

QUEENSLAND THEATRE

Friday 21 October – 2016

CALLING ALL QUEENSLAND ARTISTS:

Exciting initiatives announced as Season 2017 sales push records

As season ticket renewals reach record levels for Queensland Theatre's 2017 season, new Artistic Director **Sam Strong** has announced two major initiatives that focus squarely on artist development and support.

"I'm thrilled with the reception of the season. Some performances have already sold out, season tickets are up with a 96% renewal rate, and we have almost tripled the number of opportunities for Queensland artists to perform interstate."

"Already we have exceeded some of our targets for the whole of 2017 – this is such a wonderful position to be in and we say thank you to our artists, audiences and supporters," he said.

"We are committed to celebrating and supporting Queensland artists. Today we are announcing the next step in that support – a national-first scheme for **Independent Artists @ Queensland Theatre**. We will tailor opportunities that match the company's resources to what artists tell us they need. The centrepiece of this scheme is an eight week residency where independent artists can create a production and take the entirety of their box office."

"In addition, we will be making sure artists can see our work through the most accessible artist season ticket in the country – 90 Queensland artists can see all 9 shows in our 2017 Season for \$90."

Independent Artists @ Queensland Theatre

8 WEEKS IN A THEATRE

One company or artist will be given the opportunity to reside in the Diane Cilento Studio for 8 weeks to make a work and show it to an audience. They will receive \$10K cash contribution and 100% of their Net Box Office (after fees), marketing, publicity and technical support.

RESOURCES

In addition to *8 weeks in a Theatre*, Queensland Theatre will make available resources (such as access to a dramaturg) to support independent artists and projects.

SPACE

Queensland Theatre will continue its commitment to providing access to free space in its own building, where available.

ADVICE

Queensland Theatre will offer face-to-face seminars with key leaders discussing their areas of expertise. Seminar dates will be released online and on Facebook closer to the event.

PATHWAYS

Queensland Theatre is committed to leading the country in developing career pathways for artists, through Secondments, Placements and Assistant roles.

Information on Independent Artists @ Queensland Theatre can be found at:

<http://www.queenslandtheatre.com.au/For-Artists/Independent-Artists-Companies>

Applications for the *8 weeks in a theatre* and resources are due **Friday 18 November** and decisions will be announced on Friday 16 December.

Artist Season Ticket

Sam Strong also announced today Queensland Theatre **Artist Season Ticket**, an exciting new pricing program open to not just independent artists but for ALL Queensland artists: 90 Queensland artists will have the opportunity to see all nine plays in Season 2017 for \$90!

Information on the Artist Season Ticket can be found at <http://www.queenslandtheatre.com.au/For-Artists>.

MEDIA QUERIES: for interviews, imagery, a copy of the season brochure or any more detail re the season and Queensland Theatre, please contact Kath Rose direct on 0416 291 493 or email kath@kathrose.com