

THE Hatch LAB

WRITER'S INITIATIVE

The Hatch Lab Writer's Initiative supports musical theatre writers and composers by giving them paid time, and dramaturgical guidance to advance their work. It removes financial barriers and provides structured support to help writers move their musical towards the next stage.

What Will Writers Receive?

- A paid writing period of approximately 1 month, with \$8,800 for their time to work on their musical
- Weekly dramaturgical support by Grammy nominated composer, arranger, and musical director Carmel Dean, customised to the needs of the work
- Creative discussion and problem-solving space
- Guidance around story structure, character clarity, themes, tone, pacing, music, and more
- Opportunities to test new material and explore ideas
- End of month sharing of progress

Why Does The Program Exist?

- To give writers paid, supported time to prioritise their show
- To provide professional dramaturgical guidance and clarity
- To prevent creative isolation through structured support
- To create a pathway toward later-stage developments or workshops
- To offer a safe, collaborative environment for experimentation

How To Apply

Submit your EOI via our online form including:

- A synopsis of the musical
- A brief description of what stage the work is in currently
- 10 pages of the script or a written treatment and 2 – 3 song demos
- A statement outlining your development goals over the paid writing period and why this initiative is important to you now
- Your CV
- There will also be an interview process for the top 3 candidates

Which Musicals Are Eligible?

Your musical must not have had a fully staged season in a professional setting (this includes independent profit share agreements). Concert readings and workshops are not considered fully staged seasons.

Whether your musical is fully written or hardly written, you're welcome to apply! We just ask that you can fulfill our EOI submission criteria.

Important Dates

Submissions Open

12 January 2026, 9am AEDT

Submissions Close

9 February 2026, 5pm AEDT

Finalists will be contacted

First half of March

Meet The Team



Carmel Dean
Dramaturg



Jay Laga'aia
Panelist



Daniel Stoddart
Panelist



**Ashley Taylor
Tickell**
Panelist

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