

# DONOR IMPACT REPORT

## 2019



**MTC**  
FOUNDATION

**MTC HQ**  
252 Sturt St  
Southbank VIC 3006  
03 8688 0900

**Southbank Theatre**  
140 Southbank Blvd  
Southbank VIC 3006  
03 8688 0800

[mtc.com.au](http://mtc.com.au)

**Venues**

Throughout 2019, MTC performed its Melbourne season of plays at Southbank Theatre in The Sumner and The Lawler, and at the Fairfax Studio and Playhouse at Arts Centre Melbourne.

**Managing Editor** Virginia Lovett  
**Editor** Rupert Sherwood  
**Graphic Designer** Victoria U  
**Photography in this report by** Jeff Busby, Mandy Jones, Heath Warwick, Jacinta Keefe, Deryk McAlpin, TJ Garvie and Nick Tranter.

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.

MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

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# 2019 IN NUMBERS

**526**

total performances

**231,268**

total paid attendance

**585**

actors, creatives and industry professionals employed

**10**

years of Southbank Theatre

**50%**

Australian Plays as part of the 2019 Mainstage Season

**25**

writers commissioned or in residence as part of MTC's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program

**8**

new Australian plays developed through Cybec Electric

**1st**

**NEXT STAGE**

commission produced

**9%**

total revenue from private donations

**2,725**

first time donors to MTC

**15%**

increase in donations to MTC's annual supporter appeal

**8,000+**

subsidised tickets to mainstage MTC productions provided to schools

**3,977**

\$5 tickets for disadvantaged students in outer-metro Melbourne

**1,041**

\$5 tickets for disadvantaged families in outer-metro Melbourne

**951**

students and teachers attended pre-show talks and post-show Q&As

**49**

teachers participated in MTC professional development workshops

**3,000KM+**

travelled on *The Violent Outburst that Drew Me To You* regional tour

**10**

work experience students

**12**

MTC Women in Theatre core program participants

**2**

Technical Design Stream Women in Theatre participants

**18**

backstage secondments for industry professionals

# FOUNDATION CHAIR'S REPORT

JANE HANSEN AO



I am often asked how important donations are to MTC and the answer is simple. Without you, our valued donors, much of what we do would not be possible and MTC would not be the company we all know and love.

Your support allows us to maintain our extremely high production values and present shows of scale such as *Shakespeare in Love*, one of the highlights of our 2019 Season. But importantly it also means that we are able to deliver many of our off-stage initiatives, such as our Education Program, Regional Enrichment Program, Cybec Electric, Women in Theatre and NEXT STAGE Writers' Programs.

Private giving has played a major role in helping to shape our state theatre company, and I thank every one of you for your generous and passionate support. And in 2019 we achieved a great deal together.

Across the year, we welcomed 36 new Donors to our Loyalty Circle, and saw an 11% increase in general donations – that is those not tied to particular projects, but which enable us to turn the lights on each day. These statistics demonstrate a significant vote of confidence in the Company from our community and show that MTC remains a vital part of our audiences' lives.

It was also a year of growth for our General Endowment Fund (GEF), which was again a focus for the Foundation Board and Development Department.

The investment in the Company's long-term future that the endowment fund represents was one of the key goals that I set for the MTC Foundation when we began in 2015. The combination of philanthropic support, company contributions and conservative investment has meant that since its launch in 2017, the GEF is very much on track to fulfil its purpose as a lasting source of recurrent income. I am delighted to report that by year end the fund had reached nearly \$4 million, a significant step toward ensuring a stable, sustainable and artistically vibrant future for our Company thanks to the generosity of our endowment donors.

On stage, it was an exciting year for our NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, made possible by MTC's Playwright's Giving Circle, with *Golden Shield* by Anchuli Felicia King making its mid-year debut at Southbank Theatre. An intelligent and ambitious production, this commission also displayed MTC's exceptional technical ability and innovation. It was a proud moment for the Donors, Foundations and Organisations of our Playwrights Giving Circle to see our first NEXT STAGE production come to fruition.

As NEXT STAGE entered its third year, three new writers-in-residence joined the program and seven new commissions were awarded, bringing the total to 25 writers commissioned or in residence. In addition, 16 workshops were held to further the development of NEXT STAGE work, with 87 actors and creatives employed in these workshops across the year. The benefits of investing in new Australian works are plenty, including nurturing new and more established talent among our artistic community thanks to the support of MTC's Playwright's Giving Circle.

As ever, our Education Department was a flurry of activity in 2019, reaching all corners of the state with our award-winning Education Program. The Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship course, made possible by the Betty Amsden Foundation, once again welcomed 25 students to MTC for a transformative, week-long drama program.

Our Sharing the Light initiative, supported by the Crown Resorts Foundation & Packer Family Foundation, allowed 5,018 families and students to attend MTC productions at heavily subsidised ticket

prices; made it easier for schools in regional areas to get to the theatre with the help of our travel subsidy; and enabled our First Peoples Young Artists Program to continue with four more participants completing this unique program. It also made possible the regional tour of our wonderful Education Production, *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me to You*.

