

# MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY



Melbourne's HOME of **THEATRE**

A world of magical moments and pure entertainment awaits you in 2021. Join us for a remarkable season of theatre.

2021 — ACT 2

# WELCOME HOME

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. We pay our respects to all of Melbourne's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.

**MTC** MELBOURNE  
THEATRE  
COMPANY





## Introducing 2021 – Act 2

Following the celebration of theatre-making along with the production premieres featured in Act 1, we're elated to share with you six terrific new works in Act 2.

Through international smash hits, fresh interpretations of classic works, and exciting new Australian plays, Act 2 promises you plenty of fun and laughter, joy and wonder. Across six entertaining and thought-provoking shows, we explore big questions, local history and contemporary Aboriginal life, and after more than a year of waiting we'll at long last see *As You Like It*, the new Shakespearean extravaganza from director Simon Phillips – it will be a big, cheerful end-of-year celebration of theatre.

2021 – Act 2 continues to offer the variety and excitement of the MTC you know and love, while also prioritising your health and safety, and that of our actors, show crew and staff. It's been wonderfully heartening to see audiences so eager to return to Southbank Theatre. There is much to enjoy in Act 2 and tickets will be highly sought-after; as in previous years, a subscription will be the best way to secure your seats at the best prices. See you at the theatre.

**Brett Sheehy AO**  
Artistic Director & CEO

**Virginia Lovett**  
Executive Director & Co-CEO

MTC is a  
department of  
the University of  
Melbourne.



MTC is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the State Government of Victoria through Creative Victoria.







**‘Deliciously packed with comedy.’**

New York Theatre Guide

**‘Terrifically engaging.’**

The New York Times

# THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT

by Jeremy Kareken & David Murrell and Gordon Farrell

Directed by Petra Kalive

A somewhat accurate, sort of factual, ~~non~~-fiction story, this comic Broadway hit makes its Australian premiere in a production directed by **Petra Kalive** (*Hungry Ghosts*). **Nadine Garner** (*Photograph 51*) stars alongside **Steve Mouzakis** (*Death and the Maiden*) and Ngāti Toa actor **Karl Richmond** (*Punk Rock*) making his MTC debut, in a play about an epic ideological battle over the nature of truth and the value of storytelling.

While interning at an eminent literary magazine, recent graduate Jim Fingal is thrilled when his editor offers him a career-making opportunity: fact check venerated essayist John D’Agata’s exploration of a disturbing Las Vegas reality, which is going to press in five days. It sounds simple enough, but when Fingal is still unravelling the inconsistencies and literary liberties of the first sentence three days later, he realises he has a problem. So he does what any thorough young up-and-comer with something to prove would do: he goes straight to the source. It could be the biggest mistake, or the best decision, of his life.

Are facts negotiable? Is art more accurate at showing the heart of the matter? Can there ever be a justifiable reason to distort reality for the greater good, and who gets to decide? Based on the critically acclaimed book of the same name, *The Lifespan of a Fact* is a tightrope walk of playful debate on the virtues and vices of creative non-fiction. As it cleverly dissects the slippery slope from authenticity to fakery in today’s world, whose side will you be on?

**15 MAY — 3 JULY**

Arts Centre Melbourne  
Fairfax Studio

## CAST & CREATIVES

**Cast** Nadine Garner, Steve Mouzakis, Karl Richmond

**Set Designer** Andrew Bailey

**Costume Designer** Kat Chan

**Lighting Designer** Paul Lim

**Composer & Sound Designer** Emma Valente

**Voice & Dialect Coach** Geraldine Cook-Dafner

**Assistant Director** Alice Qin

This production contains coarse language, references to suicide, choreographed violence and mature themes.





**'Hilarious. Dazzling. A must-see show.'**

The Observer UK



**'Unbelievably good. Excellent.'**

The Times UK

# THE TRUTH

by Florian Zeller,  
translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Sarah Giles

Award-winning French playwright **Florian Zeller's** *The Father* wowed MTC audiences with a sell-out season in 2017. With *The Truth*, he delivers a devilishly dark comedy that took the West End by storm, collecting rave reviews and earning Zeller comparisons to Oscar Wilde, Noël Coward and Molière. In this new production, acclaimed director **Sarah Giles** (*Straight White Men*) is joined by actors **Stephen Curry** (*The Castle*) and **Bert LaBonté** (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*) in exploring the truths that tear us apart and the lies that keep us together.

Michel and his wife Laurence are happily married. Michel's best friend Paul is also happily married, to Alice. But Michel and Alice are having an affair, and Laurence seems to know that something's going on. How far will Michel go to hide the truth? Why is Alice so keen to reveal it? What does Laurence actually know, or not know? And is Paul just pretending to be bad at tennis?

Presented in the English translation by Tony and Oscar-winning playwright and screenwriter **Christopher Hampton** (*Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and *The Father*), *The Truth* sees the widely celebrated Zeller gleefully playing with our assumptions as he unravels a web of fiction, delusion and hypocrisy. A masterpiece of marital manipulations, it's a delicious farce that asks us to consider the benefits of lying and the drawbacks of honesty.

**5 JUNE — 10 JULY**

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

## CAST & CREATIVES

**Cast includes** Stephen Curry,  
Bert LaBonté

**Set & Costume Designer** Marg Horwell

**Lighting Designer** Paul Jackson

**Composer & Sound Designer** Jethro Woodward

This production contains adult themes, some coarse language and sexual references.







