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MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY
SEASON
2023

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Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, create and gather.

We pay our respects to all First Peoples, their Elders past and present, and their enduring connections to Country, knowledge and stories.

WELCOME



2023 marks a new era for Melbourne Theatre Company and the inaugural season from Artistic Director & Co-CEO Anne-Louise Sarkis.

It is also the year in which Melbourne Theatre Company celebrates its 70th anniversary. As we reach this significant milestone, our commitment to new work is stronger than ever. It has been a hallmark of the Company's legacy from its earliest days and is central to our future artistic endeavours. This is apparent both through the productions we present and our investment in artists and their work through our vital development programs.

There is much to excite in 2023, both on and off stage, and I congratulate Anne-Louise and the entire Melbourne Theatre Company team on a terrific program. I know it will leave a lasting impact on people far and wide.

To everyone in our wonderful community, we thank you for your ongoing, passionate support for Melbourne Theatre Company. You are an essential part of our success and we are thrilled to share another year of exceptional theatre with you.

Enjoy Season 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jane Hansen AO
CHAIR



Melbourne Theatre Company is a department of the University of Melbourne.

Melbourne Theatre Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the State Government of Victoria through Creative Victoria.



SEASON 2023



I fell in love with theatre at an early age – with the thrill of the lights going down and the knowledge that a whole world was about to open up. When I began to make theatre myself, I was enthralled by the fact that no two performances were ever the same, by the simple fact that each night was unique – shaped by the alchemy of those who were there in the room.

I still am.

We want you there in the room with us as we open a new chapter in our artistic history.

The 2023 season offers new perspectives – through stories that haven't been heard before and familiar stories told in new ways. From contemporary classics to brilliant new Australian works and collaborations with theatre companies around the country, the 12 productions in our program will broaden the conversation like never before.

You will be introduced to artists working with Melbourne Theatre Company for the first time and reunited with many who already have a strong relationship with us. It has been an honour to craft this season with these outstanding theatre-makers, full of works created for and about the world today.

This year we welcome Tasnim Hossain as Resident Director, along with 12 new Artistic Associates who represent a cross-section of disciplines and expertise that are essential for making work. Together with our artistic team, these cultural leaders will transform the future of Australian theatre.

This is just the beginning. We have exciting plans underway for artists and audiences that I can't wait to share.

There has never been a more important time to gather, to tell each other stories and to listen. I hope you will come and experience what only theatre can do.

See you at the theatre!

Anne-Louise Sarks
Artistic Director & Co-CEO

Theatre is for everyone.

Melbourne Theatre Company is committed to sharing stories that reflect the diversity of the human experience.

We believe that producing the highest quality theatre is only possible when all artists – regardless of race, sexuality, faith, ability, age or gender – are given the same opportunities to create and to flourish.

WE'RE FOR STORIES

**The ones less told
The ones told before
The ones yet to be told**



NOSTALGIC REIMAGINING

16 JAN—18 FEB 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

SUNDAY

BY ANTHONY WEIGH

DIRECTED BY SARAH GOODES

‘Anthony Weigh’s play is a gem.’

THE TIMES UK (on *Like a Fishbone*)

‘Fabulously ambitious.’

STAGE NOISE (on *2,000 Feet Away*)

CAST INCLUDES

Matt Day

Ratidzo Mambo

Nikki Shiels

SET DESIGNER

Anna Cordingley

COSTUME DESIGNER

Harriet Oxley

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Paul Jackson

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Jethro Woodward

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Sonya Soares

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER

Danni A. Esposito

VOICE & DIALECT COACH

Geraldine Cook-Dafner

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 23 & 30 Jan

DONOR NIGHT

Mon 30 Jan

This production contains the use of herbal cigarettes and theatrical haze, coarse language, sexual references and some nudity.

A FANTASY OF LIFE AT HEIDE

Starring Nikki Shiels (*Home, I’m Darling*), this world premiere Melbourne Theatre Company commission is an audacious fantasy inspired by the stories and myths that surround Heide Museum of Modern Art founder Sunday Reed – the muse and mentor to a circle of artists including Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker and Joy Hester.

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*) creates a fantasy around this Melbourne icon that captures her passionate and unconventional spirit. Directed by Sarah Goodes (*The Sound Inside*) and also featuring Matt Day (*North by Northwest*) and Ratidzo Mambo (*The Heartbreak Choir*), *Sunday* is an unforgettable story of a bold and complex woman and the price she paid for living and loving on her own terms as a woman in mid-20th century Australia.

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



Australian Government
RISE Fund

Commissioned by MTC with the support of the Joan and Peter Clemenger Trust. Supported by MTC’s *Sunday* Giving Circle Donors; Andrew Sisson AM and Tracey Sisson, Joanna Baevski, Glenda and Greg Lewin AM, Kerry Gardner AM and Andrew Myer AM, Virginia Lovett and Rose Hiscock, Anonymous.



THRILLING EXPOSÉ

8 FEB—25 MAR 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

PRIMA FACIE

BY SUZIE MILLER

DIRECTED BY LEE LEWIS



‘An urgent and compelling work.’

TIME OUT SYDNEY



‘Powerful ... the effect is devastating.’

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

CAST

Sheridan Harbridge

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Renée Mulder

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Trent Suidgeest

COMPOSER &

SOUND DESIGNER

Paul Charlier

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 13 & 20 Feb

DONOR NIGHT

Tue 14 Feb

This production contains mature themes, sexual references and descriptions of sexual violence.

Following a sold-out West End season, the original Australian production of *Prima Facie* finally makes its way to Melbourne. Written by Sydney-based former lawyer Suzie Miller, *Prima Facie* is a searing indictment of a legal system that consistently fails women. Reprising her award-winning role, Sheridan Harbridge performs as Tessa Enslar with passion and mesmerising conviction.

Tessa Enslar is a woman at the top of her game: a defence lawyer who commands the respect of her colleagues and clients, with a string of unbroken wins under her belt. She knows the law inside out; she trusts the law. But when she finds herself on the other side of the bench, facing the very system she once put her faith in, she quickly realises that something has to change.

Prima Facie premiered at Griffin Theatre in 2019, wowing audiences and winning widespread critical acclaim, as well as a Sydney Theatre Award for Harbridge and multiple awards for Miller – including the 2020 David Williamson Award for Outstanding Theatre Writing. With the original Griffin dream team of director Lee Lewis (*Gloria*) and Sheridan Harbridge (*The Beast*), this one-woman powerhouse performance demands to be seen.

A Griffin Theatre
Company Production

GRIFFIN
THEATRE
COMPANY

Major Marketing Partner

The Monthly
The Saturday Paper
7am



AUDACIOUS COMEDY

4 MAR—15 APR 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

BERNHARDT/ HAMLET

BY THERESA REBECK

DIRECTED BY ANNE-LOUISE SARCS

‘Breakneck backstage
comedy.’

THE NEW YORK TIMES

‘Damn good, expressive
and provocative writing.’

