

MTC EDUCATION 2019



IMPACT REPORT

FOR EDUCATION
GIVING CIRCLE DONORS

MTC MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

— A HEARTFELT THANK YOU —



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

MTC Education brings young people together to enhance their learning and creativity through theatre. Our award-winning programs rely on donor support to provide young people with access to world-class theatre, the chance to meet professionals in their field and collaborate to create theatre of their own.

Research proves again and again that exposure to the creative industries at a young age will provide skills for life, improving their wellbeing, confidence and cognitive ability. MTC Education provides scaffolding and continuity for students over a time in their lives when they are at their most vulnerable and making life changing choices.

Fundamental to the work of MTC Education is the desire to make the power of live storytelling accessible to all young Victorians, by reducing geographical and socio-economic barriers that inhibit engagement with the arts.

Your gift in 2019 helped intensify the theatre experience for thousands of young people to inspire a lifelong love of performing arts and helped enrich the creative lives of the next generation of theatre makers.

Thank you for ensuring participation in the arts is available for all students to explore their potential and create a strong, vibrant and bright future.

Brett Sheehy AO
Artistic Director & CEO

Virginia Lovett
Executive Director & Co-CEO

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Yalukit Willam Peoples of the Boon Wurrung, the First Peoples of Country on which Southbank Theatre and MTC HQ stand, and we pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.

— EDUCATION REACH —

8,000+

subsidised tickets to mainstage MTC productions were provided to schools

13,000+

students and teachers reached

600+

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

1,450

downloads of Education Packs



10
work experience
students

(Clockwise from below)
Storm Boy pre-show talk;
students attending a
Storm Boy matinee; work
experience student Jazelle;
Theatre Royal in Hobart;
Dead Puppet Society
teacher professional
development workshop



3000+

kilometres travelled on *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You* Regional Tour



951
students and teachers
attended a pre-show talk



49
teachers participated in professional development

— EDUCATION PRODUCTION —



***THE VIOLENT OUTBURST THAT DREW ME TO YOU* BY FINEGAN KRUCKEMEYER**

Connor is 16 and angry. He doesn't know why. Lately everything and everyone is annoying him. He's slamming doors, flipping desks and always fighting. But, when he takes his rage one step too far, his parents decide to leave him in the forest for a week, alone. That should sort him out. Until he meets Lotte – also 16, also angry, but maybe just the friend Connor needs.

Featured on the VCE Unit 3 Theatre Studies Playlist, *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You* charmed young audiences with its humour and heart.

FEEDBACK

'I took my 15-year-old son to see *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You*, and the timing could not have been more appropriate. The production was simply excellent, the performers were powerful, engaging, funny, poignant and at times deeply moving. An important piece of theatre.'

— Parent, Warrnambool

'It was so great for my disengaged and angry students to see a play that really spoke to them and let them realise that their anger and disengagement is not unique.'

— Teacher, Bendigo South East College

REACH

— Over **3,300** student and teacher attendees at Southbank Theatre and on the Regional Tour