In regional Victoria, students and teachers were given access to unique workshops and teaching resources free of charge thanks to the support of the Gailey/Lazarus Charitable Foundation. Through this foundation, Geraldine Lazarus has been one of our most loyal and long-standing donors to MTC Education; she is a true champion of arts education. In celebration of her vision and support that has enriched young lives across Victoria for many years, we were honoured to award Geraldine as an MTC Lifetime Patron in 2019.

2019 was my final year as inaugural Chair of the MTC Foundation and I reflect on my tenure with affection and pride when reviewing all that we have accomplished since we began five short years ago.

As I move on to become Chair of MTC, I am thrilled to be handing over this responsibility to fellow Board Member and great contributor, Janette Kendall. I have no doubt she will build on our successes and lead the MTC Foundation into its next exciting phase of supporting the Company's important work.

Throughout my time as MTC Foundation Chair I have also had the pleasure of getting to know our community of Donors. You are our biggest advocates and most passionate audiences, and it is due to you that we are able to achieve all that we do. I would like to express my warmest appreciation for your commitment and dedication. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Hansen', written in a cursive style.

# ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO's REPORT

BRETT SHEEHY AO



Making theatre relevant to 21st century Australia is at the heart of MTC's purpose and in 2019 we presented a season of challenging, brilliant and entertaining works, thanks in no small part to the generosity of our community of Donors.

With 50% of our 2019 program written by Australian playwrights, it was a year where local talent shone brightly. The suite of terrific works included the first commission from our landmark NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, *Golden Shield* by Anchuli Felicia King, directed by our Associate Artistic Director Sarah Goodes. Its debut was a proud moment for the Company and I thank the Donors and Foundations who backed NEXT STAGE from the beginning and shared our vision of a program that gave writers and their work the investment they deserve.

Alongside the Australian works in 2019 was a collection of the very best new international plays, beloved 20th century classics and fresh productions of West End and Broadway smash-hits. In his last year as Associate Director, Dean Bryant directed the legendary Miriam Margolyes in *The Lady in the Van* and musical theatre icon Caroline O'Connor in the first major Australian production of Kander & Ebb's *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Our Australian premiere of *Shakespeare in Love*, a spectacular new production directed by Simon Phillips, was an extraordinary feast for theatre-lovers and delighted audiences far and wide. Iain Sinclair's critically acclaimed and award-winning *A View From the Bridge* was another sell-out success and a thrilling night of theatre.

In 2019, fervent audience demand led to season extensions of four shows – *The Lady in the Van*, *Heisenberg*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Black is the New White* – and we were delighted to see an increase in new audiences attending across the year. In total we had over 20,000 subscribers – more than any other theatre company in the country for the third year running – and nearly a quarter of a million paid attendances.

It was another extremely successful season at the box office, ending the year at \$18.1 million. While our box office results are pleasing, government subsidy continues to sit drastically low and disproportionate to MTC's cultural and economic contribution. The generosity of our Donors is essential for keeping MTC in good health and we are extremely fortunate to have the Donor support that we do.

As equally important as the work on stage is that which goes on behind the scenes. Our Women in Theatre Program continued to flourish as it expanded again to create opportunities in specific technical fields, our annual Cybec Electric play reading series brought eight new plays into our orbit and NEXT STAGE entered its third year with 25 writers now part of the program.

2019 was a year of collaborations as we co-produced shows and partnered to present workshops, special events and our touring productions. In 2019 these partnerships included MPavilion, with whom we have presented free events for the past three years; Contemporary Asian Australian Performance, for our CAAP Director's Initiative and Longhouse event; and the Emerging Writers Festival, for First Stage.

There were also seven regional arts venues we worked with around the state on our tour of *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me to You*; a new relationship established with the Canberra Theatre Centre; and co-productions with Sydney Theatre Company and Queensland Theatre. Working with colleague companies, regional arts venues and small-to-medium arts organisations is a vital part of maintaining a strong network across the arts ecology. We are stronger together.

And if that wasn't enough for one year, we also celebrated a decade of Southbank Theatre's existence and contribution as a place of gathering and storytelling. Thanks to the vision of our MTC predecessors, Southbank Theatre was built for MTC to have a permanent home. In its first ten years, the venue has seen some extraordinary theatre. In 2019 there was another sweep of wonderful theatre and it's without question that there will be many more spectacular productions to grace its stages.

Donors are crucial to MTC and Melbourne's, Victoria's and Australia's cultural life is all the richer for the work you help create. Thank you for sharing our commitment and vision to create remarkable theatre, year after year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Sheehy' with a stylized flourish at the end.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CO-CEO'S REPORT

VIRGINIA LOVETT



It was another successful year at Melbourne Theatre Company. A season of 12 astonishing productions that ranged from intimate dramas to spectacular musicals, thrilling new Australian writing to big-hearted comedies and a canine guest-star brought to the stage through your generosity. On top of a busy performance schedule, we once again delivered our award-winning Education Program to thousands of Victorian students and continued to invest in our artists and our industry through revered MTC initiatives like the Women in Theatre Program and NEXT STAGE Writers' Program thanks to your support.