BROADWAY WORLD

CAST INCLUDES

Tom Budge
Marco Chiappi
Kate Mulvany
Charles Wu

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Amelia Lever-Davidson

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS
Mon 13 & 20 Mar

DONOR NIGHT
Tue 14 Mar

*This production contains mature
themes, sexual references and
references to suicide.*

For her first show as Melbourne Theatre Company Artistic Director, Anne-Louise Sarks brings together two prolific women of theatre – dual-Helpmann Award-winner Kate Mulvany as celebrated French stage actor Sarah Bernhardt. A brilliant comedy about a woman ahead of her time, *Bernhardt/Hamlet* offers a timeless exploration of gender and equality.

Paris, 1899: renowned stage idol Sarah Bernhardt has grown out of the ingénue roles that made her famous. She needs a new challenge, and has set her sights on the only role worthy of the greatest actress of the century – Hamlet. It’s a role that could make or break her and it’s outrageous, of course. A woman? Playing the Prince of Denmark! But that’s of no concern for Sarah. She’s more interested in Shakespeare’s poetry – it has to go, and the only man for the job is playwright Edmond Rostand, whom Sarah tasks with rewriting *Hamlet*.

Feisty and funny, Theresa Rebeck’s *Bernhardt/Hamlet* is a play about theatre – making it, loving it and watching it. But above all, it is a witty celebration of the art of the stage and an imaginative exploration of a pivotal moment in theatre history.

Media Partner



ABSURDIST TRAGI-COMEDY

1 MAY—10 JUN 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

HAPPY DAYS

BY **SAMUEL BECKETT**

DIRECTED BY **PETRA KALIVE**



‘Beckett’s humour was at its dark zenith when he wrote this in 1961.’

THE AGE

‘*Happy Days* remains one of the most unsettling and unforgettable plays in the modern canon.’

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAST INCLUDES

Judith Lucy

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Eugyeene Teh

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 8 & 15 May

DONOR NIGHT

Thu 11 May

This production contains mature themes, sexual references and references to suicide.

The inimitable Judith Lucy takes on the role of Samuel Beckett’s Winnie, the determined optimist in the face of an endless existential crisis. Acclaimed as one of the best plays ever written, *Happy Days* is an absurdist, tragicomic tour-de-force – that just happens to be a pitch-perfect commentary on our times.

Buried up to her waist, but never questioning why, Winnie is determined to carry on as best she can. Awoken by a piercing bell, she begins her day with a prayer before waking her husband, Willie. Willie does not share Winnie’s predicament, but he is just as stuck. Despite the unrelenting sun and the limitations of her current – and eventually, sinking – situation, Winnie remains adamant that this is a happy day; these are all happy days.

A 20th-century classic, *Happy Days* was written more than 60 years ago but has never been more resonant, its absurdity acutely reflecting our reality. Making her Melbourne Theatre Company debut, actor and comedian Judith Lucy will team up with director Petra Kalive (*Laurinda*), making this Beckett masterpiece wildly funny, and not to be missed.



Photography: Jo Duck

CONTEMPORARY ROM-COM

11—27 MAY 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER

I WANNA BE YOURS

BY ZIA AHMED

DIRECTED BY TASNIM HOSSAIN



‘Ahmed’s funny, delicate writing ... makes this a little gem of a show.’

TIME OUT LONDON



‘Beguiling ... An exciting voice like Ahmed’s feels like the future – but it’s also very much about right now.’

EVENING STANDARD

CAST INCLUDES

Oz Malik

This production contains sexual references, coarse language and references to racism.

Recommended for ages 14+

The widely acclaimed debut play from London Laureate and poetry slam champion Zia Ahmed, *I Wanna Be Yours*, is a modern-day romance that asks whether love really is all you need.

Haseeb and Ella meet at a performance workshop. From opposite sides of the Thames, he’s a poet and she’s an actor hired to help him with his enunciation. Their attraction is immediate. They start dating, get serious and fall in love. Soon there is each other’s family and friends to navigate, and then big questions about the future – moving in together, marriage, children. Does it matter that Haseeb is British-Pakistani and Ella’s a white girl from Yorkshire? Can their love surpass the cultural and physical boundaries between them?

Through short, striking vignettes, Zia Ahmed builds an authentic and insightful picture of contemporary, cross-cultural courtship. Ahmed’s performance poetry background is evident in his evocative and playful use of language, imagery and symbolism, which combine for a delightful mix of humour, heartbreak and hope. A compelling and topical work of extraordinary vitality, this production of *I Wanna Be Yours* for MTC’s Education and Families Program stars Oz Malik and is directed by Melbourne Theatre Company Resident Director Tasnim Hossain. It promises to be a powerful, lyrical and big-hearted night of theatre.

EDUCATION & FAMILIES

Package add-on: subscribers enjoy early access to tickets



BOLD NEW WRITING

22 MAY—24 JUN 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

JACKY

BY **DECLAN FURBER GILLICK**
DIRECTED BY **MARK WILSON**

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

THE MUSIC
(on *Bighouse Dreaming*)

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

SOMETIMES MELBOURNE
(on *Bighouse Dreaming*)

CAST INCLUDES

Guy Simon
Greg Stone

SET DESIGNER
Christina Smith

COSTUME DESIGNER
Emily Barrie

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Matt Scott

COMPOSER &
SOUND DESIGNER
James Henry

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS
Mon 29 May & 5 Jun
DONOR NIGHT
Tue 6 Jun

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

Award-winning playwright Declan Furber Gillick brings his bold and dynamic voice to Melbourne Theatre Company’s mainstage for the first time with *Jacky*. A sharp, quick-witted play about family, community, work and culture, this ambitious world premiere examines the personal costs of navigating it all in contemporary Australia.

Jacky is a smart, enterprising young blackfella in the big city. He skilfully negotiates the gig economy, skipping neatly from office internships to cultural performances to sex work. Glenn is a white middle-aged record dealer, finalising a divorce and indulging a fantasy that leads him straight to *Jacky*. When *Jacky*’s unemployable little brother Keith rolls into town, *Jacky*’s carefully compartmentalised lives are set to collide. Will he tear at the seams, or can Keith hold him accountable and remind him what really matters?

Directed by Mark Wilson, this MTC NEXT STAGE Original follows Furber Gillick’s multi-award winning play *Bighouse Dreaming* and features Helpmann Award winner Guy Simon (*Jasper Jones*) in the title role alongside Greg Stone (*A Doll’s House, Part 2*). A whip-smart new work from a fresh Aboriginal voice, *Jacky* is a disarming and original play that asks what it takes to live a meaningful life.

Media Partner

Commissioned through MTC’s NEXT STAGE Writers’ Program, supported by the Donors, Foundations and Organisations of MTC’s Playwrights Giving Circle.

Production supported by Craig Semple and the Trawalla Foundation.



NEXTSTAGE



Photography: Jo Duck

REVENGE DRAMA

19 JUN—15 JUL 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

IS GOD IS

BY ALESHEA HARRIS

CO-DIRECTED BY ZINDZI OKENYO & SHARI SEBBENS



'A theatre production that has the audience gasping aloud in genuine shock.'

