

# The Act-Belong-Commit LOUNGEROOM PROJECT | GUIDELINES 2021

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Act Belong Commit Loungeroom Project by WA Youth Theatre Company (WAYTCo) is a free, at-home theatre and performance making project for young Western Australians. Now in its second year, the project is presented as a summer school program to be accessed online.

It is an opportunity to learn from and train with professional artists in a range of theatre and performance making skills. Participants are encouraged to create a short piece of theatre or performance work 'in their lounge room' using whatever and whoever they have with them at home. Their performance is to be filmed on a mobile device and then submitted to the Loungeroom Project Jury.

There are four awards up for grabs:

- Loungeroom Jury Award – Junior 13-17yrs: cash prize of \$1000 + 1OFF Store \$350 voucher
- Loungeroom Jury Award – Senior 18-26yrs: cash prize of \$1000+ 1OFF Store \$350 voucher
- People's Choice Award – Junior 13-17yrs: cash prize of \$1000+ 1OFF Store \$350 voucher
- People's Choice Award – Senior 18-26yrs: cash prize of \$1000+ 1OFF Store \$350 voucher

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The Lounge Room Project is for Western Australians who are aged between 13 and 26 (you must be between 13-26 on the 29th of January 2022). The project is aimed at young people who are interested in theatre and performance, however anyone within the age range in WA can take part. Previous experience and training are welcomed but not essential.

## PROJECT GOALS

The project has five main goals:

1. Providing access to professional arts online learning for young people state-wide in WA
2. Encouraging young emerging artists to continue practicing during the 21/22 summer holidays
3. Sharing the passion for theatre and performance making with our members and broadening WAYTCo's theatre network to rural and remote WA.
4. Providing mental health messaging to young people who engage with the project by exemplifying the mental health strategies of professional Western Australian Theatre artists.
5. Creating an open-source resource pack for young people and youth theatre or performance groups anywhere in the world who will be able to replicate the project in their own context.

## JUNIOR AND SENIOR CATEGORIES

There are two categories that your submission will be considered under:

Junior Category: for participants 13-17 years-old

Senior Category: for participants aged 18-26 years-old

The Junior category has some additional conditions that should be considered, please see the Submission requirements.

## HOW IT WORKS

- **Learn** – Each week over a 4-week period, the Loungeroom Project will publish 3x free tutorials by professional artists who will unpack some of their creative practice for you. The tutors will take you through activities, or strategies, that will allow you to explore their techniques and learn from their tried and tested methods. The project tutorials for 2021 will all be published by the end of the 2021 school year, i.e. by 16 December 2021. This means you will have the summer holidays to work on your project.
- **Rehearse** – Practice the techniques and skills you have learnt online and use them to assist you in making your own loungeroom project performance. Feel free to use whoever and whatever you have with you at home. Your voice, your story, is often a good place to start, however you may have another angle. The only limit is your imagination.
- **Perform** – Whatever you make will need to be performed in your loungeroom (or other household space or spaces) and filmed on your mobile device. You can film it as many times as you need to get it right and you will learn how to edit it ready for submission (at the end of January 2022). When you are done you can submit your work to the Loungeroom Project.

You can submit just ONE entry per registered participant.

## JUDGING PROCESS & AWARDS

Once you have submitted your short work, the Loungeroom Project Preselection Panel will select 20 finalists for each category, Junior and Senior.

The finalists' work will be shared by WAYTCO online and on social media. The guest Loungeroom Project Jury will then vote for the Lounge Room Jury Awards. Also, the general public will be invited to vote for a People's Choice award. The Awards are:

- Loungeroom Jury Award - Junior 13-17yrs: cash prize of \$1000 + a 10OFF Store \$350 voucher
- Loungeroom Jury Award - Senior 18-26yrs: cash prize of \$1000 + a 10OFF Store \$350 voucher
- People's Choice Award - Junior 13-17yrs: cash prize of \$1000 + a 10OFF Store \$350 voucher
- People's Choice Award - Senior 18-26yrs: cash prize of \$1000 + a 10OFF Store \$350 voucher

