



Information for Directors - 2021

Key Dates

2021

Mid December 2020

Tickets go on sale. **Note:** Once tickets are booked they cannot be changed

1 – 6 February 2021

One tech run / rehearsal at each venue

TBC

Full dress rehearsal

Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 February 2021

Micro Theatre Festival

Thursday 18 – Saturday 20 February 2021

Micro Theatre Festival

Sunday 21 February 2021

Celebration and Awards Presentation (venue TBC)

Scripts short listed for the program in 2020 have carried over to 2021

2021 venues

The Base

3 Tudor Street, Newcastle West

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

Newcastle ArtSpace

91 Chin Chen Street, Islington

<https://www.newcastleartspace.org.au/>

The Owens Collective

101 Maitland Road, Islington

<https://www.theowenscollective.com.au/>

Venue format

The venues used for Micro Theatre are local art galleries event spaces. Seating is from 35 - 45 people depending on the venue. Do not expect conventional seating in rows.

At each venue, four short plays will be presented. These plays will be curated by the Festival Director to best suit the venue, offer diversity in the whole program and provide transitions from one play to the next.

There's no special lighting, stage or technical support. The venue, and all its quirks, is the 'theatre'. It is your creative challenge as a Director to use the venue to its best advantage.

Of priority is the best COVID-safe experience possible for audiences to enjoy the plays.

Directors are welcome to attend performances each night, but please note you may not always have a seat. We need to sell as many tickets as possible and do not reserve seats for Directors.

Director's responsibility

As the head of artistic vision for each production, we ask that you:

- be the leader of an inclusive and supportive team, including communicating with your cast any messages from Micro Theatre
- involve and communicate with the Writer, especially if a revision is required

Casting **NOTE: All actors must be 18 years or older**

Directors may use their own networks to cast their production or utilise a contact list of actors held by Micro Theatre.

Rehearsals

- Initial read throughs/rehearsals are mostly in private homes and are arranged by Directors.
- A rehearsal at the programmed venue will be arranged by Micro Theatre. Each production will have one run-through and check of venue needs.
- Please take a photo at each rehearsal you hold as a record of who attended, the date place and time. This photo is to provide information for COVID19 contact tracing if necessary.

Full Dress Rehearsal

A full dress rehearsal will occur for each group of plays for each venue but a 'whole of festival' dress rehearsal is under review.

Subject to sponsorship / finances, there will be awards at the end of the Festival. Non-participation in the Full Dress Rehearsal by a cast member or Director will forfeit the opportunity to be nominated for an individual award.

Working with the Venues

- The venues that host Micro Theatre are privately owned. Their decision to partner with us is both a business decision as well as a choice to be part of something amazing.
- Venue support and good communication with them is critical to the success of Micro Theatre.
- When visiting the venues, please be mindful of others present.

Micro Theatre Judges

These lovely people, with serious local theatre credibility, view all the productions and provide us with independent feedback.

The judging process for 'Best Direction'

Judges will read all the top 12 scripts being performed. The award for 'Best Direction' is awarded to the Director who has done the best work with their allocated script. Therefore, choosing a great script will not guarantee success. It is what you do with that script that counts. Consider for instance the proximity of the audience, how you use the audience, how you use the venue and move your actors around the different spaces, the attention to creating the character/s or any other creative device you use.

Presentation and celebration

Cast, Writers, Directors, Readers, Judges and friends and family are invited to come together to toast the end of what we hope will be a very successful Micro Theatre Festival.

We will also be announcing the award recipients and making presentations.

Insurance

All Micro Theatre participants are required to sign a Volunteer and Release of Liability and indemnity form. This form also includes photo permission.

Micro Theatre holds public liability insurance. We recommend you explore and take any personal insurances you deem necessary.

Final authority and limitations

Micro Theatre is coordinated by three (unpaid) people, who in turn work with over 60 volunteer readers, writers, directors, actors and judges plus the venues to bring the Micro Theatre Festival to audiences.

Given the scale of work, there are limits to what is possible.

- There will be times where individual requests cannot be accommodated
- Final dates are final dates

We will work with you as cooperatively as is possible, but please understand there are some logistical limits.

The Festival Director is responsible in all matters for final decisions.

In conclusion

We are really excited to be producing and presenting the Micro Theatre Festival. We hope the season is great fun and rewarding for all involved. We look forward to working with you.

Kate Dun	Festival Director and Co-Producer
Mardi Ryan	Business Development and Co-Producer
Megan Hazlett	Media Consultant and Co-Producer

More information: <https://www.microtheatre.com.au/>