

Open-Call Audition Pack

PAVILION PRESENTS

TOY SYMPHONY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MICHAEL GOW



Introduction

The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre is seeking applications from talent in the Sutherland Shire to be part of the venue's premiere self-presented theatrical production opening on Thursday, 18 June 2026.

Toy Symphony is a Helpmann Award winning contemporary Australian work about the power of art and the formidable force of the human mind.

Written by renowned Shire-born playwright Michael Gow, this production will debut at The Sutherland Pavilion in June - directed by Gow himself for the very first time.

Successful applicants will collaborate with Gow and share the stage with established, professional performers in a high-calibre creative environment.



Michael Gow and lead actor Sam O'Sullivan

This is a **paid opportunity**, available only to artists living in or closely affiliated with The Sutherland Shire and St George region.

About Toy Symphony

Toy Symphony moves between the present day and flashbacks to Roland Henning's childhood in the Sutherland Shire in the 1960s.

Roland Henning is a famous playwright. He has reluctantly come to see a psychologist because he has writer's block. When he refuses to co-operate with the psychologist she confronts him with his history of drug addiction and he opens up a bit. He explains to her that the writer's block began when legal action was brought against his last play for theft of material. His response was to scour his work for signs of its originality and since then he's been unable to write. The psychologist asks him to think about a time in his life when he was imaginatively free.

We cut to his childhood in the Sutherland Shire in the 1960s. One day during class he is told off by the headmaster for not paying attention. Young Roland explains that he was thinking about Alexander the Great. The headmaster tells him to stop daydreaming and at that moment Alexander the Great enters the classroom and forces the headmaster to kneel and apologise. Roland goes on to tell the psychologist about other events in his childhood revolving around this remarkable gift of being able to summon people from his imagination and cause them to appear in real life. We see him relive encounters with a series of adult authority figures who train him to stop using his imagination. His class teacher, Mrs Walkham, however, secretly encourages him by giving him a notebook to write his imaginings down in. We cut forward to high school and see the story of Young Roland writing a play called *'Toy Symphony'* to get his best friend out of hospital for the day. However, Roland has used his gift of making people appear to seduce the captain of the football team, and when the headmaster finds out, Roland's play is banned and all copies are destroyed. The friend dies before Roland sees him again and young Roland is left bereft. The act ends with Roland telling the psychologist he'll never write again and that he won't be coming back for further treatment.

Act Two begins several years later. Roland still hasn't written anything. Massive bush fires have destroyed his childhood home and school. He is lost and adrift. He meets a drama school student and angrily tries to seduce him. The student is upset and flees. Roland's parents both die in the space of a few months. We see him tell a friend of his loss of faith in life and the world. He goes back to his old dealer and forces him to sell him drugs. Roland is at rock bottom and his old teacher Mrs Walkham appears to him and suggests he open an old suitcase that his mother left him. Inside, Roland finds a copy of *'Toy Symphony'*. Mrs Walkham tells him she saved a copy from being destroyed and sent it to Roland's mother.

In the last scene we see Roland and the drama school student having a beer. The student explains that Roland's behaviour has made him much more honest with his life and work and mentions his desire to act in a Chekhov play. Roland apologises to the student and confesses that he's lost his faith in life but that he still sees a way ahead. He gives the student the lost copy of *'Toy Symphony'*, and says he's been feeling a bit like writing again lately. The play ends with Anton Chekhov appearing in the pub and we realise Roland's creative gift is back.

Production Details

Performance and Rehearsal Venue:
Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, Sutherland

Rehearsals Week 1	18-22 May
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Rehearsals Week 2	25-29 May
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Rehearsals Week 3	1-5 June
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Rehearsals Week 4	8-12 June
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Tech / Production Week	13-17 June
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Opening Night	18 June
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Performance Run	18-20 June
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Closing Night	20 June
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Production Details (cont.)

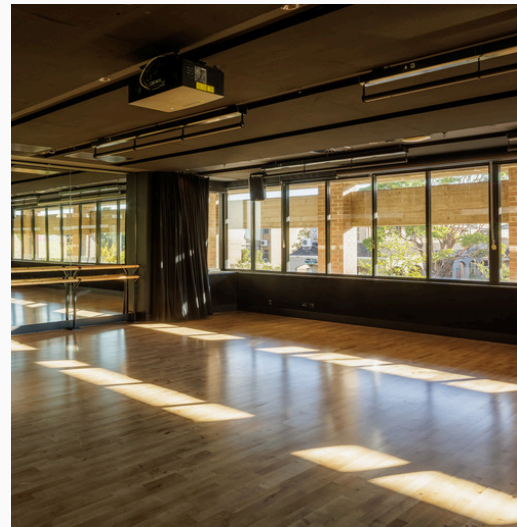
Rehearsals will operate on a professional schedule, Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Not all cast members will be required for every rehearsal. A detailed rehearsal and production schedule will be made available to selected artists prior to call-backs and the execution of contracts.

While best efforts will be made to adhere to the rehearsal schedule, rehearsal times and dates are subject to change as required by the ongoing needs of the production.

There is a guarantee of three public performances with a fourth optional performance on Saturday 20 June.

This opportunity is open to non-union members.



Role Information

Sex and gender specifications are based on how the character is referred to in the script. These specifications do not preclude gender-diverse artists from applying.

Ages refer to the playing age of the character, rather than the age requirements of the actor.

All actors are required to play multiple roles.

● Female 1
25-40

● Female 2
35-50

● Male 1
18-30

● Male 2
30-45

Audition Information

Round 1 - Video Submission

Opens Monday 16 February - Closes Monday 13 March

Submit two (2) contrasting contemporary monologues, each approximately 1-2 minutes in length.

Landscape recording. Plain background. Make sure your face is clear and well lit.

Please upload your audition as a **private video via YouTube or Vimeo**, and email the link to programmingteam@thepavilionarts.au, along with the following information:

Name:

Email:

Phone #:

Postcode:

Union or Non-Union (MEAA):

Acting CV / Previous Experience - provide as attachment to email.

Round 2 - Call Back

In person at The Pavilion Performing Arts Centre Sutherland

Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 March

Further information will be made available upon invitation to callback.

All auditionees must be 18+ at the time of auditions.

If you have any questions do not
hesitate to contact us at
programmingteam@thepavilionarts.au