

MTC EDUCATION 2018

# IMPACT REPORT

FOR EDUCATION  
GIVING CIRCLE DONORS





Thank you for your generous support of Melbourne Theatre Company's Education Program.

MTC Education enhances the theatre experience for young people, helps map career pathways in performing arts and strengthens MTC's current and future audiences. Our award-winning programs rely on donor support to provide young people with the opportunity to experience and explore world-class theatre, meet industry professionals, and collaborate with their peers to create theatre of their own.

At the heart of MTC Education is a desire to make these opportunities accessible to all young Victorians, by reducing geographical and socio-economic barriers that inhibit engagement with the creative industries.

Your gift in 2018 contributed to enriching the creative lives of thousands of young people across the state. Thank you for playing an active role in developing the next generation of theatre makers and creating rich and rewarding theatre experiences that inspire a lifelong love of performing arts.

Brett Sheehy ao  
Artistic Director & CEO

Virginia Lovett  
Executive Director & Co-CEO



568

students and teachers stepped behind-the-scenes with an HQ Tour

Over 4,000

affordable tickets to mainstage MTC productions were provided to schools

75

teachers participated in professional development

541

students and teachers attended a Pre-show Talk

Over

8,000

students and teachers reached

Students from

41

regional schools participated in MTC enrichment programs

13

work experience students

Over

3,000

km travelled on the *Hungry Ghosts* Regional Tour

Students from

39

disadvantaged schools (ICSEA <1,000) participated in MTC enrichment programs

1,025

downloads of Education Packs

Over

6,000

views for MTC Education videos online

## — EDUCATION PRODUCTION —



### HUNGRY GHOSTS BY JEAN TONG

A young Malaysian-Chinese woman leaves the security of family for the freedom of life in Australia. Part mystery and part dark comedy, *Hungry Ghosts* explored what it is to be 'missing' – from being absent at the family dinner table to the still-missing Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370.

*Hungry Ghosts* was the ideal introduction to non-naturalism for Year 10 and VCE drama students, and included an eclectic mix of performance styles and innovative stage design.

#### REACH

- Over **2,000** student and teacher attendees at Southbank Theatre and on the Regional Tour
- **23** regional schools visited Southbank Theatre to see the production
- **215** students participated in a Pre-show Talk
- Over **1,200** students saw *Hungry Ghosts* at 6 regional venues including Mildura, Bendigo, Geelong, Launceston, Wangaratta and Sale

### FEEDBACK

“Congratulations to all involved with this important production. I was delighted that my students of Asian background were represented in such a clever and relevant piece of theatre.”

— Gwen De Lacy, Berengarra School

“Thank you for providing this initiative for rural students, as they allow our geographically and culturally isolated students to be exposed to professional theatre, which is essential for their development as performers and storytellers.”

— Charlotte Rolfe, St Joseph's College (Echuca)

“*Hungry Ghosts* was not only an extraordinary show on the level of stagecraft but also in its script. I love a piece of theatre that makes me think and *Hungry Ghosts* did not fail at this. Thank you so much for bringing this show on a regional tour and giving me the opportunity to see a gorgeous piece of theatre that I'll remember for years. I will get down to many MTC performances in the future.”

— Max Harris (Student), Bendigo Senior Secondary College

Above: Bernard Sam and Jing-Xuan Chan in *Hungry Ghosts*

## — EDUCATION PACKS & ONLINE RESOURCES —



Free resources are created for all MTC productions. Comprehensive two-part Education Packs were created for *Hungry Ghosts* and *A Doll's House, Part 2* to support sustained study in schools. Other mainstage productions were complemented by a Mini-Pack with need-to-know information and post-show activities.

As part of MTC's growing online resource offering, video documentaries were created of the *Hungry Ghosts* Regional Tour and the 2018 Indigenous Scholarship Program. Other online content included Q&A articles with the director and cast of *Hungry Ghosts*, the cast of VCE Playlisted production *A Doll's House, Part 2*, lighting designer Niklas Pajanti, and composer and sound designer Chris Williams. These online resources enhanced the Education Packs, driving traffic to the MTC website and encouraging students and teachers to discover more.

### REACH

- **1,025** downloads of Education Packs and Mini-Packs
- Over **6,000** views for MTC Education videos online
- **453** downloads of VCE Playlist resources

### FEEDBACK

- “Thanks for the Education Pack! We connected with all the material and enjoyed interesting discussions afterwards.”
- Gwen De Lacy, Berengarra School

Above: Education Pack for *Hungry Ghosts*

# — PRE-SHOW TALKS AND POST-SHOW Q&A —



Schools get the most out of their excursion to MTC when they add a Pre-show Talk. For *Hungry Ghosts* and *A Doll's House, Part 2*, Pre-show Talks are available for students to learn behind-the-scenes insights and make connections between the performance and the curriculum. Performances with a Pre-show Talk also include a 20-minute post-show Q&A with available members of the cast and creative team.

## REACH

- **541** student and teacher attendees
- **7** regional schools
- **6** disadvantaged (ICSEA\* <1,000) schools
- **Free** Pre-show Talks and Q&As on the Regional Tour

\*ICSEA stands for the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage. ICSEA provides an indication of the socio-educational backgrounds of students.

Above: Post-show Q&A for *A Doll's House, Part 2*

## — VCE WORKSHOPS —



Tailored for VCE students, these practical workshops assist students in constructing their interpretation of either the prescribed structures from the solo performance examination or a monologue from the stagecraft examination. An actor presents a short performance, making connections to the assessment criteria. These workshops took place at MTC HQ in the studios where the Company's productions are rehearsed.