Throughout the year we also celebrated the 10th anniversary of our home venue, Southbank Theatre, a testament to the power of philanthropy and what can be achieved through donor support.

As part of the celebrations, we released 1,000 \$10 tickets to *Golden Shield* – they sold out in 44 minutes – opening our doors to new theatre goers. For one special day, as part of Open House Melbourne, MTC let people in behind-the-scenes as staff ran backstage tours and showcased the craftsmanship of our wardrobe and production teams with a fantastic exhibition of props, costumes and set models.

From the comfort of a theatre seat, MTC immersed audiences in theatrical magic in 2019, taking them into stories from our own cultural heritage as well as to

the four corners of the world. MTC was also physically on the road, touring to Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane and Launceston, and throughout regional Victoria. It is always a pleasure to see our productions on stages outside of Melbourne and to work with our colleagues across Victoria and interstate.

Profuse in its output and impact, our Education Department is underwritten by our Education Giving Circle with a number of key programs supported by targeted donations such as the Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship Course, our Regional Enrichment Program, \$5 student and family tickets and our First Peoples Young Artists Program. Again in 2019, these programs were sought-after and highly valued. On behalf of the many thousands of students who benefit from these programs and have the pleasure of engaging with the creative arts as a result, I again thank you, our wonderful and generous Donors for your support and vision.

Across the year, we produced 526 performances and employed 585 actors, creatives and industry professionals. MTC is one of the State's largest employers of creative talent, be it through our wonderful acting community, directors and writers to our skilled staff behind-the-scenes – the costumiers, scenic artists, carpenters, production staff, company managers, stage managers, props makers, welders, lighting and sound technicians, and a wealth of talent in many other departments – all necessary for a thriving theatre company. Thank you for ensuring we have the ability to execute the artistic vision and strategic direction of the Company.

We performed to a total paid attendance of 231,268, resulting in a box office of \$18.1 million. Overall, we will report \$28.3 million in total revenue and a small consolidated surplus of \$10,573.

It was a steady year for the Company financially but ongoing cost pressures proved as challenging as ever, and cost mitigation while growing our contributed income remained a key focus.

Thankfully, our excellent box office result was complemented by much needed private donations,

sitting at 9% of our overall revenue. Conversely, government funding remained static at 7% of our total income, net of government duties.

It is the incredible support of our Donors that allow us to stage the productions of scale and range that we do, and to deliver an impressive array of free programs that enrich the cultural landscape and provide opportunities for students and industry professionals. Thank you for your ongoing support in 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Lovett'.

# MTC SEASON 2019

# 2019 MTC DONOR EVENTS



The Lady in the Van



Arbus & West



Storm Boy



Shakespeare in Love



A View From the Bridge



Cosi



Golden Shield



Black is the New White



The Violent Outburst That Drew Me to You



Heisenberg



Photograph 51



Kiss of the Spider Woman



(From left to right, top to bottom):

1. Richard Simmie, Peter Kowitz, Kat Stewart and Andrew McAlicee
2. Anna Pecora, Angelina Beninati and Miriam Margoyles
3. Gabriel Fancourt, Jenny Jeffries, Glenn Hazeldine, Jock Jeffries, Jo Laycock, Sean Keenan and William Laycock
4. Penny and Josh White, Miranda Tapsell and Anthony Taufa
5. Stephen and Jane Grover, Rupert Sherwood, Hugh Burrill and guests of the Storm Boy pre-show dinner
6. Pat Burke, Ian Hocking, Bert LaBonté, Rosemary Forbes, Mark and Jo Davey

# MTC SEASON 2020 DONOR PREVIEW



(From left to right, top to bottom):  
 1. Chris and Lesley Richardson  
 2. Halina and Peter Jacobsen, Heather Finnegan and Laurel Das  
 3. Katie Burke, Jan Nolan, Chris Mead, Janine Snape and Pat Burke  
 4. Susan Santoro, Tara Bishop and Jacqui Blackwell  
 5. Fiona Kirwan-Hamilton and Brett Parkin  
 6. Wendy Haines and Sarah Goodes

# MTC 2019 LIFETIME PATRONS



In 2015, the MTC Foundation introduced the Lifetime Patron Award to acknowledge and celebrate MTC's most loyal and extraordinary supporters, and their astonishing generosity that has enriched the arts throughout Victoria and Australia. Melbourne Theatre Company announced the 2019 recipients of its Lifetime Patron Award at our Donor Preview of the Company's 2020 Season in August.

Dr Geraldine Lazarus, Greig Gailey and Ursula Whiteside were presented with the award in recognition of their remarkable contributions to MTC.

In presenting the awards, MTC Executive Director & Co-CEO Virginia Lovett said, 'Our annual Lifetime Patron Award shines a light on our most loyal and passionate supporters and recognises the outstanding role they've played in the MTC community.'

'This year we are delighted to acknowledge three individuals whose contributions have had, and continue to have, a lasting impact on the Company and the lives of many thousands of people. They are among MTC's greatest supporters and advocates, and true leaders in the community.'

