Set & Costume Designers

Canberra Youth Theatre creates ambitious new Australian theatre with and for young people. Our productions are made to professional standards, with young people at the centre of the creative process as genuine artistic collaborators.

We are both a training ground for emerging and early-career artists, and an employer of established professionals who share our belief that the future of the arts starts with young people. Building strong, ongoing relationships with artists at every stage of their practice is central to how we work.

We're seeking a Set & Costume Designer to join the creative teams for either of our two 2027 productions. These are the world premieres of two new Australian plays, winners of our Emerging Playwright Commission, and will be published by Currency Press.

How To Destroy The Beep Test In Five Days by Sonia Dodd

The Hit List by Sarah Matthews

Details of both productions, including design and production timelines, are outlined below.

The designer will lead the combined set and costume design for one production, working alongside the director and creative team. The role will also involve mentoring a young emerging designer as an assistant, providing opportunities for collaboration, practical experience, and professional development throughout the production process.

We welcome applications from designers at all stages of their careers, from recent tertiary graduates taking their first steps into professional practice to established artists with substantial experience.

We're especially keen to hear from early-career designers, and encourage applications from First Nations artists, culturally diverse artists, and creatives from backgrounds underrepresented in the theatre sector.

Designers must be able to work in the Canberra region. For artists based outside the ACT, we can offer travel and accommodation support at selected points throughout the design and production process.

FEES: The designer will be engaged as a contractor for a total fee of $7,500 (plus super).

BUDGET (per show):

Set: $5,500
Costumes: $3,000
Props: $1,000

How to express your interest

Please send us:

- A current CV outlining relevant design experience and credits.
- A short portfolio or link to examples of recent design work.
- A brief statement about your experience or approach to mentoring emerging artists
- An indication of your availability, including any restrictions.

Send to: Luke Rogers, Artistic Director & CEO
Email: luke@canberrayouththeatre.com.au

Note: Designers must hold a valid Working With Vulnerable People registration, or an equivalent Working with Children Check from another state or territory.

How To Destroy The Beep Test In Five Days

by Sonia Dodd

ABOUT THE PLAY

Winner of the 2023 Emerging Playwright Commission

The beeps get faster and faster, until you find yourself sweating, trembling, wobbling like jelly. You're exhausted, you throw up, you tear a muscle, it doesn't matter. You have to keep going until you die.

It's the first day of the final term of Year 6, and the School Captain has called an emergency meeting. The mission? Destroy the dreaded beep test before the bell rings on Friday afternoon.

The plan is simple: Fake injuries. Rewire the sound system. Distract the PE teachers. Create an emergency in the staffroom. Stage a protest. Develop a sudden and extremely passionate interest in literally anything else.

But as Friday gets closer, the plans get wilder, the excuses get more ridiculous, and the students' campaign starts spiralling out of control.

Between outrageous schemes, secret missions, and a lot of chaos, these Year 6 students are also facing something even scarier than the beep test: the end of primary school. As they fight to make their voices heard, they discover that campaigning for change is harder than it looks, and sometimes the biggest challenges have nothing to do with running laps.

How To Destroy The Beep Test in Five Days is a fast-paced, anarchic, and deeply Australian comedy about friendship, finding your voice and standing up for what matters. It's about big ideas, ridiculous plans and proving there's a lot more to you than a score on a fitness test.

Also, the beep test actually just sucks.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Jena Prince
Lighting Designer: Ethan Hamill

Sound Designer & Composer: Patrick Haesler
Stage Manager: Rhiley Winnett

VENUE

Belco Arts Theatre
https://www.belcoarts.com.au/hire/theatre-performances/

We are working towards either a traverse or in-the-round stage configuration.

KEY DESIGN DATES

Final Design Presentation: Mid-January
Bump In: Saturday 10 April
Technical Rehearsals: Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 April
First Performance: Wednesday 14 April

The Hit List

by Sarah Matthews

ABOUT THE PLAY

Winner of the 2024 Emerging Playwright Commission

Don't dog the boys. Don't tell the girls.

It's muck-up week at Riverside Grammar, and someone's posted a list in the girls' toilet. Fifteen names. Fifteen accusations. One title: THE HIT LIST.

By the end of the day, the entire school has seen it. As screenshots spread, friends choose sides, sisters betray sisters and relationships begin to fracture.

What starts as another annual muck-up week prank soon takes a darker turn, becoming more explicit, vicious and personal. Students find themselves ranked, sexualised and reduced to degrading labels. Humiliation turns into harassment and the fallout becomes impossible to contain.

As the final days of school spiral into accusation and retaliation, eight teenagers are forced to confront the things they say about each other, what they're willing to laugh off, and the damage that hides behind a joke. Because once everyone starts keeping score, no one gets to pretend they weren't part of the game.

Sharp, provocative and darkly funny, The Hit List is an unflinching portrait of friendship, loyalty and gender politics inside the pressure cooker of teenage life. It exposes the uncomfortable ways misogyny can be reinforced across genders, asking what keeps that cycle in motion — and what it might take to break it.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Luke Rogers

VENUE

Courtyard Studio, Canberra Theatre Centre

https://canberratheatrecentre.com.au/venue/the-courtyard-studio/

KEY DESIGN DATES

Final Design Presentation: End-April
Bump In: Monday 9 August
Technical Rehearsals: Tuesday 10 - Thursday 12 August
First Performance: Friday 13 August
