



Nightwalks with Teenagers

by Mammalian Diving Reflex

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What is *Nightwalks with Teenagers*?

Nightwalks with Teenagers is a walking performance and a nighttime tour of the city, designed and hosted by teenagers. Nightwalks is an all ages event, where an audience (of both teens and adults) is invited to attend, and encouraged to participate and experience the city from the teenagers' perspective.

Why is *Nightwalks with Teenagers* important?

In our day-to-day lives, adults are often the ones taking charge of teens' lives. Whether in school or at home, the youth are restricted with supervision from their parents, guardians or teachers; the decision-making powers teens have are limited to what their adult supervisors deem appropriate, which can impact how much control they feel over their lives, self-confidence and self-worth.



Image: Nightwalks with Teenagers in Bologna, Italy 2023

Nightwalks with Teenagers reshapes the social contract between adults and teens by giving teenagers the power to make executive decisions to create and shape all elements of the performance.

From the planning stage to the finished Nightwalks performance, the teens take on the role of artists and supervisors, and have creative control over the project. Even if only for the duration of the project, we want the youth to feel that they have power over the outcome of the performance, that the decisions that they make matter, and most of all, we want to have lots of fun!



Image: Nightwalks with Teenagers in Brussels, Belgium 2019

To further learn about Mammalian Diving Reflex's methodology, read: [The Mammalian Protocol for Collaborating with Children](#) and Haircuts by Children and Other Evidence for a New Social Contract by Darren O'Donnell.

Who we are looking for

Nightwalks With Teenagers is for any teenagers who have ever hung out in the city after school, met up with friends at the park, spent an afternoon wandering the streets of Canberra, or had a story they wish they could share.

The ensemble will consist of approximately 20 teenagers **aged 14–17 (or in school years 9-12)**.

We're looking for brave, adventurous and eager teenagers. **No performance experience required**, and you don't need to have worked with Canberra Youth Theatre before. We'd love to meet people who are brand new to us.

We are especially seeking young people who reflect the diversity of our community, including:

- First Nations young people
- Young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and/or who have migrated to the region
- LGBTQIA+ young people
- Young people from families who may not ordinarily attend arts and cultural events

The project involves an energetic, immersive and potentially stimulating working style.

It may not be suitable for young people who require a consistently calm, low-stimulation or highly predictable environment. We welcome conversations with families, support workers or young people who have questions about whether the project and working environment are suitable for them.

Still unsure and want to know more? We encourage you to turn up to our Recruitment Workshops! They are a no-commitment way to meet us and other teenagers who share your interests.

What will you do?

Nightwalks with Teenagers takes about two weeks to plan, rehearse and perform the walk. You as a youth participant are expected to participate in all elements of the workshops, planning and performance, and also enjoy yourself! *Nightwalks* is a very unique opportunity for all of us to present your city from your point of view in a performance full of activities chosen and led by you, and we want this to be a memorable experience for everyone. Activities might include: showcasing a talent (like a short skit, parcoures, magic, rapping, anything!), engaging the audience in activities (like a water fight, a basketball game or some kind of challenge), as well as spending time with the audience in the same way you would if you were just hanging out with the group of friends. There is a lot of room for experimentation and spontaneity.

We begin our workshops by talking about the history of this kind of work – relational aesthetics, live art, and how *Nightwalks with Teenagers* is a performance, featuring the teenagers as creators and performers.

We play games to get to know one another, and to become more comfortable engaging with strangers in public; we explore the neighbourhood together, letting teenagers guide the way,

and show us the places they love. Together we plan a walking route, with a variety of activities along the way.

The final performance (1.5-2 hrs.) is led by the youth, with all activities executed by them, with Mammalian and Canberra Youth Theatre's support. They will be responsible for hosting the event, social animation, and will have the opportunity to lead activities chosen by them, if they choose to (examples include: a game of basketball with the audience, a water fight, showcasing a short skit, ghost stories, showcasing a talent, etc.). Mammalian artists and Canberra Youth Theatre staff will support and assist with activities as required, and ensure youth and audience safety.



Image: Nightwalks with Teenagers in Bochum, Germany 2017

How does this happen?

There are three key stages of production for *Nightwalks with Teenagers*:

1. Planning



Image: *Nightwalks with Teenagers* in St. Etienne 2017

In week 1, Mammalian will lead workshops that will take place at Canberra Youth Theatre's spaces in Gorman Arts Centre, and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Mammalian will explain *Nightwalks* and other performances like it - social practice work that utilises people, and the relationships between people as primary 'materials' for creating interactive performances. Together, we'll brainstorm and decide on the path for the walk, the talents and performances that will happen throughout the night, and who will be responsible for taking the lead on each role. We will all work together as a team to figure out what we want to do, and how we want to create our own *Nightwalks with Teenagers*

2. Rehearsals



Image: Nightwalks With Teenagers in Nyon, Switzerland 2016

During rehearsals we'll work on developing and practicing the different elements of the performance including hosting, engaging the audience, performance (and related timing, logistics, etc.). We will test the planned walking route, and if needed, make adjustments to the walk with new locations of interest, and/or participatory activities for the audience members.

