

New co-directors wanted for the National Young Writers' Festival!

The National Young Writers' Festival (NYWF) is looking for two creative and energetic individuals to work on the 2008 and 2009 Festivals. If you are interested in applying, please read the information below and submit an application, before the deadline of **Friday 12 October 2007**. It is strongly recommended that you attend this year's NYWF in Newcastle, which will take place from **Thursday 27 September to Monday 1 October 2007**.

About the National Young Writers' Festival

The NYWF is Australia's premier event for emerging writers, publishers, performers and trouble-makers. Every year, the NYWF assembles several thousand of the country's most challenging and original young minds in Newcastle for a five-day creative bender.

The NYWF program consists of a diverse range of events – including panels, roundtable discussions, performances, readings, workshops and kooky special events. As well as focusing on craft and literary skill, the NYWF places an equally strong emphasis on the ideas, politics and cultural practices which surround writing. For that reason, the festival has a broad definition of what constitutes writing. In addition to novels, poetry, short fiction, non-fiction, journalism, script-writing, publishing etc, NYWF engages with spoken word, comics, experimental theatre, song-writing, zines, blogging, new-media collaboration and more. The NYWF champions emerging forms and practices that fall through the cracks of mainstream literary festivals, and provides a unique platform in which writers can develop both their creative and career skills.

The NYWF has occurred annually since 1998 in Newcastle, NSW as part of the This Is Not Art Festival (TINA). TINA is comprised of a number of great festivals – NYWF, ElectroFringe, Sound Summit and Critical Animals – as well as additional special projects each year. For more information, go to www.youngwritersfestival.org and www.thisisnotart.org.

We Want You! (And You)

The NYWF is seeking two new Co-Directors for the 2008 and 2009 Festivals. The Festival is moving to a staggered two-year system of staff changeover. This will enable the NYWF to maintain its high standards, pass on knowledge and ensure organisational continuity. In 2008, the successful applicants will work with current Co-Director, Nicolas Low. In 2009, the successful applicants will select and support the next round of Co-Directors. New Co-Directors will have a great deal of latitude to pursue their vision/s of what the writing scene in Australia really needs, and to modify the NYWF's program and organisational structure accordingly.

You can apply as an individual, or as a team (of two) that will become part of a larger existing team.

Job Description

Specific duties:

- To program and organise panels, roundtables, performances, readings, workshops and other special events for NYWF
- To network with individuals and partner organisations both locally and nationally to deliver the Festival
- To act as a media spokesperson and public face of the festival
- Jointly (with General Manager) to work with a creative team to put together the festival program and logistics for NYWF
- Jointly (with General Manager) to liaise with TINA org, to ensure that the NYWF is integrated with other aspects of the TINA program
- Jointly (with General Manager) to ensure the National Young Writers' Festival happens on time and within its limited budget
- Jointly (with General Manager) to maintain and develop relationships with funding bodies in each state and nationally
- Jointly (with General Manager) to actively seek sponsorship opportunities for the operation of the Festival
- Jointly (with General Manager) to advertise for and recruit future NYWF staff and volunteers
- Jointly (with General Manager and Board) to plan for the long-term viability and vitality of the NYWF

Selection Criteria:

- An excellent knowledge of the writing landscape in Australia; in particular, an understanding of the issues facing young writers in traditional, contemporary and emergent forms
- Experience with NYWF, or in managing similar projects and events
- The ability to research and oversee the creation of a diverse and comprehensive program that is relevant to its target communities
- The ability to effectively network and communicate with a large number of writers, publishers, artists etc, who have differing levels of experience and confidence
- The ability to work collaboratively at all levels of the conception and implementation of the Festival
- The ability to organise events by distance, primarily via email and phone
- An interest in engaging with Newcastle venues and artistic practitioners
- The ability to communicate and publicise the Festival to its target communities
- The ability to manage, and respond punctually to, large volumes of email correspondence

General required skills for all This Is Not Art positions

- Self-motivation
- Ability to delegate tasks
- Ability to work under pressure
- Appreciation and understanding of the culture of This Is Not Art

The expected time commitment for this role is 2 days (15 hours) per week, with up to 4 days (30 hours) per week at required peak times between June and October.

The NYWF Co-Director's fee is a nominal one (if you're in it for the money, stop reading now!). The 2008 fee will be determined according to the budget of the festival as a whole; previous fees have been between \$1000 and \$2000 per director. Reasons that you might choose to take on such a demanding role for a symbolic fee include:

- your love of, and belief in, Australia's young and emergent writing communities;
- it is an incredible chance to gain experience, professional development and career advancement;
- it is an unparalleled opportunity to develop your contacts and 'networks' in the Australian writing and arts communities, and potentially overseas.

PLEASE NOTE: You do not have to be based in Newcastle to direct the Festival (the NYWF team is currently based in Melbourne, with a Sydney presence). However, the successful applicants will liaise with the wider This Is Not Art festival organising committee prior to the Festival, including some scheduled face-to-face meetings in Newcastle. You must also be in Newcastle for a number of days before, during, and after the festival itself – approximately 10 days in total. Next year, the NYWF will take place from **2 – 6 October 2008**; the following year, the NYWF will take place from **1 – 5 October 2009**.

If you are interested in applying for the position, please send a cover letter, your CV and your detailed response to the selection criteria above. Send your application via email to **Tom Doig** at doig.tom@gmail.com with "NYWF Co-Director 2008/9" in the subject header.

The closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 12 October 2007.

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed in late October, either face-to-face in Melbourne or via phone/skype. The successful applicants will be informed by **2 November 2007**, and will start soon afterwards.

If you have any queries about the position or the Festival, please contact **Tom Doig** on **0416 497 311** or at doig.tom@gmail.com. The current NYWF directors will also be available to talk to you about the position and its responsibilities during this year's Festival, including a dedicated event on **Monday 1 October 2007**: "The Future of the NYWF". (For more information, go to www.youngwritersfestival.org)

Good luck!