**'Gay brings enormous heart to the show ... she is one of our most gifted comedians.'**

Time Out Sydney (on *Calamity Jane*)

**'Virginia Gay is unmissable.'**

Daily Review (on *Calamity Jane*)

# CYRANO

by Virginia Gay  
after Edmond Rostand

Directed by Sarah Goodes



Following the wild success of *Calamity Jane*, **Virginia Gay** ups the ante with a gender-flipped, music-filled take on *Cyrano de Bergerac* packed with joy, wit and aching romance. Freely adapting Edmond Rostand's literary classic, Gay gives us a delightfully self-aware theatrical rom-com for our times.

Cyrano is the most interesting person in any room – a wordsmith, a charmer, a ruthless fighter. She works twice as hard and runs twice as fast as any of the pretty boys, because she's deeply ashamed of something about herself. She's fallen hard for Roxanne, the brilliant, beautiful new girl in town with a penchant for poetry and a way with words. Just like Cyrano. But Roxanne's only got eyes for Yan: hot, manly Yan; all-brawn-and-no-brains Yan, who's dumbstruck around Roxanne – probably shy, right? Until suddenly he starts saying the most amazing things. But it's not Yan writing these perfect love scenes, it's Cyrano ...

With director **Sarah Goodes** (*Home, I'm Darling*) at the helm and **Virginia Gay** (*Vivid White, The Beast*) in the title role, this is the *Cyrano* that 2021 deserves: a thoroughly modern love letter to language and desire; to the magic of the theatre; to overcoming shame, loneliness and isolation; and to the hot mess that is the human heart. It's a bold and playful romp, filled with songs, longing and radical hope.

Production Partner

THE LANGHAM  
MELBOURNE

Media Partner



Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative

**31 JULY — 4 SEPT**

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

**CAST & CREATIVES**

**Cast includes** Virginia Gay  
**Set Concept & Design** Elizabeth Gadsby  
**Costume Designer & Set**  
**Design Realisation** Jo Briscoe  
**Lighting Designer** Paul Jackson  
**Assistant Director** George Lazaris

This production contains coarse language, sexual references and mature themes.



**‘Anthony Weigh’s play is a gem ... Magnificent.’**

The Times UK (on *Like a Fishbone*)

**‘The intricate way in which the Reeds’ lives unfolded has given rise to a beguiling mythology – the romanticised tale of Heide and its bohemian inhabitants.’**

Modern Love: The Lives of John and Sunday Reed

# SUNDAY

by Anthony Weigh

Directed by Sarah Goodes

## A FANTASY OF LIFE AT HEIDE

Muse and mentor, Sunday Reed was the founder of Melbourne’s Heide Museum of Modern Art, and the heart of a circle of artists that included the likes of Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker and Joy Hester. In this world premiere MTC commission, **Nikki Shiels** (*Home, I’m Darling*) embodies Reed’s passionate and unconventional spirit, bringing to life an audacious fantasy of her fateful affair with Nolan, her unbroken devotion to her husband, and the devastating price she paid for living and loving on her own terms as a woman in mid-20th century Australia.

Sunday Reed isn’t like most women. In fact, she’s not like most men. Outspoken, uninhibited, adventurous, she has a laser eye for the new – in life and in art. When struggling artist Sidney Nolan arrives at Heide, the idyllic utopia Sunday is creating with her beloved husband John Reed on the outskirts of 1940s Melbourne, what ensues will haunt all three to their dying days. And in the aftermath, Australian art will never look the same.

Award-winning playwright **Anthony Weigh** (*2,000 Feet Away*) brings this Melbourne icon to the stage with a lively and impressionistic dream of Sunday Reed’s intellectual, artistic and romantic life. Directed by **Sarah Goodes** (*Home, I’m Darling*) and also featuring **Matt Day** (*North by Northwest*), **Mark Leonard Winter** (*Miss Julie*) and **Ratidzo Mambo** (*Escape from Pretoria*), *Sunday: A Fantasy of Life at Heide* is an unforgettable story of a bold and complex woman, born out of time and place, whose shadow looms large in our city’s history.