Ursula Whiteside has been an active member of MTC's community since its earliest days, and was in the audience for the 1955 production of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. Ursula was the MTC Society's first president and later went on to join the MTC Board in 1983. The MTC Society was established to bring audiences closer to the company and help raise money to supplement the variable government funding that

MTC received. It was Ursula's leadership and passion for the company that began MTC's history of building a community of likeminded supporters, and laid the foundations of today's donor program. At 93 years old, Ursula continues to donate and subscribe to every play in MTC's annual season.

Dr Geraldine Lazarus and Greig Gailey are long-time MTC subscribers, and donors since 2012. Their passion and commitment is the driving force behind one of the Company's most inclusive and impactful initiatives, the MTC Regional Enrichment Program. This annual program, entirely funded by the Gailey/Lazarus Foundation, offers free educational enrichment activities to students, young people and educators in regional Victoria. It includes workshops and pre-show talks that coincide with MTC's touring education production, VCE Drama and Theatre Studies workshops, in-depth classes on Shakespeare, professional development sessions for regional drama teachers, and online resources for teachers and students that demystify career pathways in theatre production, acting, directing and design. MTC's Regional Enrichment Program reaches people all across Victoria and embodies Geraldine and Grieg's commitment to providing better access to arts education for young people whose geographical, social or financial situations don't allow them the same cultural experiences as others.

In recognition of their invaluable contribution to MTC, the 2019 Lifetime Patron Award recipients were presented with a handmade gold lapel pin compliments of Kozminsky.

# MTC EDUCATION

## SHARING THE LIGHT

In its fifth year, Sharing the Light continued to have a positive and significant impact on young people through subsidised tickets, specialised programs and engagement with the creative arts thanks to the support of Crown Resorts Foundation & Packer Family Foundation.

### \$5 TICKETS FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Subsidised \$5 tickets were available to students at disadvantaged schools and families in outer-metro Melbourne to attend MTC productions.

Travel subsidies were also offered to schools in regional areas of Victoria to reduce geographical and financial barriers associated with getting to the theatre.

**Total travel subsidy provided to schools** \$39,281  
(37 schools, 1,441 students)

**Total \$5 tickets** Students 3,977  
Families 1,041

### FIRST PEOPLES YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

A scholarship for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people interested in the performing arts, offered by MTC with support from the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development.

The program featured a series of workshops on performance skills, writing for the stage, technical and design production, and cultural experiences. Under the mentorship of First Nations teaching artists and facilitators, as well as experienced MTC staff and creatives, the program culminated in a group-devised performance for family and friends staged at Southbank Theatre.

In 2019, there were participants from Melbourne, regional Victoria and Western Australia.

#### Participants 4

**Lead Teaching Artist** Lenka Vanderboom  
**Guest Teaching Artist and Director of Final**

**Performance** Declan Furber Gillick  
**Workshop Assistants (all alumni of the program):** Amelia O'Leary, Jyden Brailey, Jayde Hopkins, Brodi Purtil, Jacinta Keefe and Corey Saylor-Brunskill

### MTC EDUCATION ON TOUR

In 2019, *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me to You* travelled as a full-scale production to regional performing arts centres. Pre-show talks were held before every performance, facilitated by MTC Community Outreach Manager Karin Farrell.

#### Venues

Mildura Arts Centre  
Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo  
Potato Shed, Drysdale  
Lighthouse Theatre, Warrnambool  
Theatre Royal, Hobart  
Launceston College  
Bunjil Place, Narre Warren  
*Bunjil Place performances offered free to students and teachers were made possible with support from Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM.*

### COMMUNITY NIGHT

A community night was held during the season of *Black is the New White*. Tickets for the performance were \$5.

**Community Night Performance** 4 November  
**Attendance** 129



PACKER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

*MTC sincerely thanks the Packer Family Foundation and Crown Resorts Foundation for their commitment to ensuring theatre is accessible to all young people throughout Victoria.*

# MTC EDUCATION

## REGIONAL ENRICHMENT

MTC's Regional Enrichment Program, supported by the Gailey/Lazarus Foundation, provides an opportunity for students in regional Victoria to deeply engage with MTC's annual Education Production, MTC's production of *Macbeth*, or participate in a VCE Theatre Studies or Drama workshop. In 2019, Students and teachers regional schools across Victoria participated in MTC enrichment programs between May and November.

### THE VIOLENT OUTBURST THAT DREW ME TO YOU

#### WORKSHOPS

31 May | St Ignatius College, Geelong  
13 June | Bellarine Secondary College, Drysdale  
16 July | Kambrya College, Berwick  
20 June | St Joseph's College, Mildura  
20 August | Bayview College, Portland

**Teaching Artists** Prue Clark, Suzie Thomas and Nick Tranter  
**Total Participants** 121 students

#### MACBETH WORKSHOPS

19 August | Bayview College, Portland

**Teaching Artists** Suzie Thomas and Nick Tranter  
**Participants** 50 students

#### TEACHER AS ARTIST PD WORKSHOPS

5 August | Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon  
18 November | Mildura Arts Centre

**Teaching Artists** Suzie Thomas, Nicholas Waxman and Lauren Zeigler  
**Total Participants** 18

#### VCE THEATRE STUDIES WORKSHOP

22 August | Highview College, Maryborough

**Teaching Artist** Meg Upton  
**Participants** 12 students

*MTC thanks Geraldine Lazarus and the Gailey/Lazarus Foundation for their exceptionally generous support of MTC's Regional Enrichment Program.*



# MTC EDUCATION

## MTC EDUCATION GIVING CIRCLE

**‘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.’** — 2019 work experience student

MTC’s Education Program connects young people and teachers with first-rate learning opportunities.

