

THE RIFF

YOUTH THEATRE FESTIVAL 2023

Information & Application Pack

The Riff 2024 Information & Application Pack

What is The Riff?

The Riff is Q Theatre's annual youth theatre festival. For over 30 years it has created opportunities for young people across Western Sydney to explore their passion for drama while learning new skills from industry professionals and devising their own short works. Over one term, students experience the entire theatre-making process from inception to rehearsals to presentation. The festival culminates with a performance in the Q Theatre with support from our in-house technical team.

How does it work?

The Riff is an in-school residency program. We embed a professional theatre artist in your classroom for a total of 26 face-to-face hours, spread across a term at times that suit your schedule. Artists work with teachers to guide students through the devising process and help them to create original 10-minute works. Included in the prescribed hours are visits to the Q Theatre for stagecraft and technical production workshops that enrich students' experience and teach them practical performance skills.

During the week leading up to the performance all participating schools attend a technical rehearsal in which our production team will help them realise their visions for lighting, sound, and more. The program culminates in a final festival performance in the Q Theatre for an audience of peers, friends and family.

Key 2024 Dates

19 February

Expression of Interest applications due

23 February

Schools notified of participation

1 March

Schools confirm participation and preference dates for stagecraft workshops and technical rehearsals.

15 March

Participation fee due

8-12 April

Stagecraft workshops at The Joan (session times TBD)

16 April – 27 June

In-school devising and rehearsal period.

24-27 June (Production Week)

Technical Rehearsals (session times TBD)

28 June

Festival Performances at The Joan, 12pm & 7pm.

Participation Fee

A participation fee of \$1,200 per school group covers:

- A \$600 festival participation fee
- 30 tickets for students from your school to attend the matinee performance on Friday 28th June at 12pm, at a cost of \$600. Additional tickets may be purchased if desired.

Access & Inclusion

Q Theatre is committed to removing barriers to the theatre making process. We encourage school drama groups that include students who identify as neurodiverse, d/Deaf, and or living with disability to participate in *The Riff*.

We respectfully request that any registered schools who have students with accessibility needs raise these with the Q Theatre team as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. If you have any questions about any aspect of your students' involvement in the festival, please get in touch with us.

Directors

Directors are professional theatre artists who also have experience as teachers and devisers. The Directors' role is to work in tandem with teachers to facilitate devising sessions and rehearsals, and to co-direct students' performances. Directors spend a total of 26 hours working face-to-face with students, which include:

- 20 hours in your classroom
- One 3-hour stagecraft workshop at the Joan, held between 8-12 April
- One 3-hour technical rehearsal in the Q Theatre, held between 24-27 June

It is common for students to spend additional time rehearsing with their teacher in addition to the hours spent with the director. Teachers and directors should work collaboratively to delegate tasks (research, scripting, sound design, etc.) and schedules as best suits both parties.

Provocation & Theatrical Style

Participating schools respond to a provocation provided by Q Theatre. This is a jumping-off point for your devising, a tool to stimulate the early creative process with your director. It can feature as prominently, or as lightly, as your group desires in the finished work. All schools will receive the same provocation following registration.

Examples of provocations from previous years include *Welcome Home*, *The Butterfly Effect*, *Split* and *Mother*.

During the EOI process you will nominate a theatrical style for your performance. This might be something that will play to your students' strengths, or something that will present an exciting creative challenge for them. Your choice of style may inform the artist we pair with you, but please note that *The Riff* is not a training course in your chosen style. Rather, it is an opportunity for your students to experiment with a set of conventions that will give a structure to their devising process.

If you need some inspiration, here are some popular styles from past festivals:

<i>Classic/Greek Theatre</i>	<i>Comedy</i>	<i>Contemporary</i>
<i>Dance Theatre</i>	<i>Epic Theatre</i>	<i>Mask</i>
<i>Verbatim Theatre</i>	<i>Physical Theatre</i>	<i>Theatre of the Absurd</i>

Stagecraft Workshops

Stagecraft workshops are held at the Joan where you will start the devising process with your director. Students will be introduced to the Q Theatre – both the space itself and the technical resources that it offers – and have the chance to ask questions of the Q Theatre and Joan Technical teams. Stagecraft workshops run for 3 hours.

Production Week

Each school attends a 3-hour technical rehearsal during the week leading up to the final performance. This is each groups' chance to finalise the technical aspects of their performance. To help these sessions run smoothly and efficiently, each school will be required to submit their technical requirements two weeks ahead of their technical rehearsal. This is to allow our technical team adequate time to ensure we can accommodate your requests.

It is strongly recommended that each school reserves a portion of their allocated time for a combined dress and technical rehearsal.

Performance Day

All schools come together for two performances on Friday 28 June:

- 12pm – Schools matinee
- 7pm – General public performance

Schools are encouraged to publicise the performances within their schools and communities. If you would like to request posters or flyers to assist with advertising, contact the Q Theatre team and we will be happy to assist.

How to Apply

Step 1: Submit an Expression of Interest (EOI)

[Click here to complete *The Riff* 2024 EOI Application Form](#)

OR Copy and paste this weblink: <https://form.jotform.com/233390698158872>

EOIs are due by 5pm on Friday 16 February 2024. All schools will be notified of the outcome of their application by 20 February.

Please note that submitting an EOI is not a commitment to participate in the festival.

Step 2: Formal Registration

Schools whose EOIs are successful can accept a place in the festival by:

1. Confirming the dates for their stagecraft workshops and technical rehearsals before 1 March.
2. Paying the festival participation fee of \$1200 by 15 March.

Questions?

Your main contacts for all enquiries related to The Riff are Q Theatre's Project Officers, Kate Bobis and Brianna McCarthy:

Phone: (02) 4723 7600 (option 2 – Studio Q)

Email: creative.learning@penrith.city