**18 SEPT — 23 OCT**

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

Production Partner

**LITTLE**  
GROUP

## CAST & CREATIVES

**Cast includes** Matt Day, Mark Leonard Winter, Ratidzo Mambo, Nikki Shiels

**Set Designer** Anna Cordingley

**Costume Designer** Harriet Oxley

**Lighting Designer** Paul Jackson

**Composer & Sound Designer** Jethro Woodward

**Assistant Director** Sonya Suares

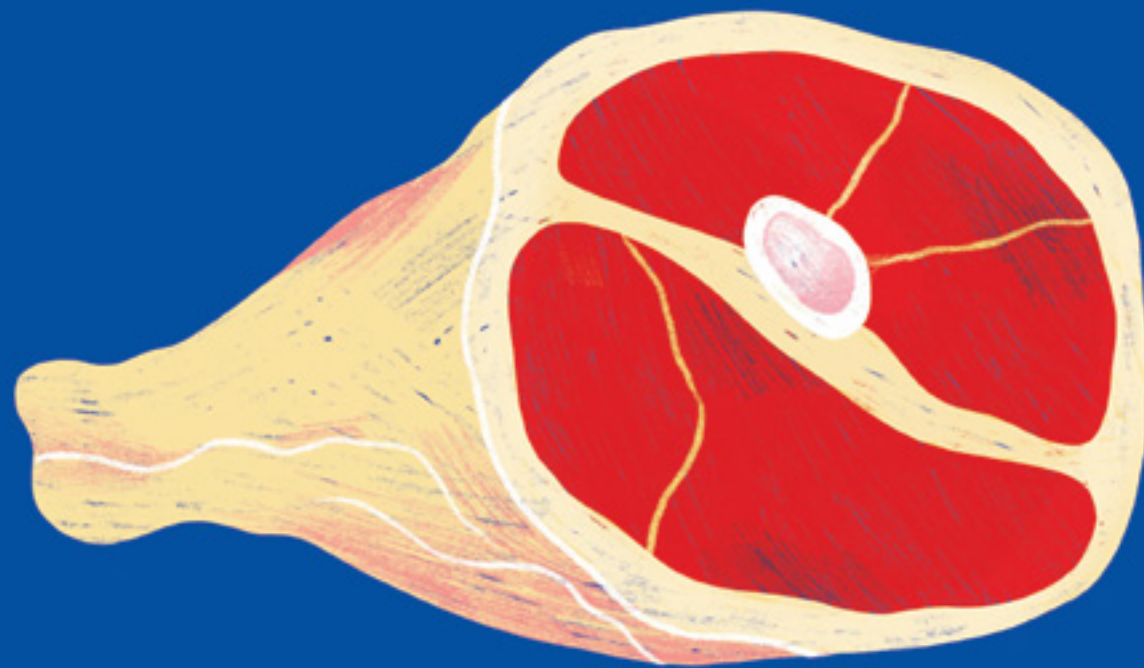


Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative

Supported by Andrew Sisson AO and Tracey Sisson as part of the Sunday Giving Circle.

This production contains coarse language and sexual references.





**‘Unflinching ... Furber Gillick’s writing is piercing.’**

The Music (on *Bighouse Dreaming*)

**‘An extraordinary talent ... an artist with such an original, powerful, political and poetic voice.’**

Sometimes Melbourne (on *Bighouse Dreaming*)

AN MTC NEXTSTAGE ORIGINAL

# JACKY

by Declan Furber Gillick

Directed by Mark Wilson

After winning the 2019 Green Room Award for Best Independent Writing, **Declan Furber Gillick** makes his MTC debut with a hard-hitting and disarmingly funny play about family, love, sex and culture, and the personal and political cost of navigating it all in contemporary Australia.

Jacky is a blackfella with a bright future in the big city. He skilfully negotiates the gig economy, earning his keep as a cultural dancer and sex worker. Glenn is a white middle-aged record dealer, finalising a divorce and indulging a fantasy which leads him straight to Jacky. When Jacky’s brother Keith rolls into town, and Glenn’s ex-wife Linda suddenly needs an Aboriginal dancer, can Jacky keep up with demand?

This NEXT STAGE Original follows Furber Gillick’s multi-award winning play *Bighouse Dreaming*. Featuring **Luke Carroll** (*Black is the New White*), **Kamil Ellis** (*Astroman*), **Greg Stone** (*A Doll’s House, Part 2*) and **Alison Whyte** (*Faith Healer*), it’s a whip-smart, moving and eye-opening new play that tackles big ideas as it takes the temperature of the nation.



Supported by MTC’s Artistic Director’s Circle.

Media Partner

**NEXTSTAGE**

Commissioned through MTC’s NEXT STAGE Writers’ Program, supported by the donors, foundations and organisations of MTC’s Playwrights Giving Circle



Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative

**9 OCT — 13 NOV**

Arts Centre Melbourne  
Fairfax Studio

## CAST & CREATIVES

**Cast includes** Luke Carroll, Kamil Ellis, Greg Stone, Alison Whyte

**Set Designer** Christina Smith

**Costume Designer** Emily Barrie

**Lighting Designer** Matt Scott

**Composer & Sound Designer** James Henry

This production contains explicit sexual scenes, some nudity, frequent coarse language and mature themes.





**‘Love is merely a madness.’**

*As You Like It*, Act 3, Scene 2

**‘Shakespeare’s wistful, joyous comedy.’**

The Times UK

## Shakespeare’s **AS YOU LIKE IT**

Directed by Simon Phillips  
with music by Kate Miller-Heidke & Keir Nuttall

Following their smash-hit collaboration on *Twelfth Night*, director **Simon Phillips**, musical theatre icon **Christie Whelan Browne** and musicians **Kate Miller-Heidke** and **Keir Nuttall** reunite for another spectacular slice of Shakespeare: the big-hearted comedy *As You Like It* – one of the Bard’s most popular and thematically contemporary plays, and the source of many of his most famous lines.

Warm-hearted and romantic, *As You Like It* follows the irrepressible Rosalind, who is banished from court with her cousin Celia. But before they can escape into exile, Rosalind catches the eye of love-struck Orlando. What ensues is a riotous tangle of matched and mismatched lovers, mistaken identities, melodic songs and laughs aplenty. Will love conquer all, or is it merely a madness?