Throughout the year, MTC runs a range of programs, scholarships and workshops designed to foster students’ love and understanding of the creative industries.

### THE VIOLENT OUTBURST THAT DREW ME TO YOU WORKSHOPS

2 May | MTC HQ

**Teaching Artists** Nick Tranter and Suzie Thomas  
**Participants** 35 students

### HQ TOURS

February — December | MTC HQ

**Participants** 28 school groups

### WORK EXPERIENCE

February — October | MTC HQ

**Participants** 10 students

### PRE-SHOW TALKS AND POST-SHOW Q&AS

Pre-show talks and post-show Q&As were held for *The Violent Outburst That Drew Me to You*, *Così* and *Shakespeare in Love*.

April — August | Southbank Theatre, The Sumner and The Lawler

**Teaching Artist** Nick Tranter  
**Total Participants** 951 students and teachers

### VIRTUAL SCHOOL VICTORIA & MTC

In partnership with Virtual School Victoria, MTC again ran a Year 8 Drama course.

July — November | MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre, The Lawler

**Teaching Artists** Penny Harpham and Darius Kedros  
**Designer** Bethany J. Fellows  
**VSV Teacher** Ferri Mahmut  
**VSV Head of Arts** John Bartley  
**VSV Media Teacher** Kelly Jackson

**Online Workshop Participants** 65  
**Workshop and Presentation Participants at MTC HQ** 10  
**Presentation** 29 November | MTC HQ and online

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MTC delivered a range of professional development events for teachers both in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

**Dramaturgy PD: *A View From the Bridge* presented in partnership with Drama Victoria**

19 March | MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

**Guest Artist** Iain Sinclair  
**Participating Teachers** 21

**Decoding Script PD: *Shakespeare in Love* presented in partnership with Victorian Association for the Teaching of English.**

30 July | MTC HQ and Arts Centre Melbourne, the Playhouse

**Guest Artist** Leith McPherson  
**Participating Teachers** 20



### Storm Boy Puppetry Workshop: For Artists

22 June | MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

**Guest Artist** David Morton (Dead Puppet Society)  
**Participants** 6

### Storm Boy Puppetry Workshop: For Teachers

20 July | MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

**Guest Artist** Helen Stephens (Dead Puppet Society)  
**Participants** 10

*MTC sincerely thanks the Victorian Department of Education and our 2019 Education Giving Circle Donors who made this program possible: Janice Adie; Joanna Baevski; Bonnici Family; Jennifer and Howard Brown; Deborah Conyngham; Tom and Elana Cordiner; Ann Darby; Glenn Fryer; Mark and Jennifer Hayes; Linda Herd; Virginia Lovett and Rose Hiscock; Susannah Malingbrough; The Mann Family; Richard Murphy; Susan Oliver AM; Roslyn and Richard Rogers Family; Hilary and Stuart Scott; Richard and Debra Tegoni; Ann and Alan Wilkinson; Anonymous (3).*

### Drama Victoria Conference

5 December | Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne

**Session** Theatre Production Processes  
**Presenters** Adam Howe (Technical & Production Director) and Nick Tranter (Learning Manager)  
**Participating Teachers** 30

# MTC YOUTH AMBASSADORS



**‘This year was a reminder as to why I fell in love with theatre in the first place. It’s incredible to be in an environment where you can speak directly to the people involved in the making of these plays and have your voice and opinion not only heard, but valued’ — 2019 MTC Ambassador**

**April — December**  
**MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre**  
**16 Participants**

Each year, a group of outstanding Year 11 students benefit from a unique insight into Melbourne Theatre Company on and off stage to develop analytic and artistic knowledge they can share with their peers thanks to the generosity of our MTC Youth Ambassadors Giving Circle.

Over the course of the year, the 2019 Ambassadors were exposed to the inner workings of Australia’s oldest professional theatre company with a series of guest speakers, workshops and the chance to see MTC productions. These enabled participants to increase their knowledge of the arts industry and

improve their networking and communication skills. Ambassadors undertook personal growth through developing confidence and friendships with a diverse group of students who have a shared love of theatre.

The program is crucial in ensuring outstanding students of drama have an opportunity to extend beyond what is possible in school, and develop expertise that allows them to pursue their full artistic potential with confidence.