THE INDEPENDENT



'Excellent revenge fantasy ... furious and incandescent.'

TIME OUT NEW YORK

CAST INCLUDES

Henrietta Amevor
Masego Pitso

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Renée Mulder

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 26 Jun & 3 Jul

DONOR NIGHT

Mon 26 Jun

This production contains course language, mature themes, sexual references, references to family violence and depictions of graphic violence.

Drawing on the ancient, the Spaghetti Western and Afropunk, Aleshea Harris's *Is God Is* packs an almighty wallop. Winner of the Obie Award for Playwriting and the American Playwriting Foundation's Relentless Award, it's an electrifying breath of fresh air that examines the insidious, cyclical nature of violence through a contemporary tale as old as time.

Twin sisters Racine and Anaia bear the scars of their deadbeat dad's long-ago brutal attack – an act of incendiary ruthlessness that left the girls' mother dead. Or so the twins believe ... until they receive a letter, beckoning them to their mama's bedside. Now that she is actually dying, she has but one task for her daughters – make your daddy dead.

Featuring Henrietta Amevor and Masego Pitso in its Australian premiere, *Is God Is* will be co-directed by Zindzi Okenyo (*An Ideal Husband*) and Shari Sebbens (*The Sapphires*), whose previous directorial collaboration, *seven methods of killing kylie jenner*, has been selling out seasons around the country. Bold, brash and darkly comic, *Is God Is* takes vengeance to levels that would make Greek tragedians proud.

Co-producer

SYDNEY
THEATRE
CO



HEARTWARMING NEW MUSICAL

18 JUL—19 AUG 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, PLAYHOUSE

BLOOM

MUSIC BY **KATIE WESTON** LYRICS BY **TOM GLEISNER**

BOOK BY **TOM GLEISNER**

DIRECTED BY **DEAN BRYANT**

‘A slippery, clever, entertaining circus
... slick and shapely.’

THE AGE (on *The Speechmaker*)

‘90 minutes of sheer
entertainment.’

STAGE WHISPERS (on *The Speechmaker*)

CAST INCLUDES

Anne Edmonds
Frankie J. Holden
Vidya Makan
John O’May

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Zara Stanton

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Amelia Lever-Davidson

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Zara Stanton
Katie Weston
Ned Wright-Smith

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHT

Mon 24 Jul

DONOR NIGHT

Mon 24 Jul

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

From the co-creator behind some of Australia’s most beloved comedies (*The Castle*, *The Dish*, *Utopia*) and Melbourne Theatre Company’s smash-hit production *The Speechmaker*, *Bloom* is a funny, big-hearted new musical that celebrates the power of music to connect us across generations, starring comedian Anne Edmonds alongside Frankie J. Holden and Vidya Makan.

When Mrs MacIntyre, the scheming owner of aged care home Elm Grove, decides to cut costs by offering uni students free board in return for them helping out as carers, she does not count on the arrival of Finn Bailey. Lazy and unqualified, Finn soon clashes with over-worked carer Ruby, before setting off a chain of events that lead to romance, rebellion and a residents’ choir.

Showcasing his trademark humour, Working Dog’s Tom Gleisner (*Have You Been Paying Attention?*) injects exuberant cheer and remarkable truth into his characters and his setting, turning one of Australia’s most shameful recent failures – aged care – into a vision of hope and possibility. Collaborating with singer, actor and composer Katie Weston (*Falling Forward*, *Sugartown*) and directed by Dean Bryant (*Fun Home*), they have crafted a heartwarming, uplifting and joyful musical that reminds us that there is always something to learn, no matter how old we are.

Major Marketing Partner

The Monthly
The Saturday Paper
7am

Developed by Working Dog and MTC’s NEXT STAGE
Writers Program, supported by the Donors, Foundations
and Organisations of MTC’s Playwrights Giving Circle.

NEXTSTAGE



UNMISSABLE THEATRICAL EXPERIENCE

7 AUG—9 SEP 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

ESCAPED ALONE AND WHAT IF IF ONLY

BY **CARYL CHURCHILL**
DIRECTED BY **ANNE-LOUISE SARKS**



‘Magnificent ... an intricate, elliptical, acutely female view of the apocalypse.’

THE GUARDIAN (on *Escaped Alone*)



‘Moving, cryptic, funny, terrifying and ridiculous.’

TIME OUT LONDON (on *What If If Only*)

CAST INCLUDES

Alison Bell
Debra Lawrance
Helen Morse

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
Marg Horwell

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Paul Jackson

COMPOSER
& SOUND DESIGNER
Jethro Woodward

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS
Mon 14 & 21 Aug

DONOR NIGHT
Tue 15 Aug

Escaped Alone contains coarse language, mature themes, sexual references and references to domestic violence.

What If If Only contains mature themes and references to suicide.

ONE EVENING, TWO SHORT PLAYS

An Obie Award-winner several times over, Caryl Churchill (*Top Girls*) is widely considered one of the world’s greatest living playwrights. In this world-first theatrical experience, Melbourne Theatre Company Artistic Director Anne-Louise Sarks directs two separate Caryl Churchill works: *What If If Only*, the micro-meditation on grief and possibility starring Alison Bell; and *Escaped Alone*, a visionary play starring Helen Morse about afternoon tea and the apocalypse.

In *Escaped Alone*, a woman joins her three neighbours for an afternoon of swapping memories and sharing secrets, in between the telling of catastrophic events, bleak but blackly humorous. In *What If If Only*, a partner laments their lost love and conjures up countless possible futures, with and without love. In both works, the characters’ hopes, fears and dreams are palpable, visceral and remarkable.

Showcasing the dazzling alchemy of Churchill’s writing, these two short works are separate plays that share some deep thematic parallels. Their combination in Sarks’s hands promises a profound, surreal, funny and thrilling theatrical experience.



GRIPPING FAMILY DRAMA

23 SEP—28 OCT 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MY SISTER JILL

BY **PATRICIA CORNELIUS**
DIRECTED BY **SUSIE DEE**

‘Ingenious and powerful.’

THE GUARDIAN
(on *The House of Bernarda Alba*)

‘Cornelius’s writing leaves me shaking.
It’s astonishing theatre.’

AUSSIE THEATRE (on *SHIT*)

CAST INCLUDES

Sophie Ross

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Marg Horwell

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Rachel Burke

COMPOSER &

SOUND DESIGNER

Kelly Ryall

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 2 & 9 Oct

DONOR NIGHT

Mon 2 Oct

This production contains coarse language, mature themes, sexual references, racial slurs, domestic violence and descriptions of military conflict and PTSD.

Against the backdrop of 1950s and 60s suburban Melbourne and in the wake of the Second World War, multi-award-winning writer Patricia Cornelius delivers a poetic, heart-rending tale that unpacks the shadow of war, and the trauma it leaves behind.

