

THE LOCK-UP »



A writer's initiative.

A common image of a writer is that of a lone, introverted soul, scribbling in their garret, gulping copious amounts of cheap booze. Well, one half of that image is true!... Writers are often also actors, clowns, stand-up comics, musos, dancers, cabaret artists, directors, teachers, producers and all-round collaborators, crossing industries and art forms like crazy chameleons.

So in October 2011 this year we'll ask the question — What happens when you put seven adventurous writer/collaborators in a space for a week (and then some), with a theme, a playful and powerful collective writing process and a mentor?

The outcome of the week-long **LOCK-UP, 17-21 October**, will be the seed of material presented as part of ISM's 2011 festival **NovemberISM** — a festival for and about playwrights, at the **Old 505 Theatre** throughout November.

THE LOCK-UP IS a partnership between Queen Street Studio and ISM. Supported by the City of Sydney

As part of **QSS's** professional development programming for 2011 they will provide ISM with a creative development support for their festival in November via THE LOCK-UP. Providing one week's Lab space at Heffron Hall, administrative and marketing support, the mentor for the project; Craig Ilott, as well as a Stipend of **\$65** a day for each of the artists involved to cover their costs.

The Process

This is an exploratory process, so the participants will need to have a passion and curiosity towards a collaborative approach, a spirit of adventure and skills that will add to the collective's overall dialogue;

ISM is looking for people who say "Yes!" to any of the following:

- + May have worked in all sorts of collaborative and devising scenarios
- + May be multi-skilled, i.e. writer/performers, writer/musicians, writer/dancers etc.
- + May just surprise and delight everyone with what they bring into play

The week will have other guest artists coming in to get participants on the floor and into the ideas.

ISM wants to help facilitate a process that will:

- + get the writers working in the space 'ahead of the game' and ready to go
- + create an environment where work can be created quickly and responsively
- + work with an established director mentor during the lab and beyond
- + play with devising and improvisational tools to explore the thematic territory of the work
- + create an environment that is supportive, challenging and shared



A creative kick-starter for THE LOCK-UP lab is this quote/thought/state of mind/symptom of our time:

"I'm not sure I'm an adult yet."
— Johnny Depp

THE LOCK-UP Mentor

Craig Ilott graduated from NIDA in 1991. Most recently he co-wrote and directed *Smoke & Mirrors* at the Sydney, Adelaide, Auckland and Edinburgh festivals as well as a run at the Victorian Arts Centre and a return Sydney season in May 2011. The show sold-out in each season and received three awards at the 2010 Helpmann Awards including Best New Australian Work. Other directing credits include *Misanthropology* (Sydney Festival); *Dealer's Choice* (Albedo Theatre/Critical Stages national tour); *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story* (national tour); *The Pig Iron People* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Rainbow's End* (national tour); *Shakespeare's R&J* (Riverside); *Love Song* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *The Pillowman* (Company B Belvoir); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Showtune Productions); *I Get The Music In You - an evening with Jan van de Stool* (Ensemble Theatre); *The Underpants and Can't Pay, Won't Pay!* (NIDA); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Darwin Theatre Company) and *The Suitors* (Easily Distracted). For his own company, Albedo Theatre, Craig has directed *The Decameron*, *Dealer's Choice* and *Edmond*. He was resident director on *The Makropoulos Secret* (Opera Australia) and was assistant to director Neil Armfield on the feature film *Candy*. Craig received a Green Room Award for Best Director of a Musical for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. This production also won Best Musical at the 2006 Sydney Theatre Awards and was nominated for Best Musical and Best Director at the 2007 Helpmann Awards. *The Pillowman* was nominated for six Sydney Theatre Awards in 2008, including Best Director and Best Production. Craig's other awards and nominations include The Sun Herald Best Independent Production Award for *Dealer's Choice* and nomination for *The Decameron* as well as Sydney Theatre Award nominations for Best Independent Production for *Edmond* and *The Suitors*.

How to GET INVOLVED:

Artists who are interested in the project need to submit the following **by Friday September 23**

- + **Biography of relevant work — half page maximum**
- + **An outline of why you want to be involved — half page maximum**
- + **A written response (one page maximum) inspired by either or both of the images below.**
This can take any form: monologue, scene, song, poem, personal anecdote etc.

Please submit to ISM: contactism@ymail.com

- + Artists for The Lock-Up 2011 will be confirmed by Monday October 3.
- + Wednesday 12 October will be the initial meeting, followed by the 17-21 October Lab Week.
- + The subsequent November timetable will be confirmed in October.



What is NovemberISM?

NovemberISM is a month-long festival by, for and about Sydney playwrights. It has been dreamed into existence by emerging playwrights' collective, ISM, who felt the need to create space for their own work, while reaching out to a much wider community of playwrights and artists; sharing this space for free or cheap writing time, development, readings, open mics, late night sessions, workshops, forums and events.

Who is ISM?

Tahli Corin started ISM early 2010. Tahli — who was working at B Sharp at the time — pulled together some emerging writers and they met weekly at Belvoir to discuss writing, learn from other professionals and support one another. In that year they also organised a big community event for playwrights, followed up this year by an event at Griffin — The Playwrights' Muster. Recently they participated in Hothouse Theatre's Month in the County writing retreat in Albury Wodonga. Their collective has proven to be very strong and are now looking to solidify the work of the team even more deeply; doing things like creating a website and producing this bigger November event that harnesses their collectivISM. The ISM team are Tahli Corin, Kit Brookman, Rebecca Clarke, Joanna Erskine, Rick Viede and Tamara Asmar.

Who is Queen Street Studio

Queen Street Studio is a member-based, non-profit Incorporated organisation which provides subsidised studio space, professional development workshops and free visual art & performing art residencies and now funding for young artists — all run by artists for artists. The organisation manages 4 spaces: FraserStudios — 3 x multi-disciplinary art spaces in Chippendale (an initiative of Frasers Property), and also Heffon Hall — a rehearsal space for performing artists in Darlinghurst. The studios' Directors are Sam Chester (Theatre Director & Choreographer) and James Winter (Theatre Director) who are supported by a Board of Management made up of industry peers.

Who is 505?

After a short break, a couple of test seasons and a little face-lift, Old 505 is ready to embrace its new life as a full-time, independent theatre space. Adhering to the 505 credo of quality performance. By presenting a series of residencies and limited-season productions by invitation, Old 505 aims to foster close relationships with some of Sydney's most exciting performing arts practitioners. In addition, the venue will host an ongoing series of workshops and master classes by industry professionals, providing a valuable opportunity for performing artists to access continuing professional development. Old 505 is an artist-run performance space. All proceeds from their workshops contribute to supporting the space. Joining 505 creator Kerri Glasscock in the curation and management of the space is well-known director and long-time 505 supporter/ collaborator Gareth Boylan.

Noticing a trend here?... Artists supporting artists, enabling risk-taking, new skills, work and partnerships, deep in the heart of this dirty ol town... it's a veritable Arts Renaissance.

*Let's you and I conjure together. You watch me and I'll watch you
and I will show you how to show me how to show you
how to do our marvellous human tricks together.*

— Courtney Milne

