



REVIEW WRITERS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Darwin Festival is calling for expressions of interest from local writers to take part in our Review Writers Mentorship program – a unique opportunity to sharpen your critical voice and gain hands-on experience as a festival reviewer.

Led by legendary arts writer Richard Watts OAM, this free program is open to both emerging and established writers looking to develop their reviewing craft in a supportive and professionally guided setting.

What's involved:

- Take part in an online masterclass with Richard Watts in July, covering how to structure a review, write with authenticity, and develop critical analysis skills
- Get exclusive media access to selected Darwin Festival shows and experiences
- Receive one-on-one mentoring from Richard during the Festival's opening weekend – bring your first review draft for personalised feedback
- Write three reviews for publication on the brand new We Are Locals review hub

About Richard Watts OAM

Richard is the National Performing Arts Editor at ArtsHub, host of SmartArts on Triple R FM, and a widely respected arts commentator and critic. He is a Melbourne Fringe Living Legend, recipient of the Sidney Myer Facilitator's Prize, the Green Room Awards' Lifetime Achievement Award, and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2024 for his services to the arts.

DETAILS

Dates & Times EOIs are now open and close on Wed 11 Jun
Online masterclass Sat 12 Jul 10am – 12pm
One-on-one mentoring sessions Sat 9 & Sun 10 Aug

For local writers – emerging or established – with a passion for the arts and an interest in reviewing performance and festival experiences. We're seeking 4–6 participants.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code





WORKSHOP

SENSES AWAKENING

With Sensorium Theatre Company

This foundational workshop is essential for anyone engaging with children, particularly those with disability. Through experiential learning and multi-sensory techniques, participants gain direct insights into the sensory experiences and needs of children. By fostering a deeper understanding of sensory preferences, attendees develop skills in creating diverse sensory environments that support learning and growth.

Sensorium Theatre's professional learning opportunities are highly sought after and cater to a wide range of professionals. These sessions are invaluable for anyone working with or caring for individuals with disability, but the benefits extend universally across various contexts and communities such as childcare, playgroups, and community service providers. We encourage participation from both frontline service providers and those working behind the scenes in formal and informal education or therapy settings.

DETAILS

Darwin Entertainment Centre, Rehearsal Room
93 Mitchell St, Darwin

Date & Time Tue 5 Aug 11am – 1pm

For anyone engaging with children, particularly those with disability, including venue staff, artists, educators, teachers, librarians, therapists, and carers.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code



Part of Darwin Festival's
Industry Connect
program, designed to
engage, support and uplift
the local arts community





MASTERCLASS

SENSES AWAKENING & MULTI-SENSORY TOOLKIT

With Sensorium Theatre Company

This masterclass provides a deep dive into the world of multi-sensory engagement, perfect for professionals working with children, including those with disability. Participants will explore foundational sensory principles and build their confidence in multi-sensory storytelling techniques. Attendees will develop skills in designing engaging sensory experiences and incorporating innovative storytelling approaches into their practice.

Sensorium Theatre's professional learning opportunities are highly sought after and cater to a wide range of professionals. These sessions are invaluable for anyone working with or caring for individuals with disability, but the benefits extend universally across various contexts and communities such as childcare, playgroups, and community service providers. We encourage participation from both frontline service providers and those working behind the scenes in formal and informal education or therapy settings.

DETAILS

**Darwin Entertainment Centre, Rehearsal Room,
93 Mitchell St, Darwin**

Date & Time

Tue 5 Aug, 3pm – 5.30pm

For anyone engaging with children, particularly those with disability, including venue staff, artists, educators, teachers, librarians, therapists, and carers.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code



Part of Darwin Festival's
Industry Connect
program, designed to
engage, support and uplift
the local arts community





OPEN REHEARSAL THE MAKING OF ANTIDOTE

With Tracks Dance

Join Tracks Dance's new Artistic Leadership Team – Rachael Wallis, David McMicken, Jenelle Saunders, James Mangohig and Alyson Evans – as they delve into the making of ANTIDOTE: A Remedy for Now.

In this behind-the-scenes conversation, the team will unpack their creative process, from cross-artform collaboration and community engagement, to the development and rehearsal process of creating the show. As well as engaging in conversation, you'll experience an open rehearsal-style sharing of ANTIDOTE, with live excerpts of stories, dance, and sound, offering a glimpse into how the work is being created and brought to life.

DETAILS

**Tracks Dance Studio, Harbour View Plaza,
8 McMinn St, Darwin**

Date & Time Sat 9 Aug 10am – 12pm

For dance practitioners, choreographers, musicians, composers, storytellers, and anyone interested in the performance making process.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code





PANEL DISCUSSION

THE ART OF PRODUCING

**With Kultar Ahluwalia,
Tahni Froudish, and Lia Pa'apa'a**

Join us for an engaging panel discussion with three accomplished arts professionals. Each panellist brings a wealth of experience and a unique viewpoint, offering a diversity of approaches to the art of producing. Be part of the conversation as we explore how to find opportunities, build tours, support creative teams, and effectively resource projects. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a curious newcomer, this conversation promises to inform and inspire.