### REACH

- **99** students participated
- **2** regional schools
- **2** disadvantaged (ICSEA <1,000) schools
- **2** VCE Theatre Studies workshops
- **3** VCE Drama workshops

## — WORK EXPERIENCE —



MTC offers a limited number of work experience placements each year. Students are assigned to an MTC production for one week to observe rehearsals and assist with small stage management tasks as required. Students sometimes assist in other departments with administrative tasks, as well as Props Hire. If an MTC production is in-season, students are offered tickets to a matinee performance.

### REACH

- **13** students participated
- **5** students attended regional schools
- **2** students attended disadvantaged (ICESA <1,000) schools
- **3** students re-engaged with MTC following previous involvement in enrichment programs

### FEEDBACK

“I will be forever grateful that I was able to have this experience. The knowledge I have gained has been invaluable to my education in theatre, especially in areas that I was unfamiliar with before. It was so beneficial to see different aspects of a professional theatre company, as well as gaining new experiences in a field I have so much passion for.”

— Jenny Le, Our Lady of Mercy College

“From the minute I walked in everyone was so welcoming and everything they did was extremely interesting. I had so much fun during my work experience, and it has helped put even more determination into what I wish to do. This is an experience I will be forever grateful for and one that has helped spark my passion and determination for theatre even more.”

— Sarah Falzon, Bacchus Marsh College

“Overall, the week I had at MTC will be one that I hope I never forget, because of all that it taught me and all the fun and happy memories I was able to make while there.”

— Olivia Brennan, St Monica's College (Epping)

“I would like to thank everyone at MTC for making me feel so warm and welcome, and for allowing me to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pursue my dream. You have all taught me so much, not only about theatre, but about myself.”

— Jade Colletti, Alkira Secondary College

Above: Work Experience student Jenny Le



# — TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT —



With partner organisations Drama Victoria and VATE (Victorian Association for the Teaching of English) MTC presented two professional development seminars for teachers in Melbourne. Drama teachers had the opportunity to meet with playwright Patricia Cornelius, and see her adaptation of Federico García Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*. English teachers met with director Dean Bryant to discuss the process of page-to-stage, then saw his production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*.

## REACH

- **22** teachers participated in PD at MTC HQ
- Assuming each of these teachers has at least one average-sized class, these seminars impacted over **550** students
- A further **53** teachers participated in Regional PD

## FEEDBACK

“So enjoyed the PD event. Talking with Patricia Cornelius before seeing the play was enlightening. It certainly helped understand the adaptation, the Australianising of it, especially. The timing was great, for us anyway, afternoon to an early show. I would certainly love to know of future similar events.”

— Helen Mutkins, Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School

“I was pleased to attend the PD with Patricia Cornelius. It was quite fascinating to learn more about her adaptation of Lorca's play and her approach to playwriting in general.”

— Jason Forest, Fintona Girls' School

“I had an amazing time and I really appreciated the chance to speak to the director beforehand. It really added to my enjoyment of the play.”

— Hugh Gundlach, VATE Education Officer

Above: Teachers with playwright Patricia Cornelius (centre)

## — HQ TOURS —



Students and teachers have the opportunity to peek behind the scenes on an HQ Tour and see how Australia's oldest professional theatre company operates. Our Sturt Street Headquarters in Southbank is the engine room of the Company, housing the Production, Administrative and Creative departments. School groups visit the MTC Production departments, including wigs, wardrobe, properties, scenic art and the set workshop. Teachers often book this experience prior to seeing an MTC production.

### REACH

- **568** student attendees
- **6** regional schools
- **4** disadvantaged (ICSEA <1,000) schools

### FEEDBACK

**"I would sincerely like to thank you for all of the work you did with me prior to my trip to Melbourne. The kids were so amazed by Wild and really appreciated the headquarters tour."**

— Nikki Cameron, Red Cliffs Secondary College

**"Yesterday's tour was fantastic and I would like to thank you for this valuable insight into the MTC's headquarters. The students loved the costumes, millinery, wig making and hunting for the dead fox and mouldy sandwiches in the props department!"**

— Teacher, Melbourne Polytechnic.

**"Thank you so much for your time and the wonderful tour of the MTC facilities. It was very empowering for the students to see the range of occupations involved in the theatre as well as the level of professional respect for the MTC designers and incredible quality of the work they produce. It will be so useful to refer back to the props and costumes we saw when we continue our work on our own stage design. Utterly inspirational!"**

— Lenore Davison, Wanganui Park Secondary College

Above: The props store at MTC HQ

## — AWARDS —



In 2018 MTC won the award for Best Performance for VCE Theatre Studies presented by Drama Victoria for *A Doll's House, Part 2* by Lucas Hnath, directed by Sarah Goodes.

### REACH

- **1,533** students and teachers saw *A Doll's House, Part 2*
- **326** students and teachers attended the Pre-show Talk
- **81** different schools attended the production
- **453** downloads of *A Doll's House, Part 2* Education Packs

Above: Students attending *A Doll's House, Part 2* at Southbank Theatre

## — THANK YOU —

MTC seeks to ensure that all young people can access high quality theatre experiences and we could not achieve that without your support.

Thank you for supporting MTC Education. Your vision and generosity inspires us and we are truly grateful to receive your support. Together we can continue to transform lives through theatre.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our 2018 Education Giving Circle Donors:

Joanna Baevski	Glenn Fryer	Jacquie Naylor
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	Richard Murphy	

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## — MTC EDUCATION —

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Karin Farrell | Community Outreach Manager  
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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

MTC Ambassadors at MTC HQ



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THEATRE  
COMPANY