



23 October 2019

LOCAL AWARD WINNING PLAYWRIGHT AND SCREENWRITER AT REAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Real Film Festival is excited to announce the Winner of the 2019 AWGIE Award (Theatre for Young Audiences), Vanessa Bates will share her insights into script development and creating characters for the screen in a workshop entitled: Character Creation - Real life, Real Character.

Aimed at anyone who is interested in writing for either theatre, or the big and small screen, Vanessa will focus the workshop on key principles, narrative and character development.

“Participants will learn story and script development techniques that can be applied to any project, and will need to come prepared to write!” according to Vanessa.

Vanessa Bates is Newcastle based playwright and screenwriter and is currently writing/developing an Australia Council/PWA funded new play *Captain Dalisay, The One* (commissioned by Ensemble Theatre), *Awkward Dancing* and *The River*.

She writes on contemporary issues and challenges audiences to engage in dialogue about such matters. Vanessa’s skill in portraying genuine characters with attention to detail, is a major factor to the relevance and appeal of her plays to increasingly social aware audiences.

Her work has been produced by Sydney Theatre Company, Malthouse , Belvoir B-Sharp, Griffin, Vitalstatistix, Deckchair, The Ensemble, atyp, Tantrum, Darlinghurst Theatre, Rock Surfers, Stooaged, Freewheels and ABC Radio. Her plays have been read in the US, UK and in Paris.

Vanessa won the 2019 AWGIE Award for Best Theatre for Young Audiences for her adaptation for the stage of *A Ghost in My Suitcase*, based on the book (and illustrated novel) by Gabrielle Wang of the same name. *A Ghost in My Suitcase* (Commissioned & Produced by Barking Gecko, 2018 Melbourne International Arts Festival, 2019 Sydney Festival, 2019 Perth International Arts Festival) will be published soon by Currency Press.

The AWGIE Awards recognise and reward excellence in writing for stage and screen. Winners include writers whose stories have shaped our national culture including feature films, theatre, TV series and serials, miniseries and children’s animated programs.

Vanessa says writers “know their characters and know their story, so I can help them to create characters from the page up and use a resource bank to generate story ideas”.

Character Creation - Real life, Real Character workshop will be held at TAFE NSW - Film and Media School 590 - 608 Hunter Street, Newcastle on Friday 15 November 9:00am - 11:00am. Limited seating and bookings are essential realfilmfestival.com.au

For media information and further exclusives via approval please contact:

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