Kultar Ahluwalia (The Mixed-Race Tape) is a self-producing hip hop artist from Kurna Yerta/Adelaide with Punjabi and Irish roots who has been releasing and performing music for more than two decades.

Tahni Froudish is a creative producer and arts leader with a commitment to bold, contemporary performance and artist-led practice. She is currently Executive Producer at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Australia's national youth circus based in Albury-Wodonga.

Lia Pa'apa'a is a mama, textile artist and creative producer who works within a community engaged practice. Based in Gimuy/Cairns, she creates safe spaces for people to tell stories, learn, be empowered, and explore creative and cultural practice.

DETAILS

Brown's Mart Rehearsal Room, 12 Smith St, Darwin

Date & Time

Sun 10 Aug 10am – 11.30am

For anyone interested in producing, and independent artists of all disciplines.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code





CREATIVE WORKSHOP

WILD PLAY

With The Last Great Hunt

Join The Last Great Hunt core artist Adriane Daff for a performance workshop entitled 'Wild Play'. This is the term the Hunters use for super early-stage development where the artists get in the room with the slightest hint of an idea—no story or characters – and play! Unlock your creative potential and learn strategies for sparking fresh ideas and collaborating with others.

Packed with practical tools, this workshop will empower you to ignite your creativity and guide you how to develop original, multi-dimensional performances from scratch.

Adriane Daff is an actor, writer, theatre-maker who has studied at WAAPA, in New York City (Ward Meisner Studio) and in Paris (Ecole Philippe Gaulier). Adriane has been working professionally for 20 years and that's a lot of shows.

The Last Great Hunt are creators, innovators and above else, explorers. Creating high quality, rigorous, relevant and entertaining original work in Boorloo/Perth, their work features an eclectic variety of forms, styles and experiences.

DETAILS

Brown's Mart Rehearsal Room, 12 Smith St, Darwin

Date & Time

Sat 16 Aug 10am – 12pm

For anyone interested in the process of performance making. No performance experience necessary.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code





ARTIST TALK

NIGHT NIGHT

POST-SHOW CONVERSATION WITH THE LAST GREAT HUNT

Join The Last Great Hunt core artists, Arielle Gray, Tim Watts, and Adriane Daff, for a deep dive into the theatrical tricks and techniques behind *Night Night*.

Highly visual and playfully cinematic, the newest creation from WA's The Last Great Hunt tells the tale of Pip, a downtrodden Antarctic scientist on a quest to discover the origin of life. *Night Night* takes you on an extraordinary adventure, blending puppets, animation, and DIY digital magic. Witness the onscreen story while experiencing the behind-the-scenes artistry as a theatrical film is created live in front of you.

The Last Great Hunt are creators, innovators and above else, explorers. Creating high quality, rigorous, relevant and entertaining original work in Boorloo/Perth, their work features an eclectic variety of forms, styles and experiences.

DETAILS

Brown's Mart Rehearsal Room, 12 Smith St, Darwin

Date & Time

Sat 16 Aug 3pm – 4pm

Book a ticket to the performance at 2pm using the Industry Connect discount code and stay on after the show, or see the show any other time instead.

For anyone interested in the DIY technical wizardry of theatre and film making.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code





COMEDY WORKSHOP

DAVE WOODHEAD

Ready to level up your comedy game? Whether you're a gigging stand-up, an emerging MC, or a rookie who's always cracking up your mates – this is for you.

Join comedian, writer and all-round legend Dave Woodhead for a lively, practical workshop that dives into the art of comedy. You'll explore how to generate material, shape it into something stage-ready, and deliver it with confidence and authenticity. From joke-writing and timing to reading a room and navigating tricky topics – Dave will guide you through the tools and tricks that help make comedy connect.

Bring your ideas, bring your curiosity – and definitely bring your sense of humour.

DETAILS

Brown's Mart Rehearsal Room, 12 Smith St, Darwin

Date & Time

Tue 19 Aug 6pm – 8pm

For aspiring, emerging and established comedy writers, performers, MCs, and radio presenters.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code





PERFORMANCE MAKING WORKSHOP

PLAY LAB

Take part in a practical and playful performance making workshop led by award-winning theatre collective Pony Cam. This intensive session will give you tools to create site-responsive performance, to adapt existing work for unconventional spaces, and to shape unique and unforgettable audience experiences.

From classrooms, to offices, to carparks, to shopfronts, to parks & forests – Pony Cam has made work for all sorts of spaces. So, whether you want to fine-tune your skills in adapting a show to a theatre or learn how to make something in a strange little hole you've found, this lab is for you. No prior experience in theatre making or performance is expected.

Pony Cam are an award-winning experimental collective of five theatre makers from around Australia. Their work is driven by a desire to bring people together to create experiences that could not otherwise be had. Pony Cam's practice is instinctive, physical, and highly playful. They are driven by a desire to reimagine their impact in the world, find joy in community, and remain utterly silly.

DETAILS

Tracks Studio, Harbour View Plaza, 8 McMinn St, Darwin

Date & Time

Sun 24 Aug 11am – 2pm

For theatre and performance makers and designers interested in thinking about space in new ways.

FREE. REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register here with QR code

