Emerging Artist Production Placements 2027

In 2027, Canberra Youth Theatre is offering ten mentored placements across our two world premiere productions, giving emerging and early-career artists the chance to work alongside professional theatre-makers and contribute to bringing new Australian stories to the stage.

Each placement pairs an emerging artist with an experienced professional in directing, set and costume design, lighting design, sound design, or stage management.

You'll be part of a professional creative team, gaining hands-on experience, developing your skills, and seeing how a production comes together from rehearsal to performance.

Each placement includes a **$1,000 stipend**.

The Placements

Opportunities are available in five disciplines:

- **Directing:** Assist with rehearsal preparation, script analysis, and creative ideas. Support the director throughout rehearsals and work with performers and the creative team.
- **Set & Costume Design:** Assist with design research, developing ideas, sourcing materials, and bringing set and costume designs to life on stage.
- **Lighting Design:** Contribute to design ideas and assist with equipment setup, plotting, and creating lighting cues during technical rehearsals.
- **Sound Design:** Assist with developing sound ideas, preparing audio material, and creating sound cues for rehearsals and performances.
- **Stage Management:** Assist with rehearsal preparation, scheduling, and production coordination, supporting the smooth running of rehearsals and performances.

What You'll Receive

- A **$1,000 stipend** for your placement.
- One-on-one mentorship from an experienced professional in your discipline.
- Hands-on experience contributing to a professional production of a new Australian play.
- Opportunities to collaborate with other artists and build professional relationships.
- Feedback and a debrief to help identify your next steps.

How the Placements Work

Before your placement begins, we'll work with you to agree on your goals, responsibilities, and schedule, based on your experience, interests, and creative ambitions. The time commitment and expectations will be agreed together, taking into account your availability and the needs of the production.

You'll work alongside professional artists, contribute to the creative process, and take on practical responsibilities within the production team. There'll be opportunities to ask questions, share ideas, receive feedback, and learn how different artists collaborate on a new work.

The aim is to build your skills, confidence, and professional experience while making a meaningful contribution to the production.

The Productions

Placements are available across our two 2027 productions:

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

The Hit List by Sarah Matthews

Details of both productions are outlined further below.

Who Should Apply

We're looking for emerging and early-career artists aged **18–25** who have some creative experience, are curious about professional theatre-making, and are ready to take the next step in their practice.

You might have worked on student productions, community theatre, or independent creative projects. We're interested in what you've made, what you've learned, and where you want to go next.

How to Apply

Email Luke Rogers at luke@canberrayouththeatre.com.au with a current CV and answers to three short questions (up to 150 words each):

1. **Which placement interests you, and why?** Tell us your preferred role and production, and what excites you about contributing to the work.
2. **What would you like to learn or develop?** Tell us about the skills or areas of your creative practice you'd like to strengthen through mentorship and experience.
3. **Tell us about something you've made or worked on.** This could be a student production, community theatre project, or independent work. What was your role, what did you contribute, and what did you learn?

Please also include your availability during the relevant production period. See below for these details.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to have a conversation with the Canberra Youth Theatre team.

Applications Close Dates

How To Destroy The Beep Test:

Directing: Friday 13 November 2026 5pm
Other Disciplines : Monday 7 December 2026 5pm

The Hit List: Friday 5th March 2027 5pm

If you have questions, please contact Luke Rogers at luke@canberrayouththeatre.com.au.

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

KEY DATES

Auditions: 21 November 2026

Rehearsal Period:
First Read: Tuesday 1 December
January Intensive: 11 - 15 January
Term One: Tuesday afternoons and Saturdays from 2 February

Bump In: Saturday 10 April

Technical Rehearsals: Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 April

First Performance: Wednesday 14 April

Performance Season
14 – 22 April 2027

Performance Venue
Belco Arts Theatre

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

KEY DATES

Auditions: April
Rehearsals: May-July
Bump In: Monday 9 August
Technical Rehearsals: Tuesday 10 - Thursday 12 August
First Performance: Friday 13 August