



NEXT Emerging Artists Fellowship – Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

What is the purpose and goal of the NEXT Fellowship?

The NEXT fellowship brings a group of emerging artists together to collaboratively develop, produce and promote a “salon style” show featuring Jewish young adult voices and talent to premiere in Los Angeles for 4-6 performances in late spring/early summer. Shows, or selected pieces might also be audio-recorded and/or filmed and made available online to reach wider audiences. Overall, fellows are also charged to cultivate a creative community hub and platform for young adult performance and arts professionals and theatre enthusiasts.

What is a “salon style” show?

The Braid has innovated a unique theatrical experience at the intersection of storytelling and theatre, drawing on the lost heritage of Jewish salon culture. We are not focused on the traditional play format but rather many diverse voices and experiences relayed to audiences in short pieces woven together around a central theme. We encourage lay and professional writers in the community to explore their lives and share their everyday stories through a Jewish lens, submitting original works. We are inclusive of musicians, poets, storytellers, comedians and artists of diverse backgrounds who can share the stage together. But we are not an open-mic night or storytelling event. What makes our work innovative is that we curate these stories around a theme, adapting them for theatrical presentation, and bring them to life using professional actors who elevate the level of performance. The show does not include props or costumes or memorized lines, but its delivery and impact is theatrical in that audiences are moved to laugh, cry, reflect, and feel connected to each other and to Jewish culture. The show is concluded with a question and answer session between the writers, performers and audience members. [Click here](#) to watch “What is a salon?”

How many Fellows are in the NEXT program? What role does each Fellow play?

Each year through a competitive application process, The Braid selects 6-8 diverse NEXT Emerging Artist Fellows to work together. The group sometimes includes returning alumni supporting NEXT in various capacities. NEXT Fellows work collaboratively as a group and also in smaller teams of assigned tracks with varied responsibilities such as:

<p>ALL FELLOWS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select the theme of the show (December) ● Promote program, call for submissions, and show via social media and creative marketing approaches (December-June) ● Identify additional relevant and worthy pieces to adapt (February-March) ● Participate in program evaluation (June)
<p>LITERARY TRACK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Draft Community Call for Submissions (December-January) ● Read and Discuss Submissions (February-April) ● Work with writers/adapt select pieces for stage as necessary (March-April) ● Source additional stories as necessary (February-April) ● Curate lineup of pieces for final performance (April)
<p>DIRECTING TRACK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work with Literary Team to determine casting needs (April) ● Cast and Direct rehearsals (May-June) ● Provide feedback to fine tune final script (June)

What is the timeline for the year?



How are NEXT fellows supported by The Braid?

The Braid (with generous support from the Erwin Rautenberg Foundation, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, and Santa Monica Department of Cultural Affairs,) will foster a collaborative experiential, hands-on learning environment with leadership opportunities, professional development, networking and resources. This includes hosting monthly meetings, providing trainings and mentorship, and hosting fellows to attend select Braid performances, events and/or other community arts and culture related conferences/workshops.

What is my time commitment as a NEXT fellow?

Fellows are expected to actively participate over 9 months from October 2021 to June 2022. This includes:

- Attending monthly in-person meetings in Santa Monica (typically 6-10pm with dinner provided by The Braid) and/or via Zoom depending on Covid guidelines.
- Work with mentors (as needed) and participate in smaller group conference calls as necessary
- Complete work independently in a timely way to advance the program. This may include reading submissions, outreach to cultivate partners, scouting a venue, attending casting calls, posting on social media, etc. These hours may vary and fluctuate by month depending on a fellow's roles in the program.

Tentative Meeting Schedule (if in person, 6:00-10:00pm PT in Santa Monica, if on Zoom 6:00pm - 8:30pm PT with potentially 2 meetings per month)

October 25, 2021 * November 15, 2021 * December 13, 2021 * January 24, 2022 * February 28, 2022 * March 21, 2022 * April 18, 2022 * May 16, 2022

Performances: June 4 - 14, 2022 (subject to change)

I am an actor. Do I get to perform?

NEXT Fellows are not cast in the show their cohort is producing so they can be fully dedicated to and benefit from their leadership role in the program. However, fellows and program alumni may be cast in other Braid productions, as well as subsequent NEXT productions or events.

I am a writer. Will my work be staged?

Everyone is encouraged to submit their original works for consideration. The Literary Team ultimately selects final pieces to be included in the show so there is no guarantee that your work will be featured.

Do I get paid to be a fellow in this program?

Yes! There are no application fees to apply for the NEXT program and each fellow will **receive a stipend of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00)** upon completion of the Fellowship in June 2022 to compensate them for their time and active participation.

Is this an ongoing program? What happens after the show?

The program is currently in its 6th year, producing an annual new show featuring next generation emerging artist voices and talent as well as more continuous integration of young adult voices in our other Braid productions. This program creates a platform and budding community for ongoing paid employment, professional development and leadership opportunities, and a possibility to continue working with a flourishing theater and performance company. For example, program alumni have gone on to produce events with The Braid, teach workshops for the The Braid's community, perform or have their work featured in other salons, direct other salons, serve as consultants, join our leadership board, join the Braid's staff as employees, and also collaborate with other alumni on creative endeavors. [Click Here to see our Alumni](#)

What is The Braid's overall mission and vision?

Since 2008, The Braid (formerly Jewish Women's Theatre) has been advancing its mission to create, produce and preserve diverse contemporary Jewish stories that empower and educate individuals, inspire community, and build cultural legacy. We are redefining Jewish theater, one story at a time – creating new, relevant and personal Jewish content in dialogue with art, poetry, dance, video, and even cuisine. Our vision is to leave no Jewish story untold, while celebrating the truths that connect us all.

For other questions or more information, contact:

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