The youngest of Jack and Martha’s five children, Christine idolises her father, especially his stories of wartime heroics. She cannot understand why her siblings – Jill, Johnnie and twins Door and Mouse – don’t share her love for their dad. Jill, meanwhile doesn’t understand why their mum puts up with him. As Christine watches on, one by one her siblings start to rebel against the tumultuous environment they are growing up in. Once fascinated by her father’s war stories, they slowly start to lose their shine as the conflict in Vietnam intensifies and war once again becomes front of mind for the family.

Adapted from her own novel for the stage, *My Sister Jill* is an MTC NEXT STAGE Original from one of Australia’s most revered writers. Working with her long-time collaborator Susie Dee (their previous collaboration, *SHIT*, was celebrated at the Teatro Biennale di Venezia in 2019) and starring Sophie Ross (*What Rhymes with Cars and Girls*), Patricia Cornelius has crafted a moving family drama that elegantly captures the spirit and struggle of a generation of Australians post-world war. A compelling and ultimately hopeful coming-of-age story, it has all the makings of an Australian classic.



INTIMATE CABARET

19 OCT—2 DEC 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

LADY DAY

AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL

BY LANIE ROBERTSON

DIRECTED BY MITCHELL BUTEL

'A searing portrait of a woman
whose art was triumphant.'

ONSTAGE

'Original and riveting.'

THE LONDON TIMES

CAST INCLUDES

Zahra Newman

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Ailsa Paterson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Govin Ruben

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Danny Holgate

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 30 Oct & 6 Nov

DONOR NIGHT

Tue 31 Oct

For select performances of the season, an alternate performer will take to the stage as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day*.

This production contains wcoarse language, mature themes, drug use, references to sexual violence and references to racism and racial violence.

Zahra Newman stars as the great Billie Holiday in an extraordinary showcase of acting and vocal mastery. Featuring several of Holiday's most beloved songs amid a personal, spoken-word tour of her life, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* is an iconic and intimate snapshot of one of the world's most revered jazz voices.

March, 1959, around midnight. The one and only Billie Holiday – known widely as Lady Day – is on stage in a small, run-down bar in South Philadelphia. Struggling with addiction and ill health, the audience is about to witness one of her final shows, singing a selection of her most loved hits. Accompanied by a jazz trio, Holiday shares a collection of revealing anecdotes about her life.

Be in the room with Lady Day as the Fairfax Studio transforms into a cabaret venue, with Newman (*Miss Julie*) embodying the jazz great and singing many of her most iconic songs – among them 'God Bless the Child', 'What a Little Moonlight Can Do', 'Somebody's on My Mind' and 'Strange Fruit'. Directed by Mitchell Butel, it promises to take audiences back in time to an electrifying night in the life of an extraordinary woman.

Co-producers

Presenting Partner

Media Partner



Photography: Jo Duck

PLAYFUL RETELLING

14 NOV—16 DEC 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

A VERY JEWISH CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY ELISE ESTHER HEARST AND PHILLIP KAVANAGH
AFTER CHARLES DICKENS
DIRECTED BY SARAH GILES

‘One of the most interesting young
playwriting voices in Australian theatre.’

ARTS REVIEW (on Elise Esther Hearst)

‘An extraordinary adaptation
of a literary classic.’

INDAILY (on Phillip Kavanagh’s
The Bridge of San Luis Rey)

CAST INCLUDES

Natalie Gamsu
Evelyn Krape
Bert LaBonté

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Cassandra Fumi

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Jonathon Oxlade

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Jed Palmer

Talks & Events

FORUM NIGHTS

Mon 20 & 27 Nov

DONOR NIGHT

Tue 28 Nov

A clever twist on Charles Dickens’s classic Christmas morality tale, *A Very Jewish Christmas Carol* is a funny and delightful journey of discovering who we are and remembering the things that unite us.

Caulfield baker Elysheva Scroogeavitz is determined not to let anything get in the way of fulfilling customer demand for her Bubby’s famous Polish gingerbread. Not her family’s impending Chrismukkah celebrations; not her contractions and imminent labour; and certainly not the ghosts who’ve suddenly shown up in her kitchen. But the Rein-Dybbuck of Chrismukkah Past, Gingerbread Golem and Lilith Claus have other ideas, and Ely’s about to get an unexpected lesson in the importance of making time for the ones we love.

As part of MTC’s NEXT STAGE Writers’ Program, writers-in-residence Elise Esther Hearst and Phillip Kavanagh drew on their own backgrounds to create this hilarious, playful re-telling of the seasonal time-travelling classic. Directed by Sarah Giles, and starring Natalie Gamsu, Evelyn Krape and Bert LaBonté, *A Very Jewish Christmas Carol* is a celebration of fun, family and faith – in ourselves and in each other.

Media Partner

Commissioned through MTC’s NEXT STAGE Writers’ Program, supported by the Donors, Foundations and Organisations of MTC’s Playwrights Giving Circle.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THEATRE

Play a leading role in shaping our cultural landscape by supporting the artists and audiences of tomorrow.



BECOME A DONOR

Join a community passionate about the future of Australian theatre, championing unique voices and sharing powerful stories.

Your generosity will not only enable world-class storytelling on our stages but also extend opportunities to the next generation of theatre makers through our education and outreach programs.

Many of Melbourne Theatre Company's landmark initiatives, including our NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, Cybec Electric play readings, Women in Theatre Program, First Peoples Young Artists Program, Youth Ambassadors and Youth Scholarship Course, have only been made possible thanks to key investment by Donors and Foundations.

As the Company enters a new artistic era, we have many exciting plans including new initiatives to be announced in 2023.

We can't wait to share them with you.

Melbourne Theatre Company aims to be part of every Victorian's life – we can only do this with your help. All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible and any gift, large or small, will make a meaningful difference.

Whether you are already part of our Donor community or have never donated before, please consider including a donation with your subscription.




Tsungirai Wachenuka, Sarah Fitzgerald and Conor Leach in *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* (2022)

DONOR NIGHTS

Donor Nights are your invitation to engage further with Melbourne Theatre Company.

Our Donors (\$1,000+) can enjoy access to informative and intimate post-show events with the chance to meet members of the cast and creative teams behind our productions.

Select from the following dates, marked  in the Performance Diary, when making your booking to receive invitations to events on these evenings.

2023 DONOR NIGHTS

Sunday	Mon 30 Jan
Prima Facie	Tue 14 Feb
Bernhardt/Hamlet	Tue 14 Mar
Happy Days	Thu 11 May
Jacky	Tue 6 Jun
Is God Is	Mon 26 Jun
Bloom	Mon 24 Jul
Escaped Alone and What If Only	Tue 15 Aug
My Sister Jill	Mon 2 Oct
Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill	Tue 31 Oct
A Very Jewish Christmas Carol	Tue 28 Nov



MISS PEARL BAR + DINING



**Miss Pearl Bar + Dining is now open
at Southbank Theatre, bringing
a new concept in Asian dining to
Melbourne's Arts Precinct.**

Enjoy vivid flavours from the á la carte, set pre-theatre dining and banquet menu options, alongside crafted cocktails, unique wines and late-night snacks.

