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre (IPAC) and the Wollongong Town Hall. Merrigong is also a vibrant theatre company – producing, presenting and touring exciting contemporary theatre and supporting the development of a wide range of theatre makers. Merrigong presents a diverse annual season of theatre, dance and children's programming, including work sourced from Australia's finest performing arts companies, self-produced work, acclaimed international productions, and innovative contemporary work from new companies.

Location: 32 Burelli St, Wollongong NSW 2500

Website: <https://merrigong.com.au/>

Penrith Performing and Visual Arts – Western Sydney, NSW

Penrith Performing & Visual Arts is made up of the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith Conservatorium, Q Theatre and Penrith Regional Gallery, and represents a diverse and dynamic blend of creative practice in the Western Sydney region. Since its establishment back in 2006 they've worked to showcase creativity in all its forms. Their education programs guide people from all ages and stages through their artistic pathways – from those seeking mainstage fame and excellence in their chosen artform, to those wanting to further a personal passion.

Location: Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, 597 High Street, Penrith 2750

Website: <https://www.qtheatre.com.au/>

PYT Fairfield – Western Sydney, NSW

PYT Fairfield is the only professional theatre company in Western Sydney focused on the development and engagement of local young and emerging artists as core practice. PYT has a reputation as a brave and transformative theatre company who make urgent work that explores the critical issues of our times, challenging the conventions of traditional theatre and responding to the needs and aspirations of the next generation of artists. They do this by creating innovative performance and social artistic experiences in theatre spaces and across diverse urban sites of Fairfield, Western Sydney and beyond, and with a key focus on cultural diversity. From its inception, PYT has been intrinsically engaged with the diverse communities and cultures across western Sydney.

Location: 19 Harris St, Fairfield NSW 2165

Website: <https://pyt.com.au/>

Australian Dance Theatre – Metro Adelaide, SA

Since 1965, Australian Dance Theatre has been at the forefront of contemporary dance, performing both nationally and internationally. As the country's oldest contemporary dance company, it has spent nearly 60 years pioneering new works that continuously redefine the artform. The company is deeply committed to presenting works that reflect Australia's diverse voices, landscapes, and histories. At the heart of its mission are collaborative relationships and a strong dedication to community engagement.

Location: The Odeon, 57a Queen Street Norwood 5067 Kaurana Yerta, SA

Website: <https://www.adt.org.au/>

Gravity & Other Myths – Metro Adelaide, SA

Gravity & Other Myths is an Australian circus company pushing the boundaries of contemporary circus. GOM's work utilises an honest approach to performance to create shows with a focus on human connection and acrobatic virtuosity. Formed in 2009 by a group of young Adelaide artists with a passion for circus and physical theatre. The past 12 years have seen GOM steady growth across the arts sector with six critically acclaimed main stage works and global success having toured to 38 countries.

Website: <https://www.gravityandothermyths.com/>

State Theatre Company South Australia – Metro Adelaide, SA

State Theatre Company South Australia is the flagship theatre company of South Australia and is a resident artistic company of the Adelaide Festival Centre. We commission, perform and tour theatrical productions of new and existing, classic and contemporary, Australian and international work. From a rich legacy of visionary theatre makers and landmark theatrical productions, we strive to make, present and promote phenomenal, transformative, and inclusive theatre that enriches South Australian and Australian culture.

Location: Level 1, Fowlers Building, 73-78 North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Website: <https://statetheatrecompany.com.au/>

Windmill Theatre Company – Metro Adelaide, SA

Based in Adelaide, Windmill Theatre Company has a global reputation as a leading producer of theatre for children, teenagers, and families. We bring artists together to uncover and ignite stories that are burning to be told. Each year we perform in Adelaide, and tour across Australia and around the world.

During the last 20 years, we have presented 63 productions, including 36 brand new Australian works, performing to young audiences in 247 cities and towns across 30 countries.