With more twists than a country lane, *As You Like It* is a topsy-turvy celebration of love in all its forms, from a director who has made an art of delighting audiences with Shakespearean romance. Joining Whelan Browne onstage will be **Laurence Boxhall** (*Shakespeare in Love*), **Peter Carroll** (*The Last Man Standing*), **Andrew Coshan** (*A View from the Bridge*), **Jack Green** (*Emo the Musical*), **Anthony Harkin** (*Twelfth Night*), **Xani Kolac** (*What Rhymes with Cars and Girls*), **Richard Piper** (*Twelfth Night*) and more to be announced.

**8 NOV — 18 DEC**

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

Production Partner



### CAST & CREATIVES

**Cast includes** Laurence Boxhall, Peter Carroll, Andrew Coshan, Jack Green, Anthony Harkin, Xani Kolac, Richard Piper, Christie Whelan Browne

**Set & Costume Designer**  
Alicia Clements

**Lighting Designer** Nick Schlieper  
**Composers** Kate Miller-Heidke & Keir Nuttall

**Musical Director & Additional Composition** Ian McDonald  
**Assistant Director** Tim Paige

This production contains choreographed violence and dangerous levels of romance.





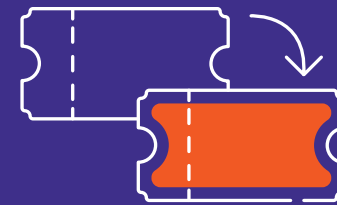
# WE'RE READY FOR YOU



Help us ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience by reading our latest guidelines and FAQs before your visit. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or awaiting a test result please stay at home. For more information visit

**[MTC.COM.AU/YOURVISIT](https://MTC.COM.AU/YOURVISIT)**

## FOR YOUR WELLBEING AND PEACE OF MIND WE'VE MADE SOME CHANGES



TICKET EXCHANGE FLEXIBILITY



FREQUENT INTENSIVE CLEANING



UPGRADED AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS



EXPANDED OUTDOOR FORECOURT

We are regularly updating our health and safety measures in line with Victorian Government advice.



# FULL SEASON SUBSCRIBER REWARDS

Join us for all six plays in Act 2 and discover a world of exclusive rewards. Enjoy the benefit of free exchanges on your subscription tickets, a 15% discount at the Southbank Theatre foyer bars and access to discounted ticket offers for friends and family.

**BEST VALUE  
TICKETS**

**FREE TICKET  
EXCHANGES**

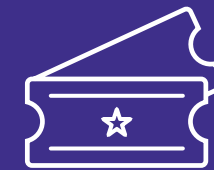
**FOYER BAR  
DISCOUNTS**

**PRIORITY  
BOOKINGS**

Learn more at [mtc.com.au/rewards](https://mtc.com.au/rewards)

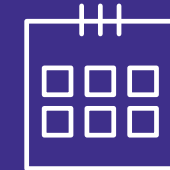
## PURCHASE 3+ PLAYS TO BECOME AN MTC SUBSCRIBER

A subscription is the most flexible and affordable way to enjoy multiple shows at MTC and get access to a range of exclusive benefits.



### PRIORITY BOOKINGS

Book weeks before tickets go on sale to the public



### FLEXIBILITY

Change dates or shows when you need to\*



### GREAT VALUE

Save up to 20% on every ticket



### PAY ACROSS THE YEAR

Take advantage of the option to pay via credit card instalments



### SHARE THE LOVE

Special discounts for your family and friends

\*Conditions apply. See Subscriber information on page 32 for details.

# PERFORMANCE DIARY

## THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT

by Jeremy Kareken & David Murrell and Gordon Farrell

15 MAY —  
3 JULY

Arts Centre Melbourne  
Fairfax Studio

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					15 May – 7:30pm <b>P</b>
17 May – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	18 May – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	19 May – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	20 May – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	21 May – 7:30pm <b>O</b>	22 May – 2pm & 7:30pm
24 May – 6:30pm <b>F</b>	25 May – 6:30pm	26 May – 1pm & 7:30pm	27 May – 7:30pm	28 May – 7:30pm	29 May – 2pm & 7:30pm
31 May – 6:30pm <b>F</b>	01 Jun – 6:30pm	02 Jun – 1pm & 7:30pm	03 Jun – 7:30pm	04 Jun – 7:30pm	05 Jun – 2pm <b>A</b> & 7:30pm
07 Jun – 6:30pm <b>D</b>	08 Jun – 6:30pm <b>A</b>	09 Jun – 1pm & 7:30pm	10 Jun – 7:30pm	11 Jun – 7:30pm	12 Jun – 2pm <b>C</b> & 7:30pm
14 Jun – 6:30pm	15 Jun – 6:30pm	16 Jun – 1pm & 7:30pm	17 Jun – 7:30pm	18 Jun – 7:30pm	19 Jun – 2pm & 7:30pm
21 Jun – 6:30pm	22 Jun – 6:30pm	23 Jun – 1pm & 7:30pm	24 Jun – 7:30pm	25 Jun – 7:30pm	26 Jun – 2pm & 7:30pm
28 Jun – 6:30pm	29 Jun – 6:30pm	30 Jun – 1pm & 7:30pm	01 Jul – 7:30pm	02 Jul – 7:30pm	03 Jul – 2pm & 7:30pm