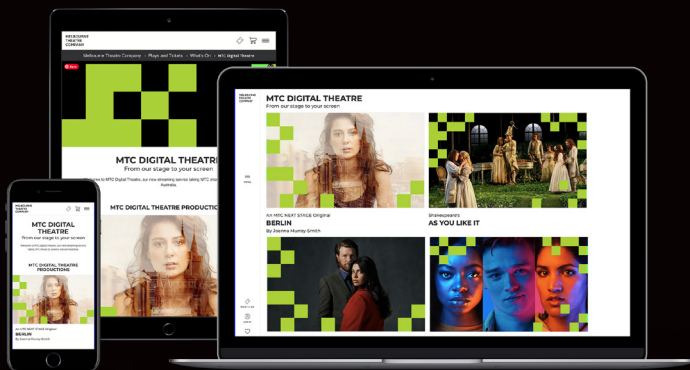
The perfect destination for any occasion, book a table for your next visit to Southbank Theatre.

Learn more at misspearl.com.au

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

Season 2023 would not be possible without the dedication, talent and work of:

Geoff Adams, Adrian Aderhold, Aldo Amenta, Portia Atkins, Jacob Battista, Andrew Bellchambers, Kenneth Best, Michael Bingham, Sophie Boardley, Paul Bonnici, Alyson Brown, Tony Burgess, Mikee Burnell, Jurga Celikiene, Nicole Chong, Alison Crawford, Jocelyn Creed, James Cunningham, Jennifer Darbyshire, Philip De Mulder, Peter Dowd, Shane Dunn, Brian Eastal, Karin Farrell, Paige Farrell, Patricia Faulkner AO, Jonathan Feder, Kate Francis, Zsuzsa Gaynor Mihaly, Shane Gild, Julia Godinho, Nicholas Gray, Jane Grover, Ben Gu, Adam Hanley, Jane Hansen AO, Colin Harman, Allan Hiron, Jerry Hodgins, Tasnim Hossain, Adam J Howe, Mellita Ilich, Sean Jameson, Emily Jenik, Mandy Jones, Simon Juliff, Petra Kalive, Larry Kamener, Carmen Lai, Isobel Lake, Rebecca Lawrence, Bonnie Leigh-Dodds, Skylar Lin, Virginia Lovett, Bridget Mackey, Jess Maguire, Duncan Maskell, Geoff McGregor, Jennifer Medway, Lyn Molloy, Stephen Moore, Martina Murray, Leigh O'Neill, Susan Oliver, Will Patterson, Colin Penn, Jessica Phillips, Rob Pratt, Michele Preshaw, Brodi Purtill, Ashlee Read, Phillip Rhodes, Meg Richardson, Keryn Ribbands, Jeremy Rice, Tom Roach, Peter Rosa, Vanessa Rowsthorn, Anne-Louise Sarks, Kerry Saxby, Daniel Scaffidi, Michael Schuettke, Hilary Scott, Tania Seary, Rosie Shepherdson-Cullen, Rupert Sherwood, Marie Sierra, Tracey Sisson, Andrew Slee, Julia Smith, Janine Snape, Darren Snowdon, Brenna Sotiropoulos, Harper St Clair, Frank Stoffels, Jane Sutherland, Liz Symons, Allan Tait, Paul Terrell, Nick Tranter, Wendy Trieu, James Tucker, Helena Turinski, John Van Gastel, Christine Verginis, Emma Vincin, Chris Walters, Isabelle Wawrzon, Andrew Weavers, Joy Weng, Mark D Wheeler, Nick Wollan, Sophie Woodward, Paris Zampogna, David Zierk and the hundreds of **Artists, Makers, Technicians, Stage Managers, Box Office and Front of House Staff who all contribute their expertise to the Company.**



MTC DIGITAL THEATRE FROM OUR STAGE TO YOUR SCREEN.

**Save 20% on digital theatre
passes when purchasing
with your subscription.**

New digital productions will be announced throughout the year. Passes are valid for any production available in 2023 and can be redeemed online or gifted to friends or family.


mtc.com.au/digitaltheatre

FORUM NIGHTS



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 a deeper insight into the work, ask questions about the artistic process, hear behind-the-scenes anecdotes and more.

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

2023 FORUM NIGHTS

Sunday	Mon 23 & 30 Jan
Prima Facie	Mon 13 & 20 Feb
Bernhardt/Hamlet	Mon 13 & 20 Mar
Happy Days	Mon 8 & 15 May
Jacky	Mon 29 May & 5 Jun
Is God Is	Mon 26 Jun & 3 Jul
Bloom	Mon 24 Jul
Escaped Alone and What If If Only	Mon 14 & 21 Aug
My Sister Jill	Mon 2 & 9 Oct
Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill	Mon 30 Oct & 6 Nov
A Very Jewish Christmas Carol	Mon 20 & 27 Nov

For more information visit mtc.com.au/forums

BUX TON CON TEMP ORARY

Wednesday–Sunday
11am–5pm

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



**BUXTON
CONTEMP
ORARY**

MINTERELLISON FUTURE DIRECTORS INITIATIVE



Assistant Director Katie Cawthorne with performers Karl Richmond and Joe Klocek.



Performer Gemma Chua-Tran with Assistant Director Roshelle Fong.

The MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative supports Melbourne Theatre Company's commitment to fostering the professional development of Australia's next mainstage directors, and contributes to the sustainability of our arts sector.

Providing paid placements for assistant directors to work alongside senior theatre directors on an MTC production, the Initiative provides an invaluable opportunity for participants to learn about the process of developing productions for large-scale companies, and will encourage fresh new voices and perspectives to the stories we tell in the future.

Each assistant director will gain practical experience, hone skills and develop relationships which will support taking the next steps in their careers.

In 2022 MinterEllison supported Katie Cawthorne (*Touching the Void*), Alonso Pineda (*Admissions*), Miranda Middleton (*Come Rain or Come Shine*) and Roshelle Fong (*Laurinda*).

Major Partner

MinterEllison.

For more information visit
mtc.com.au/futuredirectors

BECOME A SUBSCRIBER

Enjoy multiple shows at Melbourne Theatre Company
and get access to a range of exclusive benefits.



FLEXIBILITY

Change dates or shows when you need to.*
Free for Full Season Subscribers.°



BAR DISCOUNTS

Full Season Subscribers enjoy a 15% discount
at Southbank Theatre Foyer Bars.°



PRIORITY BOOKINGS

Book months before tickets
go on sale to the public.



EXCELLENT 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.

See Ticketing Information on page 44 for details.

*Conditions apply. °Exclusive Full Season Subscriber reward.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Save up to 20% on every ticket with a Subscription.

