

FOR INTENDING 2013 APPLICANTS

An applicant for the 2013 Fellowships must be a **theatre practitioner** who is a graduate or a diplomate of a course offered by one of the three leading vocational theatre-training schools in Australia: the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA); the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) (now within the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Victorian College of Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music); and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). As the Fellowships were awarded only to NIDA graduates for the first fifteen years, they are to a large extent defined by the courses that NIDA offers, which are confined to theatre. In the period of eligibility for the 2013 Fellowships (see below) those courses offered included: acting; design; production (stage management, lighting, sound, audio-visual design, etc); making (costumes, properties, sets); directing; movement studies; voice studies (last three graduate diploma courses). NIDA now offers full-time courses in music theatre (degree) and playwriting (graduate diploma) also.

As the Fellowships are intended for theatre practitioners, any NIDA graduate or diplomate of a full-time course who satisfies the eligibility criteria, and whose career has embraced theatre, is eligible to apply. However, as both the VCA and WAAPA are more than theatre-training schools – the VCA has six schools/centres, each with a number of courses, and WAAPA has thirteen courses – not all their graduates are automatically eligible. The broad indication of eligibility is the course and specialization studied; do not be deterred, however, if the list of courses below seems to make you ineligible: the test for eligibility is **whether you have made your career substantially in theatre** in any field. For example, a VCA graduate in Art may have worked mainly in set and/or costume design; and so on.

ELIGIBILITY

General eligibility An applicant:

- must be an Australian citizen; **and**
- must be a theatre practitioner; **and**
- must hold a degree **or** a diploma from NIDA, **or** from one of the **eligible courses** at the VCA **or** WAAPA (see following); **and**
- must satisfy the **time eligibility** (see below)
- must intend to make his/her career in Australian theatre.

Course eligibility

- NIDA all full-time courses
- VCA School of Drama; School of Dance (Dance and Choreography **only**); School of Production
- WAAPA Aboriginal Theatre; Acting; Directing; Costume, Dance (Dance and Choreography **only**); Design, Lighting; Music (Opera **only**); Music Theatre; Performing Arts; Properties and Scenery; Sound; Stage Management

Time eligibility An applicant's last year of study at one of the three eligible institutions must have been within the period **2003 to 2010** inclusive.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The Fellowships reward those who have worked consistently since graduation in their chosen field of theatre, whose star is in the ascendant, and whose career would benefit

from travelling abroad (do not apply for travel, study, or work within Australia), **and/or** who wish to take another career direction in theatre. A good professional track record is essential, as are originality and passion. The preparation and presentation of your application is important; so is how you and your chosen field would benefit from a Fellowship on your return to Australia. Not least is your choice of referees. **A test of your readiness to apply is the professional standing of independent referees who will support you and your proposal.**

THE SCOPE OF THE FELLOWSHIPS

A random, but by no means exhaustive, selection of successful applications includes: a short course of study; classes with a distinguished practitioner; secondment to a theatre company; professional attachment to a project; attending a conference / workshops / festival / meetings; visiting costume museums. Do not, however, try to cram too much into your proposal: be realistic.

HOW MUCH-YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR

In recent years the major Fellowships have carried \$10 000 to \$15 000; Mike has never awarded the whole amount to one applicant, and now that the total value of the Fellowships is \$50 000, he is even less likely to do so. If, however, you are shortlisted and the cost of your proposal exceeds, say, \$10 000, be prepared in interview either how you would fund the shortfall or what part of your proposal is dearest to your heart.

WHEN YOU SHOULD APPLY

Provided you remain eligible, Mike is quite happy for you to apply twice – not necessarily in successive years – but **not three times**. So give some thought to when you should apply.