## THE TRUTH

by Florian Zeller, translated by Christopher Hampton

5 JUN —  
10 JULY

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

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## CYRANO

by Virginia Gay after Edmond Rostand

31 JULY —  
4 SEPT

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

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30 Aug – 6:30pm	31 Aug – 6:30pm	01 Sep – 1pm & 7:30pm	02 Sep – 7:30pm	03 Sep – 7:30pm	04 Sep – 2pm & 7:30pm

## SUNDAY

by Anthony Weigh

18 SEPT —  
23 OCT

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					18 Sep – 7:30pm <b>P</b>
20 Sep – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	21 Sep – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	22 Sep – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	23 Sep – 7:30pm <b>O</b>	24 Sep – 7:30pm	25 Sep – 2pm & 7:30pm
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## JACKY

by Declan Furber Gillick

9 OCT —  
13 NOV

Arts Centre Melbourne  
Fairfax Studio

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01 Nov – 6:30pm	02 Nov – 6:30pm <b>A</b>	03 Nov – 1pm & 7:30pm	04 Nov – 7:30pm <b>D</b>	05 Nov – 7:30pm	06 Nov – 2pm <b>C</b> & 7:30pm
08 Nov – 6:30pm	09 Nov – 6:30pm	10 Nov – 1pm & 7:30pm	11 Nov – 7:30pm	12 Nov – 7:30pm	13 Nov – 2pm & 7:30pm

## Shakespeare's

## AS YOU LIKE IT

8 NOV —  
18 DEC

Southbank Theatre  
The Sumner

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
08 Nov – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	09 Nov – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	10 Nov – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	11 Nov – 7:30pm <b>P</b>	12 Nov – 7:30pm <b>O</b>	13 Nov – 7:30pm
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13 Dec – 6:30pm	14 Dec – 6:30pm	15 Dec – 7:30pm	16 Dec – 7:30pm	17 Dec – 7:30pm	18 Dec – 2pm & 7:30pm

**A** AUDIO DESCRIBED PERFORMANCE

**D** DONOR NIGHT

**O** A&K OPENING NIGHT

**C** CAPTIONED PERFORMANCE

**E** EDUCATION PERFORMANCE

**P** PREVIEW

**F** ANZ FORUM NIGHT



# SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Save up to 20% on every ticket with an MTC Subscription

	3 PLAYS	4 PLAYS	5 PLAYS	6 PLAYS
<b>FULL PRICE</b>				
Previews & Weekday Matinees	\$258	\$340	\$422	\$474
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$303	\$400	\$497	\$540
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$318	\$420	\$522	\$594

<b>SENIORS AND GROUPS</b>				
Previews & Weekday Matinees	\$243	\$320	\$397	\$444
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$285	\$376	\$467	\$510
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$309	\$408	\$507	\$558

<b>FULL TIME STUDENTS, PENSIONERS AND UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE STAFF</b>				
Previews & Weekday Matinees	\$213	\$280	\$347	\$384
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$267	\$352	\$437	\$480
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$288	\$380	\$472	\$528

<b>UNDER 30s – 50% OFF FULL PRICED TICKETS</b>				
Previews & Weekday Matinees	\$129	\$170	\$211	\$234
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$150	\$198	\$246	\$270
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$159	\$210	\$261	\$294

Prices above include a ticket premium for the blockbuster production of *As You Like It*, and will be lower if you do not select this production.

## GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Group subscriptions are available for a minimum of 10 people booking for at least three of the same performance dates and times, and are available for mail bookings only. All tickets must be purchased at the same time to qualify for the discount. Groups can be inclusive of concession-priced packages at the appropriate rate, alongside others at the group package rate.

## PREVIEWS

Previews, marked **P** in the Performance Diary, are the exciting first performances leading up to Opening Night. Please note that directors may need to halt the performance for technical reasons. Previews are presented at a discount price to compensate for any possible technical issues that may arise.

Learn more at [mtc.com.au/subscriptions](http://mtc.com.au/subscriptions).

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**ACT 2 ANNOUNCED**  
Priority booking opens for Full Season 2020 Subscribers to purchase six plays  
Priority booking closes 22 March



**PRIORITY BOOKING OPENS FOR RENEWING SUBSCRIBERS**  
Priority booking closes 8 April



**BOOKING OPENS FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS**



**TICKETS GO ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT AND THE TRUTH**



**TICKETS GO ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC FOR CYRANO, SUNDAY AND JACKY**



**TICKETS GO ON SALE TO THE PUBLIC FOR AS YOU LIKE IT**

## PRIORITY BOOKING

Existing 2020 Full Season 11 Play Subscribers receive priority processing of their six play subscription renewal as part of Act 2 until 22 March 2021, ahead of all other Subscribers. MTC Donors giving \$1,000+ also receive priority processing and additional assistance through Donor Ticketing.



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Stay in the loop with everything that's happening on and offstage with MTC NOW. Featuring a mix of videos, podcasts and articles, MTC NOW brings you some of the joy, curiosity and entertainment of a trip to the theatre – all available on our website and via an email update sent straight to your inbox.

Learn more or sign up at [mtc.com.au/mtcnnow](https://mtc.com.au/mtcnnow)



## SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

MTC offers a wide variety of programs beyond the mainstage, with a focus on artistic development, young audiences and community outreach.



