



MTC EDUCATION 2021
Impact Report for Education Giving Circle Donors

Melbourne's HOME of **THEATRE**

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

Teacher - St Joseph's College Echuca

Theatre entertains, challenges and provokes possibility and, for our young people, can result in greater creativity, imagination and exploration of life through art – skills that are vital in a rapidly changing world.



OVERVIEW

Despite the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts and education in Victoria, MTC Education continued to find imaginative and innovative ways to best support Victorian students throughout 2021, thanks in no small part to your generosity.

Throughout 2021, MTC Education continued to produce more online resources and new opportunities for remote engagement than ever before, in response to demand from schools and requests from the Department of Education. The result of our concentrated focus on digital programs has meant that we've been able to expand our reach even further into diverse and isolated communities – providing young people from all over Victoria with access to opportunities to learn new skills, help build confidence and thrive in creative careers. When permitted, and in line with the latest public health advice, learning and engagement activities were also conducted in person. In addition, the introduction of MTC Digital Theatre in 2021 has created many new avenues for students and teachers to experience our productions and gain further insight and access to Melbourne's home of live theatre.

Thank you for your support and advocacy for MTC Education and your commitment to ensuring young people across the state can engage with the arts and our artists to enhance their learning. Together, we can continue to help inspire the next generation through theatre.

“My experience as an MTC Ambassador has brought me endless amounts of joy. Every time I closed my computer after a meeting, the joy rippled through me and I was genuinely fulfilled ... I am truly grateful for every opportunity to see the inner workings of this industry and I cannot thank you enough.”

2021 MTC Ambassador

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- **32,313** Victorian students reached throughout 2021
- **1,397** Education Pack Downloads
- **454** VCE students and teachers provided exclusive access to *Cyrano* dress rehearsal recording and revision seminar
- **253** students participated in live online seminars
- **134** discounted tickets for students to attend MTC mainstage productions during the reduced 2021 Season



‘I was able to develop my playwriting and acting interests and in such a supportive, fun environment.’

Wamba Wamba creative artist and FPYAP participant Brodie Murray

“I really got a better understanding of theatre and how even the smallest of things can connect to an audience member.”

2021 Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series participant

DONATIONS IN ACTION

Philanthropic support from our generous Education Giving Circle Donors has enabled MTC Education to deliver:

- An ever expanding suite of interactive resources for teachers to use in class and when remote teaching, and for students to undertake self-directed learning in their own time – including virtual tours of MTC HQ and Southbank Theatre.
- The return of MTC Education’s signature programs
 - ***First Peoples Young Artists Program*** – a one-of-a-kind creative and professional development initiative for young First Nations people covering all aspects of making theatre and forging artistic careers.
 - ***MTC Ambassador Program*** – a year-long enrichment program for Year 11 theatre-lovers in a blended virtual and face-to-face program, combining online Zoom workshops with theatre excursions at Southbank.
 - ***Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship Course*** – a life-changing week of intensive online drama workshops providing an opportunity for young people with limited access to the arts to learn and develop drama skills, gain confidence, self-awareness and self-expression.
 - ***Geraldine Lazarus Regional Enrichment Program*** – free or low-cost workshops facilitated on-demand for schools in regional Victoria in both digital and in-person formats.



“Meeting all of the industry professionals has allowed me to gain a greater sense of depth to the industry - especially the roles that are backstage. It makes me feel a whole lot more appreciative of the work these people do for our entertainment, but also opens up the possibility of more potential careers that I had never even known about.”

DONATIONS IN ACTION (continued)

Online interactive workshops, resources and seminars in 2021 included:

- **Directing Theatre with MTC** – a free program for high-ability students in Years 9-10 exclusive to Victorian Government schools exploring various approaches to directing through an interactive workshop.
- **Careers Week** – building on the success of our previous work experience program, Careers Week created access for more students to participate in a virtual format.
- **Digital Teacher-As-Artist Professional Development** week for teachers and educators across the state.
- **Digital PD Day** – workshops and panels featuring MTC staff and artists.
- **Actors-At-Work** – livestream workshops.



“Considering the context of the last year, it's probably the most productive week (my daughter's) had over the last little while. It was lovely seeing her so enthusiastic and involved. It really is proof of how important it is for each of us to find creative ways to navigate the complex terrain of our world.”

Parent - Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship Participant

DONATIONS IN ACTION (continued)

- **Livestream Rehearsal of *Berlin*** by Joanna Murray-Smith providing insight into how professional theatre-makers collaborate.
- **Online interactive arts-learning resources** for *Berlin* including virtual tours of the set design and production process, a time-lapse video of the set 'bump in' on the Sumner stage and Q&A sessions with the creative team exploring sound and lighting.
- Exclusive access for VCE students to a recording of the **dress rehearsal of *Cyrano*** by Virginia Gay, as well as interactive, curriculum focused digital resources including a Costuming Q&A and VCE revision seminar.
- Free downloadable **Education Packs** to enhance the in-person or online viewing experience of *Berlin*, *Cyrano* and *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*.



“I gained not only a better understanding about the work that is done in the theatre and how it all runs, but also a lot more confidence in chasing my passion as an actor. Hearing everyone's words about what the life of an actor was like really helped push me into following what I love ... My biggest takeaway was that the life I dream myself living, is possible and a whole new world that is there for me if I put in the work to go there.”

2021 Careers Week participant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**A heartfelt thank you to all of our 2021
Education Giving Circle.**

Leading Education Donors

Paul & Wendy Bonnici and Family
Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM
The Cordiners
Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO
Linda Herd
Anne and Mark Robertson OAM

Education Giving Circle Donors

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The logo for Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) is centered in the upper half of the image. It features the letters 'MTC' in a large, stylized, white, sans-serif font. To the right of 'MTC', the words 'MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY' are stacked vertically in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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