3. Performances

The event takes place over approximately two hours on 3 evenings. All of the participating youth will be responsible for some element of the event, either "onstage" or behind the scenes.

Schedule

Date	Activity	Times	Duration
Thur 5 Nov	Workshop #1	4:00pm - 8:00pm	4 hours
Sat 7 Nov	Workshop #2	12:30pm - 4:30pm	4 hours
Sun 8 Nov	Workshop #3	12:30pm - 5:30pm	5 hours
Tue 10 Nov	Workshop #4	4:00pm - 9:00pm	5 hours
Wed 11 Nov	Dress Rehearsal	6:00pm - 10:00pm	4 hours
Thur 12 Nov	Performance #1	6:00pm - 10:00pm	4 hours
Fri 13 Nov	Performance #2	6:00pm - 10:00pm	4 hours
Sat 14 Nov	Performance #3 & Debrief	5:30pm - 10:00pm	4.5 hours

What we expect

Young people must be available for the entirety of every session. Please check the schedule carefully before applying.

We ask that everyone arrives 15 minutes prior to start time.

Participating at Canberra Youth Theatre means being part of a professional artistic community. We ask young artists to bring:

- Commitment to the work, the process, and fellow collaborators
- Courage to take creative risks and explore new approaches
- Respect for diverse perspectives, artistic choices, and shared rehearsal space
- Curiosity approaching each project as an opportunity to grow

Through this shared practice, we strengthen our arts sector, build opportunities for young artists, and celebrate Canberra's growing creative community.



Image: Nightwalks with Teenagers in Bochum, Germany 2017

How to get involved

1. Fill out the Expression of Interest form on our website no later than Sunday 4 October.
2. There will be two recruitment sessions – you can choose which one you'd like to attend:

Wednesday 7 October or Thursday 8 October
4-6pm

Canberra Youth Theatre
Gorman Arts Centre
Batman Street, Braddon

These sessions will be very casual, an opportunity for you to meet other young people, hear more about the project, play some games, share what it is you're excited about, and for us to learn more about you and what you can bring to the project.

Participation in this project is free, however all participants will need to become members of Canberra Youth Theatre (\$25). More information [HERE](#).

Locations

Workshops will be held at Canberra Youth Theatre (Gorman Arts Centre, Batman Street, Braddon).

It is anticipated that the walks will commence at Glebe Park and make its way through Civic towards Haig Park. More information will be shared as details are confirmed during the development process.

Tickets for Audience

Tickets are required to participate in the *Nightwalks*. There are a limited number of tickets available for each performance and can be available for purchase here: [TICKETS HERE](#)

Nightwalks with Teenagers is created for adult audiences. While young people are welcome to attend, this work is created primarily for adults and features teenage performers. It invites audiences to reflect on and reconnect with their own teenage years through a unique theatrical experience.

This is a site-specific performance-in-action that will take place on Canberra city streets. While Canberra Youth Theatre will make every effort to accommodate audience members with different levels of mobility, audiences should be aware that this performance involves walking and standing.

This performance also involves audience interaction, and audience members should be prepared to participate fully in the experience. We encourage audience members to wear comfortable and weatherproof clothing.

Craft + Design Canberra Festival

Nightwalks with Teenagers is being presented as part of the 2026 Craft + Design Canberra Festival, which celebrates Canberra as a creative city of design, showcasing the work of more than 500 artists, makers and designers. Across 10 days the program brings together events, exhibitions, markets, open studios, performances, public artworks, symposiums, talks, tours and workshops. Responding to the theme of Dissent, the Festival explores how design and creative practice can question and reshape the world around us.

craftanddesigncanberrafestival.org

About Us

Based in Canada, **Mammalian Diving Reflex** creates site and social-specific performance events, theatre productions, participatory gallery installations, videos, art objects and theoretical texts to foster dialogue and dismantle barriers between individuals of all backgrounds. They create work that recognises the social responsibility of art, fostering a dialogue between audience members, between the audience and the material, and between the performers and the audience. Their work has been presented around the world in more than fifty cities. In all its forms, the company's work dismantles barriers between individuals of all ages, cultural, economic and social backgrounds. mammalian.ca

Canberra Youth Theatre is one of Australia's leading youth arts companies — a home for bold new works created in collaboration with young people, emerging artists, and professional creatives. Creating new theatrical work with, by, and for young people is at the core of what Canberra Youth Theatre does. Its productions, commissions, and creative development programs are not only platforms for artistic expression — they are pathways for emerging artists to find their voice, build skills, and create work of outstanding quality. By engaging young people as genuine collaborators in both process and performance, Canberra Youth Theatre fosters a culture where their contributions are valued, their ideas are nurtured, and their potential as cultural leaders is realised. Through mentorship, artistic support, and professional opportunities, Canberra Youth Theatre is shaping a dynamic landscape of new work that reflects and celebrates the creativity of young people. canberrayouththeatre.com.au

Social Media:



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