*MTC thanks our 2019 Youth Ambassador Giving Circle for making this program possible: Melody and Jonathan Feder; Heather Forbes-McKeon; Bruce Freeman; Linda Herd; Larry Kornhauser and Natalya Gill; Ging Muir and John McCawley; Tom and Ruth O’Dea; Suzy and Dr Mark Suss; Kevin and Elizabeth Walsh; Jan Williams; Anonymous (2)*

# BETTY AMSDEN YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP COURSE



**‘Meeting a bunch of new people, and creating an amazing performance in only a few days, was what I enjoyed the most. Also meeting professionals in the industry was amazing!’ — 2019 Participant**

**30 September — 4 October**  
**Southbank Theatre, The Lawler**  
**25 Participants**

**Teaching Artists** Katrina Cornwell and Morgan Rose  
**Guest Artists** Amelia Lever-Davidson, Petra Kalive, Izabella Yena and Bernard Sam  
**Wellbeing Support Artist** Sarah Hosford  
**Workshop Assistant** Lauren Bennett  
**Participants** 25 students

In the Term 3 holidays, 25 Victorian students who would not otherwise have access to extra-curricular drama programs had the chance to take part in an intensive week-long drama workshop at MTC at no cost to their families thanks to Betty Amsden Foundation. Aged between 13 and 17, the 2019 participants travelled from regional towns including Portland, Warrnambool, Nalangil, Traralgon and Swan Hill, as well as outer-metro and Melbourne city suburbs. Accommodation was provided for nine families at City Tempo apartments in Southbank.

Students were guided through a series of workshops exploring techniques used to devise ensemble drama, with their own experiences and ideas driving the theatre-making process. Through theatre practice, the teaching artists provided the participants with tools for understanding their lives and the human experience.

The week culminated in an ensemble performance for family, teachers and friends fully staged in The Lawler, Southbank Theatre. Participants showcased their interpretation of contemporary social and political issues such as climate change, bullying and the use of technology through a series of devised scenes. The inspiring presentation demonstrated their unique perspectives as young people and the importance of listening to and using these perspectives to create world change.

*MTC gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Betty Amsden Foundation.*

# WOMEN IN THEATRE

**February — December**  
**MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre**  
**14 Participants**

MTC's industry-leading Women in Theatre Program helps create opportunities for women forging rich and rewarding careers in a range of theatrical disciplines, from production to artistic and executive management.

In 2019 MTC introduced a new stream to the program, dedicated to providing paid technical design associate placements for women working in lighting and sound design. The core stream continued with 12 new participants completing a year of mentoring and career development salons and workshops.

## CORE STREAM

**Xanthe Beesley** (Artistic Direction)  
Mentor: Rose Hiscock, Director, Science Gallery Melbourne

**Rachel Chant** (Directing)  
Mentor: Imara Savage, Director & Sarah Goodes, MTC Associate Artistic Director

**Grace Ferguson** (Emerging Sound Design)  
Mentor: Jethro Woodward, Sound Designer

**Roshelle Fong** (Multi-Disciplinary)  
Mentor: Carri Twigg, Public Engagement Strategist

**Amy Hardingham** (Creative Direction)  
Mentor: Virginia Lovett, MTC Executive Director & co-CEO

**Romanie Harper** (Set & Costume Design)  
Mentor: Anna Tregloan, Designer

**Penny Harpham** (Directing)  
Mentor: Clare Watson, Artistic Director, Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA

**Rachel Lee** (Lighting Design)  
Mentor: Emma Valente, Lighting Designer & Director

**Emily Sheehan** (Playwriting)  
Mentor: Joanna Murray-Smith, Playwright

**Emily Sweeney** (Producing)  
Mentor: Erin Milne, Executive Producer, Bureau of Works

**Keziah Warner** (Dramaturgy)  
Mentor: Michele Lee, Playwright & Author

**Clemence Williams** (Sound Design & Composition)  
Mentor: Adena Jacobs, Director & Artistic Director, Freight Outfit

## SALON AND WORKSHOP FACILITATORS

**Corrine Armour**, Leadership Specialist

**Erica Bagshaw**, Executive Coach

**Gabriel Edwards**, Counsellor, Founder of Breathing Space and Associate Partner at Fisher Leadership

**Selene Bateman**, Client Manager, Auspicious Arts

**Claire Butler**, MoneyMinded Project Manager, Brotherhood of St Laurence (supported by ANZ)

**Melissa Reeves**, Playwright

## MTC Staff

## TECHNICAL DESIGN STREAM

**Amy Holley** (Sound Design) Associate Sound Designer, Così

**Clare Springett** (Lighting Design) Associate Lighting Designer, Shakespeare in Love

*MTC thanks our 2019 Women in Theatre Giving Circle Donors who made this program possible: Jenny Barbour; Tara Bishop; Jacquie Blackwell; Wendy and Paul Bonnici; Tania Brougham; Amanda and Mark Derham; Katie Dewhurst; Christine Gilbertson; Charles and Cornelia Goode Foundation; Sarah Gorman; Fiona Griffiths; Jane Hansen AO; R & P Harkness; Jane Hodder; Rachel Kelly; Janette Kendall; Pamela Lamaro; Mechelle Lughermo; Tracey Lucas; Kim and Peter Monk; Jacquie Naylor; Leigh O'Neill; Prof Hannah Piterman; Sally Young; Lord Family; Louise Myer; Anne and Mark Robertson OAM; Annette Smorgon; Richard and Debra Tegoni; Marion Webster OAM; Anonymous (7)*





# LITERARY DEVELOPMENT

## COMMISSIONS

In addition to plays developing through MTC's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, the Company has a number of other commissions underway that continued their development in 2019.

