



STATE THEATRE
COMPANY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

2027

spark*

**Igniting new & bold
South Australian theatre**

ARTIST INFORMATION PACK



Cover photo: *Scenes with Girls* by Deus Ex Femina (2025)
Photo by Photos by Jamois

Starweaver by Madness of Two (2024)
Photo by Jamois and Sarah Sturm

Are you ready to break the rules, push the form, and ignite something entirely new?

SPARK is a space for **fearless, unfiltered, electric theatre**.
We're searching for the next wave of theatre-makers: playwrights,
devisors, directors, and performers who **refuse to play it safe**.

If your work **lives on the edges**, thrives in the **unexpected**,
and demands to be **seen, felt, and heard**, we want you.

From 2026-2028, State Theatre Company South Australia is
supporting six new independent works — two per year — presented
at the Adelaide College of the Arts.

SPARK is designed to support independent artists so they focus on
the work while State Theatre Company provides the performance
and rehearsal venue, full ticketing services, pre and production
support and company resources.

**Applications for 2027 SPARK program are open
from Monday 20 April — Friday 8 May, 2026**

THE OFFER

State Theatre Company South Australia provide over \$100K in-kind support, plus 100% of the box office goes directly to the artists! The table below outlines both our contribution, and the contribution of selected SPARK teams.

	STATE THEATRE COMPANY WILL PROVIDE	SPARK PARTICIPANTS WILL PROVIDE
Artistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artistic support, advice and mentorship Dramaturgy and outside eye feedback Resources to support best-practice independent theatre-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea/script/work, including any required licencing The cast and creative team Stage Management
Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehearsal venue (4 weeks) Performance venue (2 weeks, Adelaide College of the Arts) including hire of in-venue technical equipment Venue labour for performance including duty technician, front of house, cleaning and security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any additional technical hires required to realise the vision Volunteers to support front of house, pending show requirements
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production and technical advice \$3,500 fund for design materials Pre-production support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 weeks of set build resources — labour and workshop, including access to Company prop shop 2 weeks of costume build resources — labour and wardrobe, including access to Company costume store 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production manager and show operators as required The materials required for set and costume build PLI Insurance
Ticketing & Box office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full ticketing service including inclusion in the subscription season package for Company subscribers, as well as sales for single ticket buyers, customer service, and correspondence for all patrons Ticket prices will be standardised for the SPARK season with a top tier price of \$60 single tickets (subject to change) Box office staff at venue for performance season SPARK participants will retain 100% of net box office receipts (gross box office less GST, merchant services fees and inside charges) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion in the State Theatre Company of South Australia annual program, season hero photoshoot, and season brochure Publicity and marketing advice Photography season documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing and publicity plan including delivery on an independent single ticket publicity campaign Archive filming if required



YES by THE RABBLE (2022)
Photo by Pier Carthew

THE SEASON

There are two seasons held at Adelaide College of the Arts for SPARK in the 2027 Company Calendar:

- **Slot 1:**
Mon 5 July — Sat 18 July, 2027
Main Theatre AC Arts
- **Slot 2:**
Mon 27 Sept — Sat 19 Oct, 2027
X Space AC Arts

Applicants must be available and able to present at a minimum of one of the SPARK season date slots. In addition to the performance season, applicants must be available to attend a series of production meetings — schedule to be mutually set.

Anticipated season structure:

		DAY	ACTIVITY
WEEK 1		Monday	Bump In
		Tuesday	Bump In
		Wednesday	Bump In/Tech
		Thursday	Performance – Preview 1
		Friday	Performance – Preview 2
		Saturday	Performance – Opening Night
		Sunday	No Shows
WEEK 2		Monday	Performance
		Tuesday	Performance
		Wednesday	Performance
		Thursday	Performance
		Friday	Performance
		Saturday	Performance
		Sunday	No Shows, Bump Out

* No shows on Sundays / public holidays

** Options for matinee / school shows can be negotiated



Starweaver by Madness of Two (2024)
Photo by Jamois and Sarah Sturm

CRITERIA

To be eligible, project applications must be:

- from a South Australian based artist, collective or company, or for a production predominantly generated by and featuring South Australian artists
- from an artist, collective or company not in receipt of Creative Australia NPAPF funding
- an unproduced script or work
- committed to delivering the production according to best-practice
- committed to providing the personnel required to deliver the production
- able to meet deadlines relating to 2026 season launch and available for SPARK production timelines and season

Eligible projects will be assessed against the following criteria:

Artistic Risk & Vision

- The project demonstrates bold thinking and a distinctive voice. It should challenge convention, provoke thought, break form, or move with urgency.