Location: College of the Arts, Level 2/39 Light Square, Adelaide SA 5000

Website: <https://www.windmill.org.au/>

Access

Accessible Arts and Access2Arts will provide access support for the partnering organisations and program participants throughout the mentorship. To ensure that each participant access needs are met, you will be asked to complete an

access rider form provided by Accessible Arts and Access2Arts. This helps us to ensure that you can fully engage in the program and get the most out of your mentorship. Where appropriate, participants will be encouraged to use their NDIS package (if available) to support their participation in the program. While in-person mentoring is preferred, hybrid and online sessions can also be arranged.

Successful applicants and partnering organisations will be provided with Disability Confidence Training facilitated by Accessible Arts.

How to Apply

Applicants will be asked to provide the following information:

- Contact Details
- Applicants must identify as being d/Deaf or a person with disability
- An outline of any access requirements you might have.
- Identify the field of your practice
- A CV and short bio – including examples of relevant work, volunteer, studies and/or qualifications
- List the top three organisations that you are interested in working with.
- Describe your career goals and why this is an important opportunity for you at this stage in your career.
- Describe the project you would like to develop during the Mentorship Program

NOTE: In the application form, you will be asked to select your top three preferred organisations. While every effort will be made to match you with one of your top choices, applicants may not be paired with their first-listed organisation.

Applicants can only apply for mentorships within their state

Application Form

Applications can be submitted online via Survey Monkey here:

[Next Level Application Form](#)

Alternative formats such as audio, or video submissions are also accepted with prior approval. Please reach out to Accessible Arts before submitting the application in an alternative format to ensure your application is received.

When to Apply

Applications will open from **Tuesday 28 January 2025** and close at **11pm on Sunday 23 February 2025**.

Application assessment

Applications will be assessed by a panel of Accessible Arts & Access2Arts staff, including people with disability. The panel will consider how well the applicant, and their project concept align with the partnering organisation, as well as relevant work experience and commitment to the program. Partnering organisations will be consulted during the review process to ensure cultural safety and access requirements can be met for the program participants.

Additional Information

Timeline & Key Dates

- **Applications open:** Monday 27 January 2025
- **Applications close:** 11pm Sunday 23 February 2025
- **Outcome Notifications:** Early March 2025
- **Announcement:** Mid-March 2025
- **Disability Confidence Training:** Thursday 20th March 2025
- **Create Access Training:** Tuesday 8th April 2025
- **Mentorship Period:** April - July 2025
- **Next Level Mentee Networking Event:** May 2025
- **Final Program Report:** July 2025

Marketing & Contract

Successful applicants will need to sign a contract that includes additional terms and conditions based on Accessible Arts and Access2Arts' policies. Applicants must also give permission for Accessible Arts and Access2Arts to promote and share the

outcomes of the Next Level Creative Mentorship Program. This may include agreeing to participate in interviews, filming, and other social media opportunities for promotional purposes.

Program Fee

Each participant within the Next Level program will receive a \$3000 artist fee inclusive of superannuation. This payment will be paid throughout the mentorship. The payment schedule will be outlined at the start of the program, and participants will be informed of the due dates for each instalment.

Program Requirements

- **Disability Confidence Training (DCT):** All participants must complete Disability Confidence Training.
- **Creative Access Training:** Participants must complete Creative Access Training.
- **Program Completion:** Participants are required to complete the full program, including the 20 hours of mentorship as well as attend all training workshops.
- **Regular Communication:** Maintain regular communication with Accessible Arts/Access2Arts and the partnering organisation throughout the program.
- **Mid-Program Report:** Submit a mid-program progress report.
- **End-of-Program Report:** Submit a final report at the end of the program.
- **Documentation of Participation:** Provide at least one photo or reel showcasing your experience during the program.

Enquiries

If you have any questions about your application or the Next Level Creative Mentorship Program, please email Accessible Arts:

Email: info@aarts.net.au

Call: +61 2 9251 6499.



**Access
2Arts**

Our team is available 10am to 5pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for phone enquires.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



Australian Government



Accessible Arts – Principal Funder



Create NSW
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Access2Arts – Principal Funder



**Government
of South Australia**

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