	7 PLAYS	8 PLAYS	9 PLAYS	FULL SEASON 11 PLAYS
FULL PRICE				
Previews & Wednesday Matinees	\$582	\$663	\$744	\$829
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$666	\$759	\$852	\$950
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$722	\$823	\$924	\$994
Opening Nights*	\$1,065	\$1,215	\$1,365	\$1665
SENIORS & GROUPS				
Previews & Wednesday Matinees	\$547	\$623	\$699	\$774
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$631	\$719	\$807	\$884
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$687	\$783	\$879	\$950
FULL-TIME STUDENTS, PENSIONERS & UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE STAFF				
Previews & Wednesday Matinees	\$477	\$543	\$609	\$686
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$589	\$671	\$753	\$829
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$652	\$743	\$834	\$895
UNDER 30s – 50% OFF FULL PRICED SUBSCRIPTIONS				
Previews & Wednesday Matinees	\$287	\$327	\$367	\$414
Monday to Thursday Evenings	\$329	\$375	\$421	\$469
Friday & Saturday Performances	\$357	\$407	\$457	\$491

Prices above include a ticket premium for the blockbuster production Bloom and will be lower if you do not select this production.

I Wanna Be Yours is not included in full season packages and is available as an add-on prior to the public on-sale on 16 Mar 2023.

*Exclusive to MTC Donors contributing \$1,000+

GROUP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Group Subscriptions are available for a minimum of 10 people booking for at least 7 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 ☆ 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

PERFORMANCE DIARY

SUNDAY

by Anthony Weigh

16 JAN—18 FEB 2023

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16 Jan 7.30pm ☆	17 Jan 7.30pm ☆	18 Jan 7.30pm ☆	19 Jan 7.30pm ☆	20 Jan 7.30pm 🍷	21 Jan 7.30pm
23 Jan 6.30pm 🗨️	24 Jan 6.30pm	25 Jan 2pm & 7.30pm	26 Jan 7.30pm	27 Jan 7.30pm	28 Jan 2pm & 7.30pm
30 Jan 6.30pm 🗨️	31 Jan 6.30pm	1 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm	2 Feb 7.30pm	3 Feb 7.30pm	4 Feb 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
6 Feb 6.30pm	7 Feb 6.30pm AD	8 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm	9 Feb 7.30pm	10 Feb 7.30pm	11 Feb 2pm OC & 7.30pm
13 Feb 6.30pm	14 Feb 6.30pm 🗨️	15 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm	16 Feb 7.30pm	17 Feb 7.30pm	18 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm

PRIMA FACIE

by Suzie Miller

8 FEB—25 MAR 2023

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		8 Feb 7.30pm ☆	9 Feb 7.30pm ☆	10 Feb 7.30pm ☆	11 Feb 2pm ☆ 7.30pm 🍷
13 Feb 6.30pm 🗨️	14 Feb 6.30pm ♥️	15 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm	16 Feb 7.30pm	17 Feb 7.30pm	18 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm
20 Feb 6.30pm 🗨️	21 Feb 6.30pm	22 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm	23 Feb 7.30pm	24 Feb 7.30pm	25 Feb 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
27 Feb 6.30pm	28 Feb 6.30pm AD	1 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm	2 Mar 7.30pm	3 Mar 7.30pm	4 Mar 2pm OC & 7.30pm
6 Mar 6.30pm	7 Mar 6.30pm 🗨️	8 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm	9 Mar 7.30pm	10 Mar 7.30pm	11 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm
13 Mar 6.30pm	14 Mar 6.30pm	15 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm	16 Mar 7.30pm	17 Mar 7.30pm	18 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm
20 Mar 6.30pm	21 Mar 6.30pm	22 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm	23 Mar 7.30pm	24 Mar 7.30pm	25 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm

BERNHARDT/HAMLET

by Theresa Rebeck

4 MAR—15 APR 2023

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					4 Mar 7.30pm ☆
6 Mar 7.30pm ☆	7 Mar 7.30pm ☆	8 Mar 7.30pm ☆	9 Mar 7.30pm 🍷	10 Mar 7.30pm	11 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm
13 Mar 6.30pm 🗨️	14 Mar 6.30pm ♥️	15 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm	16 Mar 7.30pm	17 Mar 7.30pm	18 Mar 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
20 Mar 6.30pm 🗨️	21 Mar 6.30pm AD	22 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm	23 Mar 7.30pm	24 Mar 7.30pm	25 Mar 2pm & 7.30pm
27 Mar 6.30pm	28 Mar 6.30pm	29 Mar 2pm 🎓 & 7.30pm	30 Mar 7.30pm	31 Mar 7.30pm	1 Apr 2pm OC & 7.30pm
3 Apr 6.30pm	4 Apr 6.30pm 🗨️	5 Apr 2pm & 7.30pm	6 Apr 7.30pm	—	8 Apr 2pm & 7.30pm
10 Apr 6.30pm	11 Apr 6.30pm	12 Apr 2pm & 7.30pm	13 Apr 7.30pm	14 Apr 7.30pm	15 Apr 2pm & 7.30pm

HAPPY DAYS

by Samuel Beckett

1 MAY—10 JUN 2023

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER







MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 May 7.30pm ☆	2 May 7.30pm ☆	3 May 7.30pm ☆	4 May 7.30pm ☆	5 May 7.30pm 🍷	6 May 7.30pm
8 May 6.30pm 🗨️	9 May 6.30pm	10 May 2pm & 7.30pm	11 May 7.30pm ♥️	12 May 7.30pm	13 May 2pm & 7.30pm
15 May 6.30pm 🗨️	16 May 6.30pm	17 May 2pm & 7.30pm	18 May 7.30pm	19 May 7.30pm	20 May 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
22 May 6.30pm	23 May 6.30pm AD	24 May 2pm & 7.30pm	25 May 7.30pm	26 May 7.30pm	27 May 2pm OC & 7.30pm
29 May 6.30pm	30 May 6.30pm 🗨️	31 May 2pm & 7.30pm	1 Jun 7.30pm	2 Jun 7.30pm	3 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm
5 Jun 6.30pm	6 Jun 6.30pm	7 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm	8 Jun 7.30pm	9 Jun 7.30pm	10 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm

I WANNA BE YOURS

by Zia Ahmed

11—27 MAY 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER















EDUCATION & FAMILIES Not included in full season packages. Available as an add-on prior to the public on-sale on 16 Mar 2023

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			11 May 10am	12 May 10am & 7pm	13 May 7pm
15 May 7pm VIP	16 May 1.30pm  	17 May 10am & 1.30pm	18 May 1.30pm  & 7pm	19 May 10am AD 	20 May 7pm
22 May 1.30pm 	23 May 10am & 1.30pm	24 May 1.30pm 	25 May 10am & 1.30pm	26 May 10am OC	27 May 7pm

JACKY

by Declan Furber Gillick

22 MAY—24 JUN 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
22 May 7.30pm 	23 May 7.30pm 	24 May 7.30pm 	25 May 7.30pm 	26 May 7.30pm 	27 May 7.30pm 
29 May 6.30pm 	30 May 6.30pm	31 May 2pm & 7.30pm	1 Jun 7.30pm	2 Jun 7.30pm	3 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm
5 Jun 6.30pm 	6 Jun 6.30pm 	7 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm	8 Jun 7.30pm	9 Jun 7.30pm	10 Jun 2pm  AD  & 7.30pm
12 Jun 6.30pm	13 Jun 6.30pm AD 	14 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm	15 Jun 7.30pm	16 Jun 7.30pm	17 Jun 2pm OC  7.30pm
19 Jun 6.30pm	20 Jun 6.30pm 	21 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm	22 Jun 7.30pm	23 Jun 7.30pm	24 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm

IS GOD IS

by Aleshea Harris














19 JUN—15 JUL 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19 Jun 7.30pm 	20 Jun 7.30pm 	21 Jun 7.30pm 	22 Jun 7.30pm 	23 Jun 7.30pm 	24 Jun 7.30pm
26 Jun 6.30pm  	27 Jun 6.30pm	28 Jun 2pm & 7.30pm	29 Jun 7.30pm	30 Jun 7.30pm	1 Jul 2pm & 7.30pm
3 Jul 6.30pm 	4 Jul 6.30pm	5 Jul 2pm & 7.30pm	6 Jul 7.30pm	7 Jul 7.30pm	8 Jul 2pm  AD  & 7.30pm
10 Jul 6.30pm 	11 Jul 6.30pm AD 	12 Jul 2pm & 7.30pm	13 Jul 7.30pm	14 Jul 7.30pm	15 Jul 2pm OC  & 7.30pm

BLOOM

MUSIC BY Katie Weston LYRICS BY Tom Gleisner BOOK BY Tom Gleisner

18 JUL—19 AUG 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, PLAYHOUSE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	18 Jul 7.30pm 	19 Jul 7.30pm 	20 Jul 7.30pm 	21 Jul 7.30pm 	22 Jul 7.30pm 
24 Jul 6.30pm  	25 Jul 6.30pm	26 Jul 2pm & 7.30pm	27 Jul 7.30pm	28 Jul 7.30pm	29 Jul 2pm & 7.30pm
31 Jul 6.30pm	1 Aug 6.30pm	2 Aug 2pm & 7.30pm	3 Aug 7.30pm	4 Aug 7.30pm	5 Aug 2pm  AD  & 7.30pm
7 Aug 6.30pm	8 Aug 6.30pm AD 	9 Aug 2pm & 7.30pm	10 Aug 7.30pm	11 Aug 7.30pm	12 Aug 2pm OC  & 7.30pm
14 Aug 6.30pm	15 Aug 6.30pm 	16 Aug 2pm  & 7.30pm	17 Aug 7.30pm	18 Aug 7.30pm	19 Aug 2pm & 7.30pm

ACCESS SERVICES **AD**  Audio Described  Auslan Interpreted **OC**  Captioned  Relaxed  Tactile Tour

PERFORMANCE CODES  Preview  Opening Night  Donor Night  Forum Night  Education

PERFORMANCE DIARY

ESCAPED ALONE AND WHAT IF IF ONLY

BY Caryl Churchill

7 AUG—9 SEP 2023

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7 Aug 7.30pm ☆	8 Aug 7.30pm ☆	9 Aug 7.30pm ☆	10 Aug 7.30pm ☆	11 Aug 7.30pm 🍷	12 Aug 7.30pm
14 Aug 6.30pm 🗨️	15 Aug 6.30pm ♥️	16 Aug 2pm & 7.30pm	17 Aug 7.30pm	18 Aug 7.30pm	19 Aug 2pm & 7.30pm
21 Aug 6.30pm 🗨️	22 Aug 6.30pm	23 Aug 2pm & 7.30pm	24 Aug 7.30pm	25 Aug 7.30pm	26 Aug 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
28 Aug 6.30pm	29 Aug 6.30pm AD	30 Aug 2pm 🎓 & 7.30pm	31 Aug 7.30pm	1 Sep 7.30pm	2 Sep 2pm OC & 7.30pm
4 Sep 6.30pm	5 Sep 6.30pm 🗨️	6 Sep 2pm & 7.30pm	7 Sep 7.30pm	8 Sep 7.30pm	9 Sep 2pm & 7.30pm

MY SISTER JILL

BY Patricia Cornelius

23 SEP—28 OCT 2023

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					23 Sep 7.30pm ☆
25 Sep 7.30pm ☆	26 Sep 7.30pm ☆	27 Sep 7.30pm ☆	28 Sep 7.30pm 🍷	29 Sep 7.30pm	30 Sep 2pm & 7.30pm
2 Oct 6.30pm ♥️ 🗨️	3 Oct 6.30pm	4 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm	5 Oct 7.30pm	6 Oct 7.30pm	7 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm
09 Oct 6.30pm 🗨️	10 Oct 6.30pm	11 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm	12 Oct 7.30pm	13 Oct 7.30pm	14 Oct 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
16 Oct 6.30pm	17 Oct 6.30pm AD	18 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm	19 Oct 7.30pm	20 Oct 7.30pm	21 Oct 2pm OC & 7.30pm
23 Oct 6.30pm	24 Oct 6.30pm 🗨️	25 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm	26 Oct 7.30pm	27 Oct 7.30pm	28 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm

LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL

BY Lanie Robertson

19 OCT—2 DEC 2023

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			19 Oct 7.30pm ☆	20 Oct 7.30pm ☆	21 Oct 2pm ☆ 7.30pm ☆
23 Oct 7.30pm ☆	24 Oct 7.30pm 🍷	25 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm	26 Oct 7.30pm	27 Oct 7.30pm	28 Oct 2pm & 7.30pm
30 Oct 6.30pm 🗨️	31 Oct 6.30pm ♥️	1 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	2 Nov 7.30pm	3 Nov 7.30pm	4 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm
6 Nov 6.30pm 🗨️	7 Nov 6.30pm	8 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	9 Nov 7.30pm	10 Nov 7.30pm	11 Nov 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
13 Nov 6.30pm	14 Nov 6.30pm AD	15 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	16 Nov 7.30pm	17 Nov 7.30pm	18 Nov 2pm OC & 7.30pm
20 Nov 6.30pm	21 Nov 6.30pm 🗨️	22 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	23 Nov 7.30pm	24 Nov 7.30pm	25 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm
27 Nov 6.30pm	28 Nov 6.30pm	29 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	30 Nov 7.30pm	1 Dec 7.30pm	2 Dec 2pm & 7.30pm

A VERY JEWISH CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY Elise Esther Hearst AND Phillip Kavanagh AFTER Charles Dickens

14 NOV—16 DEC 2023

SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	14 Nov 7.30pm ☆	15 Nov 7.30pm ☆	16 Nov 7.30pm ☆	17 Nov 7.30pm ☆	18 Nov 7.30pm 🍷
20 Nov 6.30pm 🗨️	21 Nov 6.30pm	22 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	23 Nov 7.30pm	24 Nov 7.30pm	25 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm
27 Nov 6.30pm 🗨️	28 Nov 6.30pm ♥️	29 Nov 2pm & 7.30pm	30 Nov 7.30pm	1 Dec 7.30pm	2 Dec 2pm 🚶 AD & 7.30pm
4 Dec 6.30pm	5 Dec 6.30pm AD	6 Dec 2pm & 7.30pm	7 Dec 7.30pm	8 Dec 7.30pm	9 Dec 2pm OC & 7.30pm
11 Dec 6.30pm	12 Dec 6.30pm 🗨️	13 Dec 2pm & 7.30pm	14 Dec 7.30pm	15 Dec 7.30pm	16 Dec 2pm 📺 & 7.30pm

ACCESS SERVICES **AD** Audio Described **AI** Auslan Interpreted **OC** Captioned **R** Relaxed **T** Tactile Tour

PERFORMANCE CODES ☆ Preview 🍷 Opening Night ♥️ Donor Night 🗨️ Forum Night 🎓 Education

KEY DATES

SEASON ANNOUNCED

14 SEP

Priority booking opens for renewing
Full Season Subscribers

Priority booking closes 22 September.

