

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
THEATRE BOARD
Student Creative Development Initiatives

The University of Melbourne Theatre Board offers small grants to student theatre groups and individuals for creative explorations and skills development projects that are not tied to production outcomes. Applications will be accepted at any time during the year. Maximum funding: \$1,000.

The purpose of this initiative is to enrich the ecology of student theatre on campus by:

- Encouraging creative risk taking by providing a safety net.
- Encouraging activities which deepen the understanding of form.
- Facilitating the exploration of different art form practices.
- Encouraging cross-art form collaborations, especially from the conceptual stage of development.

Projects might take a number of different forms, including but not limited to:

- Bringing in a professional theatre artist of some kind to work with the applicants.
- Developing skills that applicants may not have at present; e.g. collaborating with musicians, working with puppets, developing acrobatic or circus skills, working with screen technology, etc.
- Resourcing practice based research into a concept, process or medium without a production outcome yet in mind.
- Supporting a creative development period for a new student work which might move into production in the following semester.

Examples of what a development grant might pay for:

- Materials and technology to resource a workshop.
- Fees for professional artists to work with the applicants.
- Venue hire.
- Modest ancillary workshop costs, including photocopying and documentation.

A development grant WILL NOT pay for:

- Travel and transport.
- Payments to students.
- Production costs of a public performance.

Eligibility

- Other than professional artists whose fees are provided by the grant, at least 75% of the people involved in the proposed project must be currently enrolled students in any University of Melbourne course (undergraduate or graduate).
- Proposed activities must be extracurricular and not form part of any applicant's academic assessment. Where there is ambiguity about this point please consult with the Theatre Board.

Process of application

- An application form will be available on the UHT website <http://union.unimelb.edu.au/theatre> (click on the link in 'Info for Theatre Groups').
- Applicants must address how their project may respond to the specific aims or purposes of the initiative, as detailed above.
- The project must be commenced within six months of approval.
- If the application involves the participation of professional personnel, written confirmation of their agreement to participate must be provided.
- Applications must include: rationale, approach to the work, project timeline, method of evaluation, short biographies of all key personnel including applicants, and a budget that specifies exactly what the grant money will be spent on.

Expected outcomes

- Theatre Board should be informed of the dates, times and venues of the project so that representatives of the Board may attend as observers, where appropriate. Applicants may suggest preferred times for such attendance.
- If the group prepares for production, ensure the program and promotional material acknowledges financial support from Theatre Board. The following wording is to be used: *This production is proudly supported by the UoM Theatre Board through its Creative Development Grant scheme.*
- The group is required to submit a report to the Theatre Board at least once during the creative process and within a month of the completion of the project. The acquittal report should cover what the group did, who was involved, how effective it was and what future outcomes are likely (if any). It should also include a brief response from any professional personnel involved on the effectiveness of the process.
- A financial report, including receipts, must be included in the report.

Access

- Accessibility in theatre means considering and identifying what barriers your production might pose to audiences and what action you can take to remove those barriers.
- Refer to the following for information on how to make your theatre show more accessible: umsu.unimelb.edu.au/studentlife/theatre/infogroups/access/

Before submission, a face-to-face meeting must be made with Union House Theatre's Artistic Director to discuss the application. Contact Artistic Director at UHT, artistic@union.unimelb.edu.au to arrange a time.