## NEXTSTAGE

MTC's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program is one of the most rigorous playwright commissioning and development projects ever seen in Australia. Launched in 2017, the program has so far resulted in 26 commissioned works and welcomed 11 writers-in-residence, as well as the mainstage premieres of Benjamin Law's *Torch the Place*, Anchuli Felicia King's *Golden Shield*, Joanna Murray-Smith's *Berlin in Act 1* and Declan Furber Gillick's *Jacky* premiering in Act 2.

### MADE POSSIBLE BY 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 McAlicie and Dr Richard Simmie,  
Larry Kamener and Petra Kamener



## First Peoples Young Artists Program

MTC's First Peoples Young Artists Program provides opportunities for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to develop their knowledge and experience of the creative industries through workshops on scriptwriting, design and performance. The First Peoples Young Artists Program is supported by The John and Myriam Wylie Foundation, and is delivered with program partners the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at VCA, and YIRRAMBOI.



## Education

MTC's award-winning Education program connects young people and teachers across Victoria to Melbourne's home of theatre through enrichment programs, classroom resources and professional development. Innovative learning activities enhance the theatre experience, and our ever-expanding suite of digital content and virtual workshops make MTC Education a world-leading program. MTC Education is supported by the Education Giving Circle with additional programs made possible by individual donors and foundations.



## Women in Theatre

MTC's Women in Theatre Program provides invaluable career development through a yearlong program of masterclasses and workshops. In 2021 the program will focus on paid pathway opportunities within creative technical design, as well as investing in ongoing support and engagement for alumnae as they navigate their careers in the industry. MTC's Women in Theatre Program is supported by the Women in Theatre Giving Circle.





# SUPPORT YOUR HOME OF THEATRE

Donations ensure a viable future for Melbourne Theatre Company, allowing us to remain a home for our audiences and for our many working artists and creatives.

Production cancellations have had a devastating and prolonged impact on MTC, and donor support continues to be vital for our survival. Please consider making a donation to help MTC recover from this incomparable time in our 68-year history.

Your support will help us raise the curtain on productions that have the vibrancy, breadth, quality and relevance that our audiences cherish so much. It will also enable the continued existence and viability of many of our important programs that benefit your community.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far and continues to do so. Our Donors share a sense of achievement from knowing that they are part of every production brought to life on our stage. Your support deserves every applause.

Donors giving \$1,000 or more enjoy access to our Donor Ticketing service and regular updates on the impact of their support. These Donors also receive invitations to exclusive events with the chance to meet members of the cast and creative teams of MTC's productions and go behind-the-scenes.

## DONOR NIGHTS

Donor Nights are your invitation to engage further with MTC and our Donor community. As restrictions continue to lift, MTC Donors (\$1,000+) will once again enjoy access to relaxed, informative and intimate post-show events. For now, select from the following dates when making your booking and you will be updated on these future opportunities.

SHOW	DATE
The Lifespan of a Fact	Monday 7 June
The Truth	Monday 28 June
Cyrano	Monday 23 August
Sunday	Thursday 7 October
Jacky	Thursday 4 November
As You Like It	Monday 29 November



For more information about supporting MTC visit [mtc.com.au/supportMTC](https://mtc.com.au/supportMTC).



'There is definitely a sense of joy in supporting such an impressive theatre company and pride in being a small part of it.'

MARGARET SAHHAR AM, MTC DONOR

'I see MTC as representing some sort of vanguard. I think we serve the future ... I think we also represent a certain quality of making, and I see us as upholding the standard.'

PHILLIP RHODES, MTC MILLINER



## DONATE TODAY

Please consider including a donation on your subscription form or donating when you subscribe online.

Any gift, large or small, makes a meaningful difference.





## ANZ FORUM NIGHTS

Get the inside story



At selected performances throughout the year, audiences are invited to stay after the show to join an enlightening conversation with the cast and creative team. This is your chance to gain deeper insight into the work, ask questions about the artistic process, hear behind-the-scenes anecdotes and more.

ANZ Forum Nights are held post-show on Mondays, usually twice per production. Marked **F** in the Performance Diary, they are only available to ticketholders of that performance, and are included in the ticket price. These evenings are always very popular, so please book in early!

### 2021 FORUM NIGHT SCHEDULE

The Lifespan of a Fact	24 & 31 May
The Truth	14 & 21 June
Cyrano	9 & 16 August
Sunday	27 September & 4 October
Jacky	18 & 25 October
As You Like It	15 & 22 November

Major Partner



# BUXTON CONTEMPORARY



# OPEN 2021

Installation view, Kate Mitchell,  
*In Time 2015* (still), 24-hour HD digital video,  
silent, Michael Buxton Collection,  
Buxton Contemporary, the University  
of Melbourne 2018, photography James Geer

Wednesday - Sunday  
11am - 5pm  
Admission is free

BUXTON CONTEMPORARY  
Cnr Southbank Boulevard  
and Dodds Street  
Southbank VIC 3006  
buxtoncontemporary.com



# SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION

## AUDIENCE CAPACITY

Capacity limits will be in line with Victorian Government restrictions at the time of the performance. Unless otherwise advised, there will be no social distancing between subscription groups and, unlike Act 1, the Sumner auditorium will no longer be separated into four quadrants. For information about COVIDsafe practices at Arts Centre Melbourne visit [artscentremelbourne.com.au](https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au).

## TICKET EXCHANGES

Ticket exchanges help you keep your theatre diary flexible throughout the year.

### Exchange Fees

6 Play Subscribers can exchange their 6 Play package tickets free of charge.

3 to 5 Play Subscribers can exchange their package and additional tickets for \$5 per ticket.