The Loungeroom Project Jury will assess your work based on the following criteria:

- Originality of concept
- Creative use of your domestic environment and household elements
- Excellence of performative outcome

## TUTORIAL RELEASE TIMELINE & TUTORS

Release Date	Tutor	Content
22 Nov 2021	<b>Mararo Wangai</b>	Storytelling & writing
24 Nov 2021	<b>Chris Isaacs</b>	Storytelling & writing
26 Nov 2021	<b>Caitlin Beresford-Ord</b>	Acting in the lounge room
29 Nov 2021	<b>Jeremy James</b>	Acting in the lounge room
1 Dec 2021	<b>Eva Mullaley</b>	Devising & cultural safety
3 Dec 2021	<b>Emele' Ugavule</b>	Devising & intercultural practice
6 Dec 2021	<b>Ella Hetherington</b>	Physical Storytelling
8 Dec 2021	<b>Libby Klysz</b>	Improvisation
10 Dec 2021	<b>Lucy Birkinshaw</b>	Lighting at home
13 Dec 2021	<b>Deborah May</b>	Filming & sound on an iphone
15 Dec 2021	<b>Zoe Pepper</b>	Directing
16 Dec 2021	<b>Jude McAuley</b>	Editing at home + <b>Submissions Open</b>
29 Jan 2022	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	

Artist Tutorials are published on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week, over the four-week course period. These will be YouTube-platformed and available on the project website:

<https://loungeproject.com.au/>

### WEEK ONE

#### Storytelling & Writing

##### Mararo Wangai

Mararo is a Kenyan-born writer, performer and media graduate, with a passionate interest in diverse forms of storytelling. Has performed with Last Great Hunt among others and his highly regarded recent work Black Brass premiered at Perth Festival in 2021 and is now touring nationally.

##### Chris Isaacs

Chris is a writer, deviser, performer, and founding core artist of The Last Great Hunt. Writing credits include BITE THE HAND, YORK (Co-Written with Ian Michael), THE GREAT RIDOLPHI, FAG/STAG (co-written with Jeffrey Jay Fowler). As a co-deviser/performer: WHISTLBLOWER, LÉ NØR, STAY WITH US, ALL THAT GLITTERS, and IT'S DARK OUTSIDE.

## **Acting in the Lounge**

### Caitlin Beresford-Ord

Caitlin has been an actor, singer and performance maker for over 25 years. She is a Teaching Artist for The International School's Theatre Association, Bell Shakespeare Company, Black Swan State Theatre Company, ATYP and lectures at WAAPA.

## **WEEK TWO**

### **Acting in the Lounge**

#### Jeremy James

Currently in Perth working with WAAPA, his work as a theatre director, actor and teaching artist has taken him to more than 20 countries over the last 25 years. A member of the renowned Théâtre du Soleil in Paris for nine years, he has performed at prestigious theatres and festivals internationally, and is a regular guest director and lecturer at some of the world's leading theatre schools.

### **Devising and Cultural Safety**

#### Emelé Ugavule

A multidisciplinary storyteller of Tokelauan and Fijian descent, Emele works across live performance, film, tv & digital media as a writer, director, producer, performer, educator and mentor. Her work explores creative processes and outcomes grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, and nurturing the vā, where embodiment, cultural expression, digitisation and neuroscience intersect. Currently, Emele` is Creative Director of Talanoa, the largest digital storytelling platform by and for Oceanic peoples in Australia.

#### Eva Mullaley

Eva is a Widi woman from the Yamatji Nation in WA. She graduated from WAAPA (Aboriginal Theatre) in 2003 and began her directing career in 2005. In her nearly 20-year career in the arts Eva has worked as director, arts administrator, stage manager, tour manager, producer, actor, dramaturg, workshops coordinator and many more. She is currently Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in Perth, Western Australia.