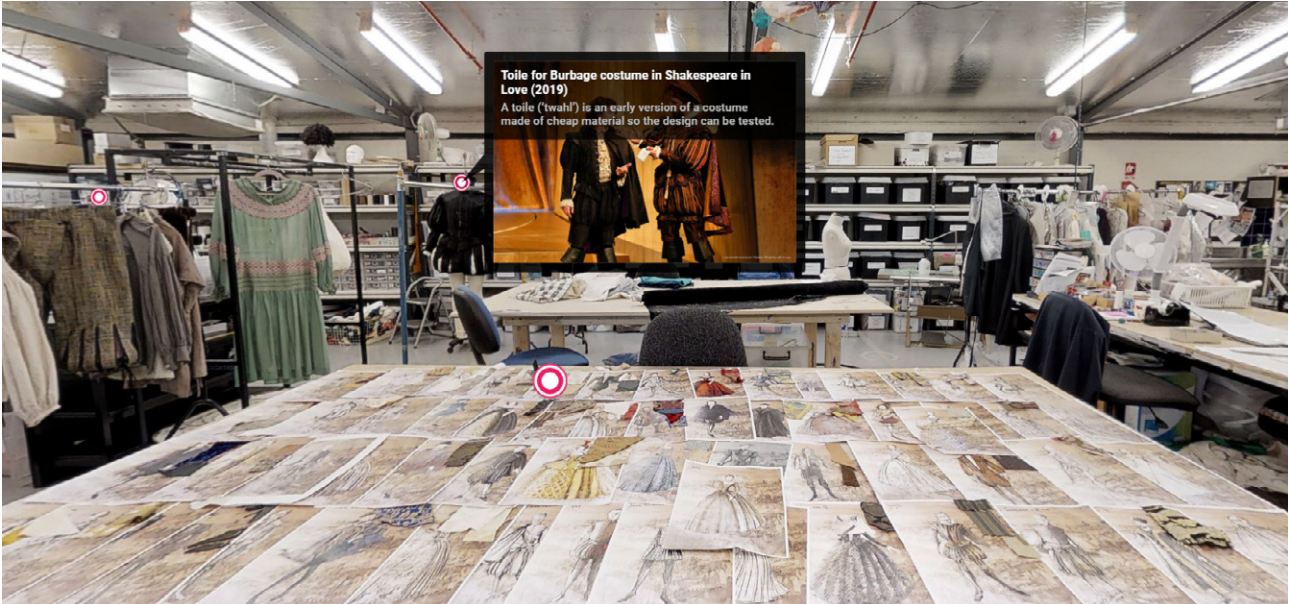
— **13** regional schools visited Southbank Theatre to see the production

— **279** students participated in a Pre-show Talk

— Over **1,778** students saw *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You* at 6 regional venues including Mildura, Bendigo, Drysdale, Launceston and Warrnambool.

Above: Harry Tseng, Josh Price and Izabella Yena in *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me To You*; image by James Henry

— DIGITAL EDUCATION —



MTC's innovative Digital Education program is extending the company's reach to thousands of geographically and socially isolated young people, using the platforms and technologies that are part of their everyday life.

Students can now explore MTC's production workshops via our new online Virtual Tour, watch time-lapse recordings of rehearsals, gain insights through video and podcast interviews with actors and creative artists, and enhance their studies with web-based interactive revision tools. Post-show Q&A sessions through Instagram Stories enabled students to access behind-the-scenes secrets on their mobile device.

The number of teachers and students downloading MTC's free, award-winning Education Packs continues to grow.

FEEDBACK

'The Education Packs were really well put together; we have just gone through them in class the last two lessons to prepare for the SAC. It was brilliant that you listed all the people who work at MTC. So great for these rural kids to see that there are REAL jobs in the theatre out there if they want them!'

— Tanya Gower, Wodonga Senior Secondary College

'Our students really enjoyed the performance and built on the learning they did prior to the show from the Education Pack and we will certainly do some follow up learning at school this week.'

— Helen Thompson, Bulleen Heights School

REACH

- Over **1,419** visits to MTC HQ virtual tour online
- **1,678** downloads of Education Packs and Mini-Packs
- **1,300** unique downloads of VCE Playlist resources

Above: Virtual Tour of MTC HQ

— 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 *The Violent Outburst that Drew Me To You*, *Così* and *Shakespeare in Love*, Pre-show Talks gave students the opportunity to learn behind-the-scenes insights and make connections between the performance and the curriculum. Performances with a Pre-show Talk also included a 20-minute post-show Q&A with available members of the cast and creative team.

