



9 March 2012

Ian Reed Foundation 2012 Writers-In-Residence Announced

Following a callout by the Ian Reed Foundation, nearly 50 writers applied for two writer-in-residence opportunities with ABC Radio National. Congratulations to Melbourne based actress Meredith Penman who will work on her play *Cassandra is a Waitress*, and to illustrator and children's writer Sally Heinrich from Adelaide, with her proposal for a play entitled *Teardrops in the Ocean*.

Applications were received from all over Australia from writers who have not previously written for radio including poets, essayists, journalists and novelists. In addition to creating a work for potential broadcast, the successful recipients will have the chance to observe work on other productions and to collaborate with ABC Radio National's award-winning sound engineers and drama producers.

Meredith Penman's play *Cassandra is a Waitress* is an interior monologue about spousal revenge, drawing largely on the recent tragedy of five-year-old Darcey Freeman, who was thrown from the Westgate Bridge by her father in January 2009.

Sally Heinrich's proposal for *Teardrops in the Ocean* was described by one assessor as "...extremely beautiful and poignant; multicultural and multi-layered, drawing on mythology as well as intersecting contemporary dramas linked to a real and dramatic event... [Heinrich] evokes emotion and the ethereal as well as the real."

Ian Reed was a notable Australian writer of radio drama. He loved the freedom of the medium and when he died in 1979 he left the bulk of his estate to the ABC to encourage 'potential and aspiring' writers of radio drama. The Ian Reed Foundation administers the fund that is used to provide for competitions, workshops, script development and dramaturgy as well as other activities intended to support new writers for radio.

For further information about the Ian Reed Foundation, visit abc.net.au/radionational/programs/airplay/