
The Joan and Betty Rayner
Australian Children's Theatre Foundation
Commission
2023 Guidelines



Tinker (2017 Commission) Image credit: Sarah Walker



**Australian Children's Theatre Foundation
JOAN AND BETTY RAYNER ACTF COMMISSION**

COMMISSION GUIDELINES

Background

The Australian Children's Theatre was created by sisters Joan and Betty Rayner in 1948. Joan and Betty were seasoned performers, touring across Australia and the world. Countless Australian children were introduced to the pleasures of live theatre by attending the widely acclaimed drama, music, mime, and puppet productions of the Australian Children's Theatre. The performances were always "lively, engaging, and uplifting and did much to build bridges of love and understanding between people from different cultures and traditions". The Australian Children's Theatre also enabled outstanding international artists and companies to perform to delighted audiences in Australia. Joan Rayner established the Australian Children's Theatre Foundation (ACTF) in 1993 to keep alive the aims of the Australian Children's Theatre.

The ACTF continues to be a strong supporter of theatre for children across Victoria and they will be commissioning or supporting the creative development of a new performance work, up to the amount of \$20,000.

The Objectives of the ACTF are:

- To enable high quality performing companies and individuals to perform for disadvantaged Victorian Government primary school aged children in their schools and other appropriate venues;
- To foster love and understanding between people of different countries and cultures; and,
- To promote the enjoyment, knowledge and appreciation of the arts through theatre to disadvantaged students of Victorian Government primary schools.

Applicants should keep in mind the Founders' wishes (from the original Deed of Trust).

- To get as many of the 'merriest and most heart-warming kinds of shows' to as many disadvantaged schools as possible.
- Programs, including dance programs, should wherever possible have a story.
- Programs should be fun and present something of life and exciting ideas, but not from a teaching point of view.
- Programs should not involve crude slapstick.
- Clarity of speech should be encouraged.
- Children, whenever possible, should be inspired to take up an artistic hobby or craft as an outcome of the performance.

Artists involved in the ACTF's programs should be familiar with these wishes and the achievements of Joan and Betty Rayner.

Find out more about the ACTF at <https://www.actf.org.au/>

Commissioning Guidelines

Expressions of Interest will be called for in the year preceding the commissioning year. Applications will be administered by the Regional Arts Victoria's Arts & Education Manager. All applications that meet the guidelines will be forwarded as appropriate to the ACTF Chairperson and Trustees, for discussion in early **February 2023**.

The ACTF will commission (in whole or in part) the production of a small-scale theatre piece specifically devised for primary school children, to the point of being tour ready. It is intended that the successful applicant will be able to tour the new work within Regional Arts Victoria's Arts & Education program in 2024. Should external circumstances require, the timeline of the development of the work and/or the touring timeline can be extended. The new work may already be in early development at the time of application, however the commission cannot provide funds for the remount of an existing work. The successful commission will enter into a contract with the ACTF and will include provision for royalties payable to the ACTF following the tour. The commission will be paid in stages on the successful completion of each stage or milestone as set out in the commissioning contract and the ACTF reserves the right to terminate the commission in the event that the production or the progress of its development or its timing is considered by the Trustees to be unsatisfactory or is not consistent with the application. The ACTF encourages alternative approaches to creative processes and how these will be used in the development and implementation of the work.

Submissions and assessment

Submissions must include responses to each of the questions in the sections below. The ACTF Trustees will assess each application which successfully meets all criteria. The criteria will be weighted as indicated below. The calibre of artist applicant and the accreditation and/or public reputation of any mentors identified, trainer or Institute providing the training, viability, substantiation of anticipated expenses and impact of proposal will be considered.

The successful applicant will be required to sign a Contractual Agreement with the ACTF in respect to the grant based on terms and timelines set down by the ACTF. This will include acknowledgement of the ACTF Commission in all marketing materials produced. The successful applicant will also be aware and compliant with the Child Safe Standards as required by State Government of Victoria from January 2017. For Further information:

<https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/child-safe-standards>

The final decision will be made by the ACTF Trustees. The ACTF reserves the right to withdraw the Commission if applications do not meet the Founders wishes.

Section one: vision (40% of assessment weighting):

1. An outline of your vision for this Commission and a description of the way in which it aligns with the ACTF objectives and the Founders' wishes.
2. A description of the ways your current work aligns with the Foundation's objectives and the Founders wishes.

In assessing the Vision of the submission, Trustees will consider how the project will:

- *Develop a story that will inspire and create wonderment in children through performance*
- *Aligns with the Founders' wishes*
- *Creates a theatrical performance of a professional standard*
- *Show how their work will enhance children's theatre*

Section two: feasibility (30%)

4. A clear and detailed explanation of exactly what you want to do, with whom, where and for how long. Demonstrate that this is achievable.
5. A verifiable and viable budget. The project must reflect that the ACTF commission will be the main source of funding. Larger scale projects with multiple funding sources will not be assessed.

In assessing the Feasibility of the submission, Trustees will consider:

- *The achievability of the project*
- *The viability of the project budget*

Section three: capacity (30%)

Supporting Documents required to demonstrate capacity are:

- Curriculum vitae and outline of your previous work;
- List of referees and/or references;
- Links to any visual presentations of past performances or productions;
- A visual and audio presentation (not exceeding 5 minutes) About your project

In assessing the Capacity of the applicant, Trustees will consider:

- *The track record of the applicant and project participants*

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The successful applicant will be required to sign a Contractual Agreement with the Foundation in respect to the grant based on terms and timelines set down by the Foundation. This will include acknowledgement of the ACTF Commission in all marketing materials produced. The successful applicant will also be aware and compliant with the Child Safe Standards as required by State Government of Victoria from January 2017. For Further information:

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APPLICATION PROCESS & MORE INFORMATION

Applications will be open from Monday 10 October – 9am Monday 12 December.
We encourage applicants to contact Regional Arts Victoria to discuss your application. Phone appointments can be made on **Fridays between 10am-4pm**.
For more information on the ACTF Commission and application support access please contact:

Pippin Davies
Senior Manager, Arts & Education
P: 0427 211 123
E: pdavies@rav.net.au

Applications must be submitted by **9am Monday 12 December 2022** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Successful applicants will be notified by **Friday 24 March 2023**

Applications are to be submitted as a PDF in electronic format, by emailing education@rav.net.au using the subject line 'ACTF 2023 Commission Application'.

Please note, once you have emailed through your submission, you will **not** be able to make any further edits to the document or support materials. We will email you to confirm your submission.



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