## **WEEK THREE**

### **Physical Storytelling**

#### Ella Hetherington

Ella is a theatre maker, educator and performer based in Western Australia. She has worked with many leading Australian and international companies across theatre, dance and physical theatre. She has toured her work throughout Australia, Europe, Canada and Asia.

### **Improvisation**

#### Libby Klysz

Libby is a director, producer, teacher and performer. She has worked with a variety of companies over twenty years, and even more independent artists. She directed Charlotte Otton in the heavily lauded *Feminah* (2019). Libby heads up Variegated Productions, with award winning shows such as *Ragnarokkr* (2020), *Frankie's* (2018), *The Man and The Moon* (2016), *Ramshackle & Kitsch* (2017). She is an original performer with *The Big HOO-HAA!*

### **Lighting**

#### Lucy Birkinshaw

Lucy Birkinshaw is a lighting designer and artist, a co-founder of Filament Design Group whose design work spans theatre, music theatre, concert lighting, opera, dance, film and television. Lucy's distinctive approach to depth, contrast and beauty within her designs make her an identifiable theatre artist.

## WEEK FOUR

### Filming

#### Deborah May

Deborah May's passion and interest is in making films featuring dance, music and the performing arts: documentary, documentation and, especially, collaborations with choreographers, composers and theatre makers. Deborah studied Fine Art, in South Africa and in London, and worked in theatre, a museum, an art school, the United Nations film department, an animation studio, the BBC and is currently a freelance producer, director and editor in Perth, WA

### Directing

#### Zoe Pepper

Zoe is a writer/director who tells big-hearted, dark and irreverent for theatre and screen. Zoe is a recipient of Screenwest's prestigious Feature Navigator program. She has won an Australian Director's Guild Award and her work has screened at the Slamdance Film Festival. Zoe has been commissioned to write for Windmill Theatre Company and Black Swan State Theatre Company. Zoe is a co-founder of Audioplay, an award-winning interactive audio app for kids.

### Editing

#### Jude McAuley

Jude is a broadcast Postproduction supervisor, Editor and Adobe Master trainer. She is best known for her work on the '72 Dangerous' group of programs on Netflix but has worked on everything from short films to cooking programs, true crime, children's drama and television commercials. In this series she will discuss some simple editing storytelling techniques and introduce an alternative free editing program.

## WEEK FIVE – WEEK TEN: Summer Holidays

Making, performing, filming, editing submitting.

## SUBMISSION, VOTING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 29/1/2022 9pm

Tuesday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2022: People's Choice Voting Opens

Sunday February 27<sup>th</sup> 2022: People's Choice Voting Closes

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022: Lounge room Awards Announced

## WHAT YOU NEED TO PARTICIPATE

- **Internet access** – The Lounge Room Project artist tutorials will be available online.
- **A mobile device with a camera** – Record your performance on your phone.
- **A lounge room** (or similar) to perform in – You don't have to make and perform exclusively in your lounge room. You can use other rooms and spaces at home, a balcony or garden if you have one.

NOTE: Bedrooms and bathrooms are not permitted if you are in the Junior Category (13-17 years-old).

## YOUR SUBMISSION

This project celebrates original creative work by young Western Australians. It challenges you to create a theatre/performance work in your loungeroom. The performance should demonstrate excellence in concept, performance skill and creativity. You can use whoever and whatever you have with you at home. But if you are the registered participant you must be the principal creative. That doesn't necessarily mean you have to appear in the final filmed performance. You could be the writer and or director. You might be a puppeteer or a narrator. It is up to you – it is about your ideas, stories and creativity.