### Commissions supported by the Joan and Peter Clemenger Trust

Kylie Coolwell  
Judith Lucy  
Damien Millar  
Ross Mueller  
Magda Szubanski  
Anthony Weigh

### Malcolm Robertson Foundation Commission

Angela Betzien

### Commission in association with Manhattan Theatre Club

Hannie Rayson

## FIRST STAGE

MTC and Emerging Writers' Festival again partnered to support young playwrights across a series of intensive workshops that culminated in a public reading at Southbank Theatre.

### Workshops

March – June, fortnightly MTC HQ

### Reading

27 June, Southbank Theatre, The Lawler

**Writers** Alistair Baldwin, Brooke Murray, Margot Morales Tanjutco and Laila Thaker

**Cast** Kai Bradley, Sandy Greenwood, Kate Hood

MTC's partnership with Emerging Writers' Festival to present First Stage is generously enabled by The Vizard Foundation.



## MTC AT MPAVILION

MTC again partnered with MPavilion to host three free events as part of their 2019/20 program, featuring members of MTC's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program. The first event was a public play reading in December 2019 with the remaining two events to follow in early 2020.

### Being Better

by Chris Summers

19 December

MPavilion, Queen Victoria Gardens

# NEXT STAGE

**‘It might sound overly-dramatic (what can I say – I’m a writer), but without this support of the MTC Playwrights’ Circle, my forthcoming play simply wouldn’t exist. It’s because of this kind of backing that playwrights have the capacity to properly write, edit, examine and refine our glorious messes into the new Australian stories we bring back to the community. To say I’m indebted doesn’t even begin to cut it.’**

— Benjamin Law, Year One NEXT STAGE Commissioned Writer

**1st** NEXT STAGE play produced – *Golden Shield* by Anchuli Felicia King.

**16** workshops held to further the development of NEXT STAGE plays.

**1** international development at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Canada.

**25** writers commissioned or in residence.

**87** actors and creatives employed across the workshops.

**4** NEXT STAGE plays announced in MTC’s 2020 season.

## COMMISSIONED WRITERS

In July, four new commissions were awarded through NEXT STAGE, bringing the total to 22 writers commissioned through the program.

Van Badham (2019 commission)  
Angus Cerini  
Patricia Cornelius  
Aidan Fennessy (2019 commission)  
Louris van de Geer  
Dan Giovannoni (2019 commission)  
Michael Gow  
Tom Holloway  
Anchuli Felicia King (2019 commission)  
Benjamin Law  
Joanna Murray-Smith  
Ellen van Neerven  
Joe Penhall  
Leah Purcell

Chris Ryan, Megan Washington (composer) and Mark Leonard Winter  
Declan Furber Gillick  
Melissa Reeves  
Chris Summers  
Natesha Somasundaram  
Kylie Trounson

## WRITERS-IN-RESIDENCE

MTC welcomed three new writers-in-residence in July. Across the program to date there have been nine resident placements, with the inaugural and second year residents all going on to receive play commissions.

Elise Esther Hearst  
Andrea James  
Phillip Kavanagh

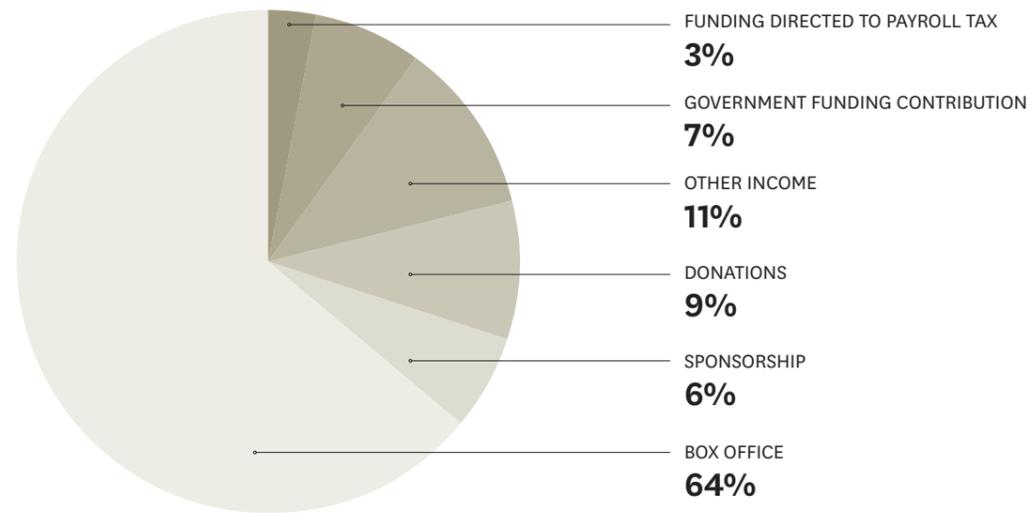
## NEXT STAGE is made possible by the donors, foundations and organisations of MTC’s Playwrights Giving Circle