### How to Exchange

Exchanges can be made from Thursday 22 April 2021 subject to availability, either online for performances at Southbank Theatre, in person at the Southbank Theatre Box Office or by mail to 140 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank, VIC 3006. Exchanges for productions at Arts Centre Melbourne can also be made by phoning Southbank Theatre Box Office on **03 8688 0800**. If exchanging by telephone and your exchange has been finalised, your original tickets must be destroyed. Proof of destruction – a photo or scan showing each original ticket cut or torn in half – must be emailed to [mtcticketing@mtc.com.au](mailto:mtcticketing@mtc.com.au). Please note: it is not possible to exchange MTC subscription tickets at the Arts Centre Melbourne Box Office.

### Changing dates

When exchanging into a different performance date of the same production, tickets need to be returned online, received by the Southbank Theatre Box Office, or finalised by telephone (including proof of destruction as outlined above) at least 24 hours prior to the performance date indicated on the ticket.

### Changing productions

Subscribers can exchange into another production within Act 2, provided the exchange is into a production that is not already booked within the subscription package, and the exchange occurs at least one week before the first preview of the production originally booked.

## Exchanges for Donors (\$1,000+)

Donor exchanges can be arranged through Donor Ticketing via email on [donorticketing@mtc.com.au](mailto:donorticketing@mtc.com.au) or phone **03 8688 0953**.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

If you are experiencing symptoms or are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 please contact Southbank Theatre Box Office prior to the performance on **03 8688 0800**, or if outside of opening hours, by emailing [mtcticketing@mtc.com.au](mailto:mtcticketing@mtc.com.au).

For full exchange terms and conditions, visit [mtc.com.au/exchanges](https://www.mtc.com.au/exchanges).

## ADDITIONAL TICKETS

Subscribers who purchase a 3 to 6 Play package can buy additional tickets to any Mainstage production in 2021 for family and friends at discounted prices. These special prices are only guaranteed at the time of purchasing your subscription and may change for bookings made at a later date.

## CONCESSIONS

Concessions must be valid at the time of booking. Refunds are not available if you become eligible for a concession after you have booked. Pensioners and Seniors must provide their card number when booking. Full-time students must attach documentation of current full-time enrolment. University of Melbourne staff must provide a copy of their staff ID card. Proof of concession must be provided each year. Those aged under 30 (29 and under) at the time of booking must include documentation indicating proof of age and a contact email or postal address. This documentation can be emailed to [mtcticketing@mtc.com.au](mailto:mtcticketing@mtc.com.au).

## HEAD BOOKERS

If you submit an online booking on behalf of your group or are listed first on a hardcopy booking form, or on the topmost form when multiple forms are submitted together, you will become the Head Booker, our key point of contact for your subscription group. All tickets will be mailed to the Head Booker.

## PAYING BY INSTALMENTS

Subscribers paying by credit card can divide their total payment into two easy instalments. The first is payable when you subscribe, with the remaining instalment due on 1 June 2021. The administration fee for this service is a one-off charge of \$15 per card used and a contact phone number is required for each card holder.

Please note: instalments are not available if you select PayPal when booking online.

## REFUNDS

MTC follows the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice (see [liveperformance.com.au](https://www.liveperformance.com.au) for conditions). As such, tickets cannot be refunded after purchase except if an event is cancelled, rescheduled or significantly relocated as outlined. MTC reserves the right to add, withdraw and substitute artists and vary the program should the need arise.

## WARNINGS

MTC endeavours to include accurate content warnings, however some content does change within the rehearsal period and we encourage you to visit our website or call the Box Office before the show opens for up-to-date warning information.

MTC also has a content guide which details the acts, language and behaviour that may have an impact on some audience members. You will find a link to this content guide on each play page at [mtc.com.au](https://www.mtc.com.au).

**For full terms and conditions including information about babies at performances, lost tickets and school bookings, please visit [mtc.com.au/info](https://www.mtc.com.au/info).**

## ACCESSIBILITY

### Wheelchair and Mobility Access

Wheelchair access and seating that allows more room for the use of mobility aids are available in all theatres. At Southbank Theatre, wheelchair access is via the front entrance on Southbank Boulevard, and at Arts Centre Melbourne via the front entrance on St Kilda Road or via the carpark. Southbank Theatre and Arts Centre Melbourne have lifts to all levels. The foyers within Southbank Theatre and Arts Centre Melbourne offer tables and chairs at wheelchair height and Southbank Theatre also has a low bar service area. Taxis can be flagged outside the venues or can be booked by theatre staff upon request.

Please note that due to health and safety guidelines, our staff are unable to physically assist you into your seat at the venue. Please speak with a member of our ticketing office at the time of booking to assist you to choose an accessible seating option, that will suit your needs.

### Auslan Interpreted Performances

MTC partners with Arts Centre Melbourne and Auslan Stage Left to offer Auslan interpretation for selected

performances. More information will be released at [mtc.com.au](https://www.mtc.com.au) before Act 2 commences.

### Audio Description and Assistance Animals

Vision Australia provides audio description for selected performances. Let us know when booking if you require audio description, and collect a small receiver upon arrival at the theatre. Dates are marked **A** in the Performance Diary. Assistance animals are welcome at all venues and water bowls can be provided upon request. Please note that for the health & safety of patrons, actors and staff, Tactile Tours will not run during Act 2.