- **Length** – Between 2.5minutes (minimum) to 5.00 minutes (maximum)
- **Form** – Anything original under the broadest definitions of theatre and performance. Whatever you want to create: a monologue, a play, a puppet show, a physical theatre work, a tiny musical, a stand-up routine, sketch comedy, cabaret, clowning, mime, a whodunnit, a simple story told straight to camera or some combination of the above. The form is whatever works best for you.
- **Filming** - Once you have made it and rehearsed it you will need to film it on a mobile device (consider filming in landscape). You don't have to film it in one take. You can film in sections and cut them together.
- **Editing** - The phone footage can be edited on your phone or computer (if you have access to one). Through the Loungeroom Project you will learn some basics about using free, downloadable editing software.
- **Intellectual Property** – The Loungeroom Project is about your voice, your story, your creative practice. We want to support and celebrate that. You remain the owner of anything you submit. **Do not** include in your filmed performance the work of other artists that you do not have permission to use, (see submission requirements below). **Do not** include music or filmed footage, TV, Films, Games etc that is not your property. **Do not** include designs, branding or company logos etc that you do not own.
- **Weekly Tutorials** – The tutorials are designed to assist you with your ideas and your process. They are designed to get you thinking, dreaming and creating. Use them as much or as little as you like. It's up to you.
- **Parental Consent** – *For Junior participants (13-17 years old) your parent of guardian will need to give their consent for you to submit your work to the Loungeroom Project.*

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### WHAT IT *SHOULD* HAVE:

- Your original ideas, themes and stories, an expression of the things that are important to you now.
- Creative use of your space(s) and household items (i.e. a desk lamp as a spotlight, your dog as a lead actor)
- Strong theatre-based elements
- Title pages in the final edit – you will learn how to do this in the editing tutorial (you will not be ineligible if you don't include them).

## WHAT IT CAN HAVE:

- Props, sets, puppets, lights, costumes, special effects - whatever you have around your house
- Your own original sound/music/choreography/stories/characters etc
- Royalty-free music and sound (we will show you where to access that)
- Other people or pets that live in your house – as performers, assistants or props
- Other home spaces – kitchen, balcony, driveway etc.

## WHAT IT SHOULD NOT HAVE

- Copyrighted material that isn't yours (music, songs, sound, video clips, film and TV scripts, footage Pre-existing characters etc)
- Scenes filmed in any bedroom or bathroom (for under 18s)
- References to drug use, alcohol, smoking, suicide
- Performance or filming of actual physical harm, violence or cruelty (no Parkour fail type videos, no harassment of pets or family members!)
- No nudity
- No hate speech or obscenity

## REQUIREMENTS

- You can only submit one entry per member
- Your entry must not have been shared/published online in any format before submission or until finalists have been announced
- You will need to provide a link to your final submission either on a password protected YouTube or Vimeo account (with download enabled), or as a file in a Dropbox

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH YOUR SUBMISSION

You will submit your work through the submission form on the Loungeroom Project website:

[www.loungeroomproject.com.au](http://www.loungeroomproject.com.au)

You will need to provide a link to your final submission either on a password protected YouTube or Vimeo account (with download enabled), or as a file in a Dropbox.

*If you are under 18 you will need to include a parental consent form with your submission in the online form.*

A preselection panel will select 40 finalists (20 in each category) whose work will be uploaded to and shared via WAYTCO's Youtube/Vimeo, website and social media. People's Choice will be assessed through likes on WAYTCO's accounts only.

*By submitting your work, you are consenting WAYTCO to distribute and promote your submission online. Copyright and ownership of the work will remain with you.*

If you don't make the list of finalists you are still encouraged to post and share your submission online and with your friends and networks. Use the hashtag #loungeroomproject and tag @wayouththeatreco on Instagram and @waytco on Facebook so we can like it too!

## **CONNECTING WITH THE LOUNGEROOM PROJECT**

**Please follow the project on the website and on WA Youth Theatre Company Website and Socials DM us for any FAQs**

**[www.loungeroomproject.com.au](http://www.loungeroomproject.com.au)**

**[www.waytco.com](http://www.waytco.com)**

**@wayouththeatreco on Instagram**

**@waytco on Facebook**

Any anti-social behaviour in a Loungeroom Project submission or on social media affiliated with The Loungeroom Project or WA Youth Theatre Company will result in that person or persons being removed from the project and being ineligible for Jury Selection.