Louise Myer and Martyn Myer AO, Maureen Wheeler AO and Tony Wheeler AO, Christine Brown Bequest, Allan Myers AC QC and Maria Myers AC, Tony Burgess and Janine Burgess, Dr Andrew McAliece and Dr Richard Simmie, Larry Kamener and Petra Kamener

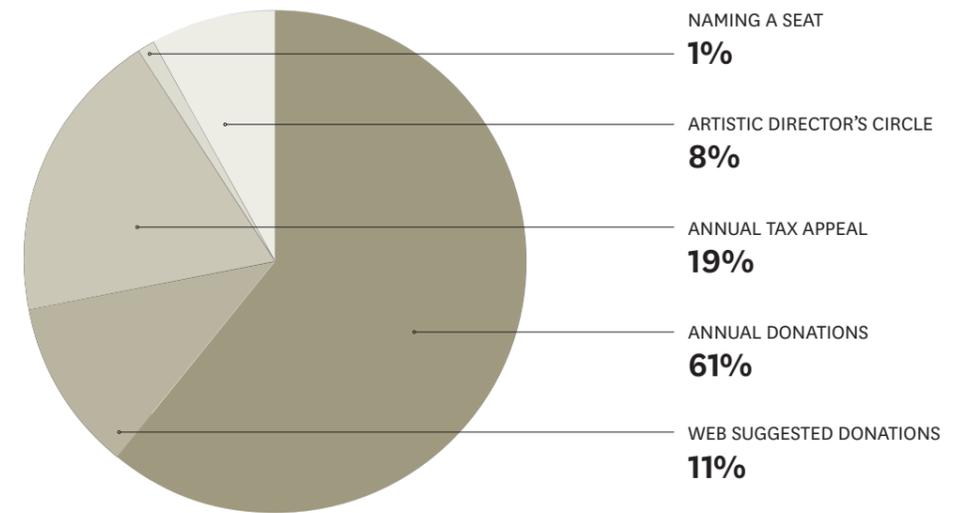


# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

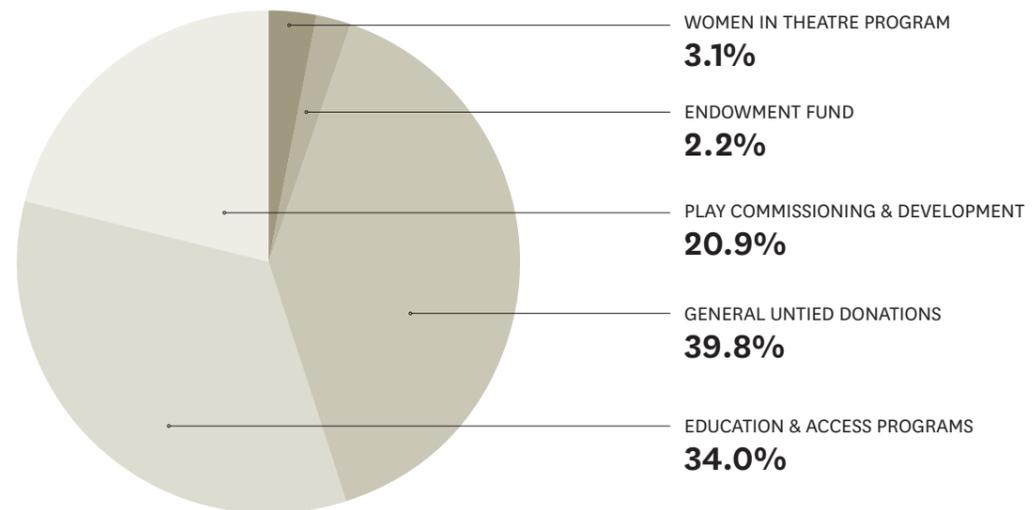
## 2019 INCOME



## BREAKDOWN OF UNTIED DONATIONS



## TOTAL DONATIONS (EQUALLING 9% OF MTC'S 2019 INCOME)



## 2019 ANNUAL GIVING DONORS BY CIRCLE



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Founding Chair of Western Chances; Patron of Heide Gallery and the Williamstown Literary Festival; formerly a Board Member of Breast Cancer Network Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, the Australian Children's Television Foundation; and a past Trustee of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust. Currently Executive Officer for the Balibo House Trust. MTC Foundation Board member since March 2015.

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MTC Finance Director; MTC Foundation Board Member since March 2015.

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Non-Executive Director of Vicinity Centres, Costa Group, and Wellcom Worldwide; previously on the boards of Nine Entertainment, Melbourne International Arts Festival, AURL Foodworks, Clemenger BBDO; former Senior Vice President at Galaxy Entertainment Group, China. MTC Board Member; MTC Foundation Board Member since March 2015.

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MTC Executive Director and Co-CEO; MTC Foundation Board Member since March 2015.

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Founding Director of the Myer Community Foundation (Myer Stores); Former Board Director of Asialink; Founder and owner, Whare Kea Lodge, New Zealand; 2013 Relais & Châteaux Woman of the Year; trained at Hotel de Varenne, Paris; prominent Melbourne philanthropist and generous supporters of the Arts. MTC Foundation Board Member since January 2016.

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