

The Thelma Afford Award for Costume Design in Stage and Screen

Presented to a student or designer to further their education in costume design, in Australia or overseas.

About the award

The award, known as The Thelma Afford Theatre, Stage, TV or Film Costume Design Award was established to promote the further study of theatre, film or TV costume design in various visual dramatic media*, for young matriculating High School art students or students from Drama and Art Schools.'

Professionals wishing to participate in further education in costume design are also welcome to apply.

The award is an initiative of the late Thelma May Afford, an Australian designer, theatre performer and journalist.

As per Thelma Afford's wishes, recipients shall use the award monies to further their education or training in Australia or overseas, in visual arts, including the history of period clothes, at any art school or University that has a suitable course. Study may be full-time, part-time, at a summer school or as part of a formal mentorship program.

The prize is awarded biennially.

*The terms 'theatre' and 'visual dramatic media' are used in their widest sense, and may include plays, operas, ballets, musicals, pageants, film, television drama and all other forms of visual dramatic media..

How to apply and the fine print

Perpetual Trustee Company Ltd ABN 42 000 001 007 is the Trustee of the Award. The Trustee is guided in making the Award by the decision of a majority of judges as appointed by the Trustee. The prize is directed to be awarded to the person who is judged to have the highest artistic merit.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be:
 - aged between 17 and 40 years, by the opening of entries date;
 - a resident of Australia for more than two (2) years prior to the closing date for entries; and
 - students or professionals seeking to further their education to specialise in stage and screen costume design. This includes students of drama or art schools, matriculating high school art students, students of tertiary institutions, or practicing costume designers.
- An online application form and subsequent documents must be lodged by the close of entries date.

Key information

Prize - \$10,000

Applications open

Monday 27 May 2024, 9am AEST

Applications close

Friday 5 July 2024, 5pm AEST

Official announcement of winner

Saturday 24 August 2024

Trustee:

Perpetual Trustee Company Ltd

For further information and to apply visit

<https://apdg.org.au/resources/thelma-afford-award>

- Judging is based entirely on material submitted by the applicant by the closing date. No additional material will be accepted after this date. Please note that insufficient or incomplete applications may not be accepted.
- The Trustee reserves the right to refuse applications which are not considered eligible for entry.

Application requirements

- Applicants must submit:
 - A completed online entry form and confirm their acceptance of the Terms and Conditions via the online system;
 - A PDF version of the applicant's birth certificate, passport or Australian Citizenship Certificate indicating date of birth and proof of residency in Australia during the past two (2) years;
 - Copies of relevant education reports, and records of examinations;
 - A curriculum vitae, resume or biography (full CV preferred);

- e. A summary of proposed aims and activities to be undertaken (up to 800 words) including acceptances, budget, dates and travel plans;
 - f. Six (6) original theatre, film or TV 'costume designs' suitable for the visual dramatization of any existing play, opera, ballet, musical, pageant or other visual dramatic work, as named. Applicants are welcome to submit additional material to enhance their application, such as photographic evidence of how their designs have been realised in three dimensions on the body, including personal, exhibition or production photographs.
2. Designs must be:
 - a. created no earlier than two (2) years prior to the closing date for entries;
 - b. drafted / illustrated by hand or created / illustrated digitally or a mixture of the two; and
 - c. submitted either electronically as a high-res jpeg image, or in hard copy in a suitable size. No freight or other charges incurred in the return of works will be met by the Australian Production Design Guild.
 3. Late applications will not be accepted.
 4. Dates listed under 'Key information' must be strictly adhered to by the applicant. There are no exceptions to this rule.
 5. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be contacted by email.
 6. Award recipients will be required to submit a report (between 800 - 1500 words) including photographs, of how the award monies were utilised, to the APDG, within one year of the award closing date. The report will be featured on the APDG website and will be used to promote future Thelma Afford Awards. Reports should be emailed to thelmaaffordaward@apdg.org.au
2. If the majority of Judges considers that there is no entry of sufficiently high merit to warrant the award, no prize will be awarded.
 3. The majority decisions of the Judges, and of the Trustee or its nominee on the interpretation of all rules and conditions, shall be final and legally binding & no correspondence will be entered into.
 4. If at any time after the award has been granted to an entry, a majority of Judges determine that the entry did not comply with the eligibility conditions, the award may be withdrawn and the winning applicant must immediately repay the prize money to the Trustee. In the event that an award is withdrawn, other entries submitted in the same year may be reconsidered, otherwise no award was conferred in respect of that year.
 5. Whilst it is expected that these conditions will be strictly observed, the Trustee reserves the right to waive compliance with or alter any conditions.
 6. The award amount is \$10,000. Recipients should obtain their own professional advice in respect of any tax implications.

Publicity and promotion

1. By entering this award, the applicant grants the Trustee and its agent, a license to reproduce any material/s or image/s which it may use to further advertise and in other ways publicise the Thelma Afford Award and any other scholarships and awards in its portfolio.
2. It is expected that the winner of the award will be announced at an end of year APDG event, on Saturday 24 August 2024. As soon as possible after the announcement of the award, all applicants will receive notification to their email address.

Judges and judging process

1. The prize shall be awarded to the entry which, on the recommendation of the majority of judges, is considered to have the highest artistic merit.

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