

Dear Drama Teachers,

We are inviting your school to participate in an exciting new program at Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre.

Writing a new play from scratch is a wild and exciting process. It involves exploring the outer edges of a central idea, and playing with story and character possibilities.

Award-winning playwright Donna Abela is writing a new play inspired by a real life Casula story, and is inviting young people to take part a workshop which will explore the themes of community connection and resilience. The play, called *Flame Tree Street*, will be inspired by these imaginative explorations.

Donna Abela has written over 50 stage and radio plays for audiences of all ages, and won national awards for her work. Her play *Jump For Jordan* won the 2013 Griffin Playwriting Award and the 2015 Australian Writers' Guild's AWGIE Award for Stage. Her play *Monkey: Journey to the West* premiered at the 2014 Brisbane Festival and concluded its national tour at the 2015 Melbourne Festival. Other recent plays include *Spirit* (Eastside Radio FM; 2016 AWGIE Award for Radio Adaptation), *Bread and Water* (NIDA's Performance Lab 2015), *Fluctuate with Us* (in And Now to Bed produced by sublenuance theatre 2015), *Caylee's Ukulele* (Australian Performance Exchange; nominated 2014 AWGIE Award for Children's Theatre), *Aurora's Lament* (2012 AWGIE Award for Radio), and *Mrs Macquarie's Cello* (2010 AWGIE Award for Radio).

If you are a young person who loves theatre, and would like to learn more about the art of creating stories and characters, then you are invited to take part in a free workshop on Saturday the 2nd of September.

**Time: 10am to 4pm**

**Age Range: 12 - 25**

**Location: Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre**

**Participants: 20 maximum.**

**Requirement: Participants must attend the whole 6 hour workshop.**

**Bring: Loose clothes and your lunch.**

**Be prepared for: Some serious play.**

This project is being developed in association with the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (CPAC), theatre director Cristabel Sved, and communities who live or work or study in western Sydney. It is supported and funded by Liverpool City Council and Create NSW.

This project is a great way for students to explore concepts of play and learn some of the key skills and outcomes from the curriculum.

The table below indicates some of these links:

NSW Curriculum Links (Secondary)			
Stage	Subject	Content	Outcomes
Stage 5 Year 9-10	Drama	Manipulates the elements of drama to create belief, clarity, and tension in character, role situation and action  Contributes, selects, develops and structures ideas in improvisation and play building  Explores, structures and refines ideas using dramatic forms, performance styles, dramatic techniques, theatrical conventions and technologies.	5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.4

If your school or students are interested, or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lillian Silk on [silk@casulapowerhouse.com](mailto:silk@casulapowerhouse.com) or 9612 5259 or 0431 519 648.

### Bookings and enquiries

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Book online: [www.casulapowerhouse.com/booknow](http://www.casulapowerhouse.com/booknow)