22 SEP

Priority booking opens for
renewing Subscribers

Priority booking closes 21 October.

28 OCT

Bookings open for
new Subscribers

1 DEC

Single tickets on sale

*Sunday, Prima Facie,
Bernhardt/Hamlet, Happy Days*

16 MAR

Single tickets on sale

*I Wanna Be Yours, Jacky,
Is God Is, Escaped Alone
and What If If Only*

30 MAR

Single tickets on sale

Bloom

8 JUN

Single tickets on sale

*My Sister Jill, Lady Day
at Emerson's Bar & Grill,
A Very Jewish Christmas Carol*

PRIORITY BOOKING

Current Full Season Subscribers receive priority processing of their full season renewal until 22 September 2022, ahead of all other Subscribers.

Melbourne Theatre Company Donors giving \$1,000+ also receive priority processing and additional assistance through Donor Ticketing.

**BUY 7+ PLAYS
& SAVE UP TO 20%
ON EVERY TICKET**

Learn more at mtc.com.au/rewards

TICKETING INFORMATION

HEALTH & SAFETY

Melbourne Theatre Company's policies and procedures are regularly reviewed against the latest Victorian Government advice.

For information about COVIDsafe practices at our venues please visit mtc.com.au/yourvisit and artscentremelbourne.com.au/covidsafe

YOUR VISIT

If you are experiencing symptoms or are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 please contact the Southbank Theatre Box Office prior to your performance on 03 8688 0800, or if outside of opening hours, email mtcticketing@mtc.com.au

ACCESSIBILITY

Melbourne Theatre Company is committed to making performances accessible to the widest possible audience.

Please make us aware at the time of booking if you would like to make use of any of the following services. 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 or call Southbank Theatre on 03 8688 0800.

WHEELCHAIR & MOBILITY ACCESS

Wheelchair access and seating that allows more room for the use of mobility aids is 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 team at the time of booking to assist you to choose an accessible seating option that will suit your needs.

AUSLAN INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

Together with Arts Centre Melbourne and Auslan Stage Left we offer Auslan Interpretation for selected performances. Dates are marked in the Performance Diary.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION & TACTILE TOURS

Vision Australia provides audio description for selected performances at Southbank Theatre and Arts Centre Melbourne. MTC also offers tactile tours of the stage prior to certain shows. Dates are marked in the Performance Diary.

OPEN CAPTIONING & ASSISTIVE HEARING

Together with the Captioning Studio we provide live captioning for selected performances. Dates are marked in the Performance Diary.

Personal listening packs, which can be used with some hearing aids or with headphones, are available at Southbank Theatre and Arts Centre Melbourne. Ask our friendly staff for assistance when you arrive.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Assistance animals are welcome at all venues and water bowls can be provided upon request.

RELAXED PERFORMANCES

Relaxed Performances have been scheduled for *Bloom* and *A Very Jewish Christmas Carol*. During these performances, there is a relaxed attitude to noise, doors remain open and dimmed lights remain on. You can leave the auditorium to take a break at any time and a designated quiet area is available. Dates are marked in the Performance Diary.

CONTENT WARNINGS

A content guide outlining the acts, language and behaviour that may impact some audience members can be found on each play page at mtc.com.au

Please visit our website or call the Box Office on 03 8688 0800 for the most up-to-date warning information about your performance.

TICKET EXCHANGES

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

For full exchange terms and conditions, including exchange fees, please visit mtc.com.au/exchanges

HOW TO EXCHANGE

Exchanges can be made online, in person at the Southbank Theatre Box Office, or by mail to 140 Southbank Blvd, Southbank VIC 3006, and are available from Thu 1 Dec 2022, subject to availability.

Please note: Exchanges are not available at Arts Centre Melbourne Box Office.

CHANGING DATES

Exchanges must be finalised at least 24 hours prior to the performance you are changing out of.

CHANGING PRODUCTIONS

Exchanges into another Mainstage production within Season 2023 must be finalised at least one week before the first Preview of the production originally booked. Alternate production must not already be booked within subscription package.

EXCHANGES FOR DONORS (\$1,000+)

Donor exchanges can be arranged through Donor Ticketing via email on donorticketing@mtc.com.au or by phone on 03 8688 0953.

REFUNDS

We follow the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice (see 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.

EXCHANGE FEES

Full Season Subscribers can exchange tickets free of charge. All other subscribers and additional ticket holders can exchange tickets for \$5 per ticket.

ADDITIONAL TICKETS

Subscribers can buy discounted additional tickets for family and friends to any Season 2023 play. These special prices are only guaranteed at the time of purchasing your subscription.

HEAD BOOKERS

If you submit an online booking on behalf of your group, 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.

OPENING NIGHT PACKAGES

Exclusive to MTC Donors contributing \$1,000+, a limited number of 2023 Opening Night subscription packages are available. Opening Night subscription tickets can be exchanged, however any price difference is non-refundable. Additional tickets and concession prices are not available on Opening Nights.

CONCESSIONS

Concession must be valid at the time of booking and be provided with your order each season. Refunds are not payable if you become eligible for a concession after booking. Pensioners and Seniors must provide their card number, full-time students must provide documentation of current full-time enrolment, University of Melbourne staff must provide a copy of their staff ID card and under 30s must provide documentation indicating proof of age and a contact email address. Email documentation to mtcticketing@mtc.com.au

PAYING BY INSTALMENTS

Subscribers paying by credit card can divide their total payment into four easy instalments. The first is payable when you subscribe, with the remaining instalments due on 5 January, 5 April and 5 June 2023. 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. Instalments are not available if you select PayPal when booking online.

For full terms and conditions including information about babies at performances, lost tickets and school bookings, please visit mtc.com.au/info

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We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of our leading Donors.

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GET MORE INVOLVED

Beyond the stage, Melbourne Theatre Company has a range of initiatives that support artist development, champion new writing, invest in future audiences and address underrepresentation across the industry.

We have exciting plans underway, with more to be announced in 2023.

To learn more or get involved visit mtc.com.au/keyinitiatives

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 are correct at the time of publication. Melbourne Theatre Company reserves the right to add, withdraw and substitute artists and vary the program should the need arise.

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