REACH

- **951** student and teacher attendees
- **8** regional schools
- **9** 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 *Shakespeare in Love*; image by Heath Warwick

— WORK EXPERIENCE —



MTC offers a select 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

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

FEEDBACK

'I can't express how grateful I am to everyone who was involved in making my week at MTC so enjoyable. A *View from the Bridge* is such a wonderful play, and getting to experience its development first-hand was one of the best things that I've witnessed in my life. I cannot wait to pursue this career in the future, and this experience has just boosted that excitement so much more!'

— Blake Pavey, Corowa High School

'My week was full of lots of laughs, being surrounded by amazing talent (on and off the rehearsal stage), and a bunch of fascinating experiences that I will hold with me as I continue to explore a career in theatre. I had a better time than I ever could have expected, and I'm very grateful to have been presented with that opportunity.'

— Katherine Quist, Wesley College

'The amount of knowledge I have gained from observing these professionals, my role models, at work is immeasurable at my age and I am so grateful I had this chance. It's hard to write in words just how valuable this experience is to me. It is the thing I'll take with me through the rest of school and beyond into the working world.'

— Jennifer Roache, Trinity College Colac

Above: Work experience student Jennifer Roache; image by Nick Tranter

— TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT —



MTC delivered a range of professional development events for teachers throughout 2019 both in Melbourne and regional Victoria. In partnership with Drama Victoria, we delivered a Dramaturgy PD, in conversation with director Iain Sinclair, to support teachers with the new VCE Study Designs. We also welcomed English teachers from VATE (Victorian Association for the Teaching of English) to MTC HQ for a conversation with voice and dialect coach Leith McPherson about the language in *Shakespeare in Love*, ahead of them seeing the production on stage. We also presented a special *Storm Boy* puppetry workshop at MTC HQ with Dead Puppet Society for teachers across Victoria and interstate.

FEEDBACK

‘The Dead Puppet Society workshop was so enjoyable and packed full of practical exercise that I feel I can take with me straight into a classroom and adapt into a solid unit of work to inspire and develop the skills of my future students.’

— Remi D’Agostin, Wonthaggi Secondary College

‘The insights of the Director were invaluable and then to see the performance after the discussion was very informative!’

— Teacher attending Dramaturgy PD

REACH

— **49** teachers participated in PD at MTC HQ

— Assuming each of these teachers has at least one average-sized class, these seminars impacted over **1,225** students

— A further **17** teachers participated in Regional PD

Above: Dead Puppet Society Teacher PD Workshop at MTC HQ; image by Nick Tranter

— 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

— **600+** student attendees

Above: The set workshop at MTC HQ; image by Timothy Grey

— AWARDS —



In 2019, MTC won two Drama Victoria awards: Best Resource for the 2019 VCE Playlist for the *Così* Education Pack; and Best Performance by a Theatre Company for Years 7-10 for *Storm Boy* by Colin Thiele, adapted for the stage by Tom Holloway, a co-production with Queensland Theatre in association with Dead Puppet Society.

REACH

- **2,838** students and teachers saw *Storm Boy*
- **4** additional dedicated schools matinees for *Storm Boy*, welcoming hundreds of first-time visitors to MTC
- **726** downloads of *Così* Education Packs

FEEDBACK

‘We saw *Storm Boy* today and it was wonderful! What a joyous show for kids to see. I just wanted to thank you again for the generous tickets – we are very grateful and the kids were buzzing afterwards.’

— Trina Wilson, Marist College Bendigo

‘Our *Così* excursion last Tuesday was FANTASTIC. Many of our students will go their entire lifetime never experiencing live theatre. They loved it. The atmosphere of the theatre beforehand, the talent and professionalism of the actors, the whole experience. I believe this experience will stay with them for a long time.’

— Kristie Jackson, Bayswater Secondary College

Above: Ellen Bailey, John Batchelor, Tony Briggs, Conor Lowe, Emily Burton and Drew Wilson in *Storm Boy*; image by Jeff Busby

— THANK YOU —

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

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

A heartfelt thank you to all of our 2019 Education Giving Circle Donors:

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Tom and Elana Cordiner	The Mann Family	Anonymous (3)
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