Clarity of Concept

- The work has a clear premise, strong creative foundation, and a compelling synopsis. It shows potential for impactful development and presentation.

Artistic Motivation

- The application outlines what the key creatives hope to explore, learn, or achieve through the SPARK experience, both personally and professionally.

Project Relevance & Timing

- A strong case is made for why this work should happen now—and why this platform is the right home for it.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for 2027 SPARK program are open from Monday 20 April — Friday 8 May, 2026.

Apply via the online application form [HERE](#)

As part of your application you'll be asked to submit the following:

1. PROJECT SUMMARY

You can submit the project summary in written or video form. (Written 3000 characters max, approx 500 words, video limit 5 minutes max.)

Your project summary will address the following:

- **What is the Project?**
 - Tell us about the vision, creative concept, form, synopsis
- **Where has the Project come from?**
 - Any previous or future development?
- **Why this Project, and why now?**
 - Expand on your desire to tell this story in 2027
- **Why SPARK?**
 - Tell us why SPARK is the right platform for this Project and these artists?

2. CREATIVE TEAM

You will need to outline the key creatives on your projects including: (3000 characters max)

- Name and role
- State of residence
- Confirmation of commitment to project
- 2-3 sentence biography

3. SUPPORT MATERIAL

Part 1: SCRIPT

- For scripted work, you'll be asked to attach the first 10 pages of the script.
- For unscripted, partially scripted or devised work, you'll be asked to attach a detailed synopsis and timeline for the development process (300 words).

Part 2: MARKETING

You'll be asked to provide an overview of your marketing concept (3000 characters max) outlining:

- Who is your audience?
- What size is your audience base?
- How do you intend to market to this audience?

Please note, should you be shortlisted for an interview you may be asked to provide further support materials such as a budget, timeline and detailed marketing plan.

There is a limit of one application per person/company.

KEY DATES:

- Applications open **Mon 20 April, 2026**
- Applications close **Fri 8 May, 2026**
- Applicants notified from **Mon 25 May, 2026**
- Shortlist interviews week beginning **1 June, 2026**

Successful participants will be required to attend a marketing meeting and provide marketing information for the Company brochure and launch by the end of July 2026.

FAQs



My War by No Strings Attached
Theatre of Disability (2023)
Photo by Radhe Osbourn

Can I apply to SPARK with more than one project?

We want you to put your best foot forward: applications are limited to one project per applicant/creative company.

Can I apply to SPARK with a project that has already had a presentation outcome?

SPARK eligibility requirements detail that the project must be an unproduced script or work: your proposal for SPARK cannot have had a professional outcome, however it can be the result of previous creative developments.

Can I apply to SPARK with a project that has no funding?

Absolutely! SPARK applicants do not need to have proven external sources of funding. If you are successful in being shortlisted you may be required to provide a budget that indicates whether the project can be delivered irrespective of successful external funding.

My project won't be ready for application in 2027 – how do I apply for future years of SPARK?

The SPARK program is committed to supporting six independent productions over three years (2026-28), two productions per year. We will run an annual public call out for applications each of the three years, with the final call out in 2027 (for 2028 production).

Can I use the materials fund to pay for other costs such as marketing or labour?

The \$3,500 materials fund is strictly a contribution to materials to support independent artists in realising the design of the Project, alongside the in-kind support of 2 weeks with the STCSA workshop and wardrobe teams. This fund will be accessed and acquitted through the reimbursement of actual materials costs.

My project is not ready yet, but I really want to be in SPARK! Can I submit an EOI ahead of next year?

Applications are currently only open for the 2027 season. If the project isn't ready yet, don't worry, you can apply next year.

What is the process after applications close?

Your application will be assessed by our team and shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend an interview. At this point you may be asked to provide some additional information such as a budget, detailed marketing plan and timeline. Those who are unsuccessful will be notified by email.

Who do I contact if I have further questions?

Get in touch with our Artistic Team if you need to discuss your application further.
Email info@statetheatrecompany.com.au
or call 08 8415 5333