

A BRIEF HISTORY

1932 Aug	Sydney Workers' Art Club opens in temporary premises at 273 Pitt St.
1932 Oct	Dame Sybil Thorndike officially opens the Sydney Workers' Art Club in former Australian Seamen's Union premises at 36 Pitt St.
1933 April	1 st public performance: <i>THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS</i> (Harry Broderick).
1933 June	First original full-length Australian play: <i>THE EMISSARY</i> (Nellie Rickie).
1935 Sept	<i>CARRION CROW</i> (Hines & King) wins 1935 City of Sydney Eisteddfod One Act Play Competition.
1936 Jan	First major success: <i>WAITING FOR LEFTY</i> (Clifford Odets). It wins the 1936 City of Sydney Eisteddfod One Act Play Competition.
1936 July	<i>TILL THE DAY I DIE</i> (Clifford Odets). Banned after protest by Hitler's Consul-General.
1936 Aug	<i>WAITING FOR LEFTY</i> (Clifford Odets) wins 1936 City of Sydney Eisteddfod One Act Play Competition.
1938 Aug	<i>PRIVATE HICKS</i> (Albert Maltz) wins 1938 City of Sydney Eisteddfod One Act Play Competition.
1938 Dec	Open-air performance in the Domain of <i>WAR ON THE WATERFRONT</i> (Betty Roland). Actors are fined; their defence counsel is John Kerr.
1939	<i>REHEARSAL</i> (Albert Maltz) wins 1939 City of Sydney Eisteddfod One Act Play Competition.
1939 Nov	<i>PLANT IN THE SUN</i> (Ben Bengal) wins British Drama League's Fay Compton Cup.
1940 May	<i>NO CONSCRIPTION</i> (Rupert Lockwood). Banned under federal censorship laws.
1940 Aug	<i>PLANT IN THE SUN</i> (Ben Bengal) wins 1940 City of Sydney Eisteddfod One Act Play Competition.
Feb 1941	First revue: <i>I'D RATHER BE LEFT</i> (James McAuley, John Reed, Alan Crawford).
Jan 1942	<i>FOUNTAINS BEYOND</i> (George Landen Dann). First full-length play dealing with Aboriginal issues.
1943	Move to 167 Castlereagh St.
1943	<i>THE CAVE</i> (V Galitzky) wins British Drama League's Fay Compton Cup and Norman Maxwell Cup.
1947 Mar	<i>ROCKET RANGE</i> (Jim Crawford) re Aborigines moved off their tribal lands.
1948 Mar	<i>THE STAR TURNS RED</i> (Sean O'Casey). Last play reviewed by <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> for 12 years in the "first icy blast of the Cold War".
1951 Mar	World premiere of <i>30 PIECES OF SILVER</i> (Howard Fast), staged at height of McCarthyism.
1951 Oct	<i>THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES</i> . First foray into children's theatre.
1952 June	<i>THE CANDY STORE</i> (Bernard Rubin). Performed down the Glen Davis mine in support of miners protesting the closure of the mine.
1952 Nov	<i>STAY DOWN MINER</i> (Len Fox). Performed down the Great Greta mine in support of miners striking against dismissal notices.
1953 Dec	<i>REEDY RIVER</i> (Dick Diamond). Its enormous success leads to a revival of interest in Australian folk music that is with us still.
1954	Move to Waterside Workers' Federation Theatre in Sussex St.
1955 Dec	World premiere of <i>PACIFIC PARADISE</i> (Dymphna Cusack) re atomic testing in the South Pacific.

1958 March	<i>THE CRUCIBLE</i> (Arthur Miller). New Theatre is the first Australian theatre willing to produce a play critical of the McCarthy era.
1960 Nov	Paul Robeson attends a performance of <i>ALL MY SONS</i> (Arthur Miller).
Oct 1962	<i>THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL</i> (Willis Hall) wins Arts Council Drama Festival.
1963	Move to St Peters Lane, Kings Cross.
1964 May	First Shakespeare: <i>OTHELLO</i> .
1965 Mar	Protest petition sent to US consul re aircraft over North Vietnam.
1967 June	<i>ON STAGE VIETNAM</i>
1968 June	<i>AMERICA HURRAH</i> (Claude Van Itallie). Banned by the NSW Chief Secretary on moral grounds. The Teachers' Federation defies the ban to host a one-night performance.
1973 Sept	Move to 542 King St, Newtown. First production: the revue <i>WHAT'S NEW?</i>
1975 Feb	Start of five-month run of <i>ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST</i> (Dale Wasserman), Australian premiere, reviewed as Best Play of the Year.
1978 June	World premiere of <i>FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH</i> (Kevin Barry Morgan) A popular play re NSW Premier Jack Lang's last day in office.
1989 Mar	<i>SINK THE BELGRANO</i> (Steven Berkoff) protest re Falklands War.
1994 Feb	<i>THE BOYS IN THE BAND</i> (Matt Crowley). New Theatre's first official Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras production.
1994	<i>KING LEAR</i> : Winner, Best Fringe Production, Sydney Theatre Critics Circle.
2000 Oct	<i>NEW DIRECTIONS</i> . The first in a series of one-week productions of plays targeting new works, new playwrights, new directors and new artists.
2007	<i>ART IS A WEAPON</i> . Our first season of new writing, presented in our 75th year, with playwrights encouraged to 'be political'.
2007 Oct	New Theatre is honoured by the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) for our contribution to Australian theatre.
2008	<i>BRAND SPANKING NEW</i> . Two-week celebration of new Australian writing. Also in 2009 and 2010.
2011	<i>THE SPARE ROOM</i> . A season of co-productions with independent theatre companies, supported by a grant from Arts NSW.
2011	<i>WOMEN, POWER AND CULTURE: THEN & NOW</i> . A two-week season of short plays, written and directed by women, telling women's stories, both historical and contemporary. Supported by a grant from the City of Sydney.
2011	New Theatre: winner, Best Fringe Theatre, City Hub 'Best of Sydney' Awards.
2013	<i>JERUSALEM</i> (Jez Butterworth). Nominated for seven Sydney Theatre Critics Circle awards, including 'Best Director', 'Best Actor', 'Best Supporting Actor' and 'Best Production'.
2016	<i>THE HEIDI CHRONICLES</i> (Wendy Wasserstein). Wins 'Best Director' and runner-up for 'Best Actress' in The Buzz from Sydney 'Best of Sydney Theatre' awards.
2016	Winner, ACON Honour Award for Arts & Entertainment.