



## HOUSE OF MUCHNESS 2018 SUMMER STUDIO

*A five-day creative residency for young people in school years 7-10*

There are 13 available positions in this boutique artistic experience.

**Dates:** Wednesday 3 to Sunday 7 January (residential)

### **Content and structure:**

Each day will involve devising and composition workshops to generate and refine new contemporary performance material. Wednesday to Saturday will be creation and development sessions and Sunday will be dedicated to installation, rehearsal and performance. Families will be invited up in the early evening of the final day to be audience to the performance material and stay for a group picnic dinner prepared by the young people. Guest artists will visit the studio throughout the residency to lead the young people in workshops corresponding to their area of practice - dramaturgy, design, playwriting, acting.

### **Young people:**

Acceptance into this residency is not through audition but through a meeting to decide whether each candidate is a good match for the experience. Participating young people are required to be curious and generous idea makers who celebrate difference and diversity and can collaborate respectfully. They need to be equipped with both making and performance skills – committed young artists responsive to risk-taking, pushing boundaries and producing exciting new material. There will be periods of downtime and non-performance related activities, onsite and offsite. Young people who are best suited to this residency will be responsible and conscientious, reliable communicators and possess mature social skills.

### **Lead artist:**



The residency will be led by Alex Walker. Alex is a youth arts practitioner focusing on making live art with a cross-section of young people at the point where the spheres of children, arts, culture, and politics intersect. She works with inclusive, collaborative, devising techniques that aim to frame the contributions of the young people through innovative and dynamic forms. Alex works across contexts, heavily invested in carving out a place for the voice and position of the young person to have an impact on their environment and community. In 2016 Alex founded

*House of Muchness (HOM)*, a centre of artistic practices for the creative wellbeing of young people. At HOM, she has established a culture which breeds safe, creative risk-taking and artistic experimentation. She uses arts processes to arrive at new material which reveals the contemporary condition of young people and their complex relationship with the world. Alex is also the co-director of *School With No Walls* which operates within education environments to activate the learning experience through the insertion of kinesthetic and sensory strategies. Alex has held key artistic roles at St Martins Youth Arts Centre, Outback Theatre for Young People and Australian Theatre for Young People. She has presented at State, Regional and International Conferences dedicated to young people and the arts. This year, Alex has been the associate artist and youth arts practitioner with Fraught Outfit on *The Innocence Trilogy* and the co-director of the Melbourne Fringe commissioned event *The Children's Party* (ArtsHouse and MPavilion).

### **Studio and location:**

Situated at the foot of the Macedon Ranges, Riddells Creek Studio offers a quiet sanctuary of bird-life, walks and bush – a place to nourish, replenish, practice and create. The studio is on 4 acres of land and opposite Barrm Birrm, a 250-hectare flora and fauna reserve with accessible walking tracks. Once a cabinetmaker's workshop, the studio itself is 20 x 10 metres of gorgeous Tassie Oak floorboards – ready to move on and make new exciting art. The studio address is 288 Gap Rd, Riddells Creek.

### **Transport:**

Riddells Creek station is 45 minutes via train from Southern Cross Station in Melbourne on the Bendigo line. The group will meet and depart from Southern Cross on the morning of Wednesday 3 January and be collected by the Studio Manager at the other end. Alex's 4WD SUV (driven by a support artist) will also head up there at the same time to transport all the supplies and will remain there throughout the residency for any necessary car trips. Families attending the Sunday evening performance and picnic will transport their young people back to Melbourne at the conclusion of the residency.

### **Food:**

Breakfasts and snacks will be provided (enrolment form will ask for any dietary requirements). Pairs of young people will be responsible for buying and preparing a lunch or dinner for the entire group over the course of the five days. In the week leading up to the residency, these menu choices will be submitted and a meal schedule created to ensure there is healthy variation! Groceries will be purchased from a local supermarket. The studio has all cooking facilities and eating utensils.

### **Sleeping:**

The Sleeping Pavilion has space for 14 sleepers on individual futons. Towels and pillows are provided – participants are required to bring their own bedding. What to Bring and How to Prepare lists will be distributed to those who are enrolled into the residency.

### **Cost:**

\$600 per participant (includes workshops, activities, accommodation and meals).

### **What is Muchness?**

Your muchness is your you-ness, your core and character, your essence, your bestness, the stuff that you're made of. It is your grit and substance. This is a place for discovering, embracing and celebrating the ingredients that make you you. Muchness is in most abundance as a young person, manifesting in curiosity and wonder, courage and resilience, imagination, and denial of the impossible. We think muchness is best fostered in a culture of inclusive, wholistic creativity. At the House of Muchness, we have created a third space. There is home, there is school, there is HOM. Here we champion the village, the community, the tribe. This is an environment where young people can belong to a collective and build social relatedness, artistic expression and find their creative kin.

### **To apply:**

If you are interested in a position at the HOM 2018 Summer Studio for your young person, please contact Alex Walker on 0413 994 428 or [info@houseofmuchness.com](mailto:info@houseofmuchness.com) for a conversation and to receive enrolment details.

### **IMAGES – Riddells Creek Studio**



**IMAGES – House of Muchness**