### Open Captioning and Assistive Hearing

MTC and The Captioning Studio provide live captioning for selected productions. Dates are marked **C** in the Performance Diary. Hearing assistance is also available at Southbank Theatre and Arts Centre Melbourne in the form of personal listening packs, which can be used with some hearing aids or with headphones. Simply ask theatre staff for assistance when you arrive.

### **R** Relaxed Performance

MTC will present a relaxed performance of *As You Like It* on Wednesday 15 December at 1pm. Relaxed performances are for everyone who will benefit from a more relaxed environment but are specifically designed to welcome patrons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or other disabilities that create sensory sensitivity. Sound and lighting cues are adjusted to be less startling and patrons can leave the auditorium if they need a break. There is a relaxed attitude to noise from the audience, doors remain open and a designated quiet area is available on arrival and during the show. A pre-show Visual Story is available for patrons to prepare for their visit and the performance.

## How to Book

Please make us aware at the time of booking if you would like to make use of any of these services. MTC is committed to making performances accessible to the widest possible audience. If you require assistance that is not covered here, please let us know. We are happy to help wherever possible.

Learn more at [mtc.com.au/access](https://www.mtc.com.au/access) or call Southbank Theatre on **03 8688 0800**.



# THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support  
of our leading Donors

## MTC LIFETIME PATRONS

*Acknowledging a lifetime of extraordinary support for MTC.*

Pat Burke  
Peter Clemenger AO and  
Joan Clemenger AO  
Greg Gailey and the  
Late Dr Geraldine Lazarus

Allan Myers AC QC and  
Maria Myers AC  
The Late Bidy Ponsford  
The Late Dr Roger Riordan AM

Maureen Wheeler AO and  
Tony Wheeler AO  
Ursula Whiteside  
Caroline Young and  
Derek Young AM

## ENDOWMENT DONORS

*Supporting the long term sustainability and creative future of MTC.*

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Jane Hansen AO and  
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The University of Melbourne  
**\$50,000+**  
Geoffrey Cohen AM

Orcadia Foundation  
The Late Bidy Ponsford  
Andrew Sisson AO and  
Tracey Sisson  
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Robert A. Dunster

Prof Margaret Gardner AO and  
Prof Glyn Davis AC  
Anne and Mark Robertson OAM  
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Jane Kunstler  
Anonymous

## MTC'S PLAYWRIGHTS GIVING CIRCLE

*Supporting the NEXT STAGE Writers' Program.*

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



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The Joan and Peter  
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### \$20,000+

Paul & Wendy Bonnici and Family  
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Greg Gailey and the Late  
Dr Geraldine Lazarus  
Louise and Martyn Myer AO  
Caroline and Derek Young AM

### \$10,000+

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Bill Bowness AO  
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Tom and Elana Cordiner  
Christine Gilbertson  
The Gjergja Family  
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Karen Inge and Dr George Janko  
Daryl Kendrick and Sandy Bell  
Macgeorge Bequest  
Susanna Mason  
Janet Reid OAM and Allan Reid  
Kendra Reid

Rob Stewart and Lisa Dowd  
Luisa Valmorbida OAM  
Anonymous

### \$5,000+

Prof James Best AO and  
Prof Doris Young  
Jay Bethell and Peter Smart  
Dr Andrew Buchanan  
and Peter Darcy  
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Marshall Day Acoustics  
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Ian and Margaret McKellar  
Kim and Peter Monk  
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In loving memory of  
Berek Segan AM OBE -  
Marysia and Marshall Segan  
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Ralph Ward-Ambler AM and  
Barbara Ward-Ambler  
Anonymous (6)

## RAISE THE CURTAIN

*A collective of Donors helping MTC return to the stage in 2021.*

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# THANK YOU

MTC would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support.

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## Southbank Theatre Partners



*The Lifespan of a Fact* is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Australasia).  
Script development of *Cyrano* by Virginia Gay (after Edmond Rostand) has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, Sydney Festival and the NSW Government through Create NSW and the City of Melbourne COVID-19 Arts Grants.

If you would like to join our corporate family or host a private event, please contact [partnerships@mtc.com.au](mailto:partnerships@mtc.com.au).  
Partners current as of January 2021.

# SEE YOU AT THE THEATRE

In this brochure, terms used to describe an individual's cultural identity when referring to a particular work or artist have been determined in consultation with the artists involved.

Details in this brochure are correct at the time of publication. MTC reserves the right to add, withdraw, and substitute artists and vary the program should the need arise. **Creative Direction** Emma Wagstaff **Graphic Design** Helena Turinski, Vic U **Editor** Shelley King **Copywriter** Melanie Sheridan **Theatre and Heart illustrations** Karan Singh **Play illustrations** Mark Conlan **Additional Photography** T J Garvie, Tim Grey, Mandy Jones, Jacinta Keefe, Deryk McAlpin, Heath Warwick, Lachlan Woods **Image credits** Page 26 – Anchuli Felicia King, Page 27 – First Peoples Young Artists Program participants, 2018 MTC Ambassadors, Clemence Williams, Page 28 – *Torch the Place* Donor Night, Page 29 – Gemma Rowe, Phillip Rhodes, Tansy Elso, Page 30 – *Torch the Place* ANZ Forum Night.

