



OBSERVATORY THEATRE

TELESCOPE



2024 PROGRAM

Telescope is a playwriting program that commissions new plays.

Telescope offers unique opportunities for emerging playwrights with imaginative and inventive voices. The program offers a tailored approach to suit each writer and culminates in staged readings of the play. This is dedicated, rigorous playwriting for those bold enough to take the leap.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE OCTOBER 1

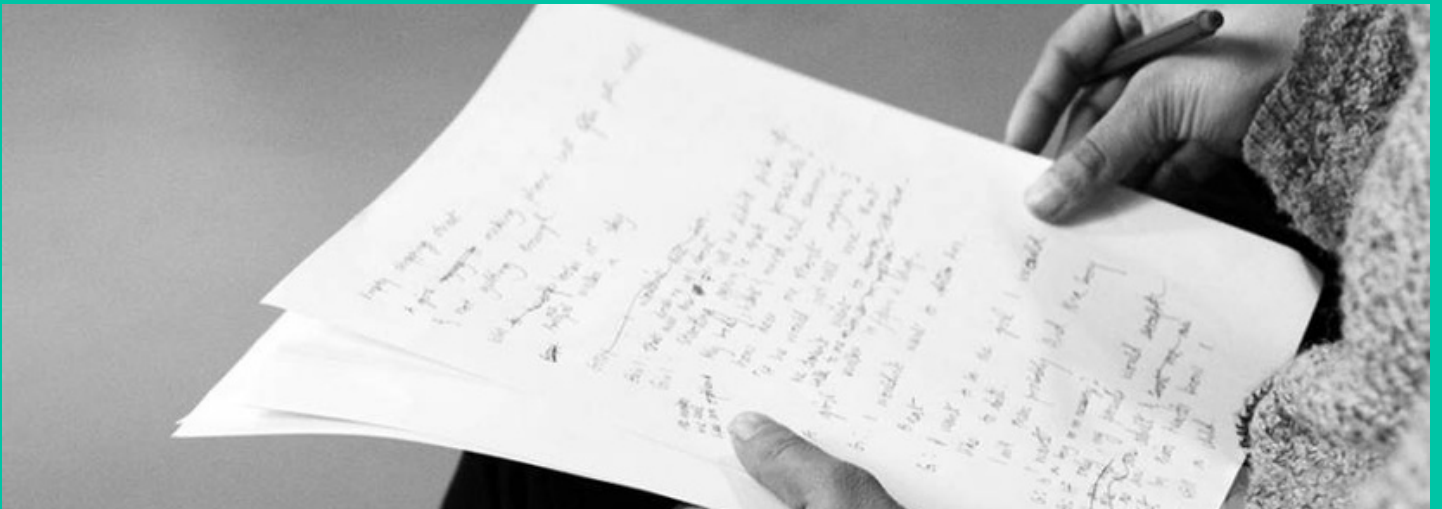
For more information, please contact telescope@observatorytheatre.com

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PROGRAM AIMS

- To produce new plays
- To support writers with inventive and imaginative voices
- To provide a creatively-freeing and supportive process
- To encourage rigorous research and development
- To expose the play to many minds, ears and hearts, and prompt feedback, exploration and experimentation

Telescope exists to bolster "risky" new work that writers may not be supported to create anywhere else. Today, stories need to be looked at through multiple lenses and angles. We love big ideas that investigate the world in new ways. We think creativity and ingenuity are key foundations of theatre and drama. We think that to reach modern audiences who live through modern problems, we need new perspectives, propositions and reflections.



Playwrights will receive:

- A guaranteed honorarium to write a brand new play from 2024 to 2025 (See Page 4)
- Staged readings of the play, led by a director and performed by actors
- Percentage of the box office from the staged readings
- Frequent contact with a dramaturg and regular feedback sessions
- Workshops with guest dramaturgs and associate artists
- Fully produced and coordinated by Observatory Theatre
- Tailored according to writer and project needs

Playwrights will need to be based in Queensland and be available to work in Brisbane

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PREVIOUS WRITERS



Oliver Gough (*Disney Off Ice*, 2023)

"Developing a new play through the Telescope Program has helped to open up a wealth of new perspectives and ideas about the work, and the craft of writing and making theatre in general. It's been great to feel both supported and productively challenged by the company and generous associate artists across the whole process."

OBSERVATORY THEATRE

Observatory Theatre is an independent theatre company based in Brisbane. We aim to never be boring, to inspire and engage, and to provide outstanding experiences for audiences. We place big ideas and "risk taking" as a core focus of our programming. We particularly support and program Australian writing. Our previous projects include the Sci-Fi odyssey *Control* by Keziah Warner, the original musical *Destiny Doomed* by Anina-Marie van Wyk performed outdoors at Musgrave Park in South Brisbane, and the absurdist climate change comedy *The Turquoise Elephant* by Stephen Carleton. We are also focussed on developing new plays through the Telescope New Writing Program, which supports writers to produce bold and inventive work. Outcomes have included Oliver Gough's *Disney Off Ice*, an absurdist work about Walt Disney's alleged cryonic freezing.

For more information, visit www.observatorytheatre.com

HOW TO APPLY

1. Send your Playwriting/Theatre CV to **telescope@observatorytheatre.com**
2. Include a brief introduction to yourself, including how your work and practise aligns with the program
3. Include a PDF of previous writing that best represents your artistry. Please submit a complete work, **not a sample**
4. Include the subject line "Telescope Application 2024"

For questions, more information or if you have difficulties sending the above, please contact **telescope@observatorytheatre.com**

Please note: Your work is not shared beyond Observatory Theatre. We exercise confidentiality during the reviewing process.

KEY DATES AND TIMING

Applications open: Tuesday 22nd August

Applications close: Sunday 1st October

All applicants notified of outcome: Friday 10th November

Work commences: December 2023

Staged readings: December 2025

Workshops, development and other meetings will be organised based on availability.

PAYMENT AND FUNDING

Playwrights will receive a guaranteed honorarium (to be negotiated) and will be based on recommended industry rates and standards. Observatory Theatre is currently submitting applications for funding to further support writers and artists who will be involved in this program. If successful, we will re-negotiate the honorarium to offer additional remuneration.

ACCESSIBILITY

The program can be tailored for those with access needs if required. Inherent physical capabilities of this program are consistent with that of a writer or dramaturg of a theatre company. The program is designed as a combination of in-person meetings and independent/distance work.

Applicants with access requirements are encouraged to contact us for more information about flexible working arrangements and support available. Please contact **telescope@observatorytheatre.com** for more.

Applications: If convenient, applicants are able to submit a video application in answer to the second question in the "How to Apply" section. Please include a link to YouTube, Vimeo or Google Drive, and include any relevant passwords.

