

A photograph of three young people on a stage. In the foreground, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue hoodie, stands on a stack of grey boxes, smiling and holding a blue flag. Behind her, a young woman in a grey jacket stands on a higher stack of boxes, also smiling and holding a red flag. To the right, a young man in a white t-shirt and dark pants stands on a stack of boxes, smiling and holding a red flag. The background is dark with several other colorful flags (red, yellow, purple) hanging from poles. The lighting is dramatic, with blue and red hues.

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

EDUCATION 2022

IMPACT REPORT

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.

We accept the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution.

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First Peoples Young Artists Program, 2022



PHOTO CREDITS

Cover image: Tsungirai Wachenuka, Sarah Fitzgerald and Conor Leach in *SLAP. BANG. KISS*.
Photography by Tiffany Garvie, Jacinta Keefe, Justin Rider, Joshua Vickery-Stewart and Brett Walker

A heartfelt thank you to our Donors

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

The *Laurinda* cast with a group from
South East Community Links



In 2022, after two years of disruption, we were thrilled to welcome back students and young people to our theatres and rehearsal rooms, deliver in-person performances and workshops to communities throughout Victoria, and continue our award-winning digital education programs.

Your generous support of our work enabled us to find innovative ways to support Victorian students and teachers, particularly through ongoing pandemic restrictions which impacted schools' ability to attend the theatre in early 2022.

In April, we celebrated the long-awaited world premiere of *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* by Dan Giovannoni at Southbank Theatre, followed by a tour of regional Victoria, bringing theatre designed specifically for secondary school audiences to geographically remote students.

In addition to in-person activities, we continued to expand our free online resources for students and teachers, including VR tours of set designs for *The Heartbreak Choir* and *Laurinda*, and a self-guided course on our 2021 production of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. These award-winning resources enhance the theatre experience for young people and speak both to curriculum and to future careers in the performing arts.

As a result, Melbourne Theatre Company is making a difference to the lives of thousands of young Victorians, including many in our most disadvantaged communities.

It is only thanks to the generosity of our Donors that we can continue to deliver affordable and meaningful access to theatre for young people across Victoria, and for that, we are extremely grateful.

**'To the cast
of *SLAP. BANG.
KISS.* ... thank
you guys
for making
my day.'**

STUDENT, MILDURA
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Education reach



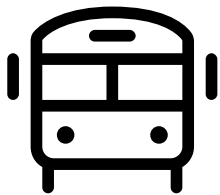
4,590+

subsidised school tickets



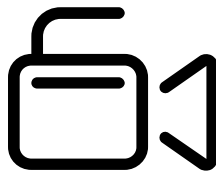
339

schools attended
live theatre in Melbourne



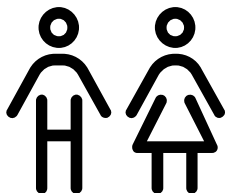
1,370km

travelled on the
SLAP. BANG. KISS. regional tour



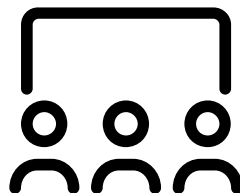
229

sales of *SLAP. BANG. KISS.*
MTC Digital Theatre



1,560+

participants in workshops and
engagement programs



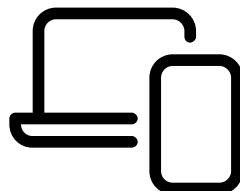
340+

participants in
live online events



32

careers week and
work experience students



40k+

unique visits to our
digital education resources

DRAMA VICTORIA AWARDS



**AWARD FOR RECONCILIATION
IN DRAMA EDUCATION**
First Peoples Young Artists
Program



**BEST PERFORMANCE BY
A THEATRE COMPANY**
for VCE Drama:
SLAP. BANG. KISS.



**EXCELLENCE IN THE DIGITAL/
ONLINE DELIVERY OF DRAMA**
SLAP. BANG. KISS. livestream
and digital resources

Education production



SLAP. BANG. KISS.

By Dan Giovannoni Directed by Katy Maudlin
Cast Sarah Fitzgerald, Conor Leach and Tsungirai Wachenuka

Originally programmed for 2020, *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* had its long-awaited world premiere in April 2022. The show had a new relevance in the pandemic context, and its themes of activism and advocacy resonated with student audiences. Select performances were followed by a Q&A session that elicited powerful conversations about race and representation.

REGIONAL TOUR

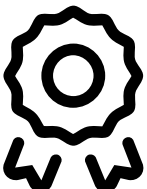
Following its sell-out season at Southbank Theatre, *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* toured to outer-metropolitan and regional Victoria with performances at Bunjil Place Narre Warren, The Potato Shed Drysdale and Mildura Arts Centre. Tour audiences responded with particular enthusiasm to the storyline set in a country town.

'I really appreciate the fact that you took your time to come down from Melbourne to perform to everyone in our regional community. Every single part of the story was incredibly powerful.'

Student, The Potato Shed Drysdale

'As a kid from a conservative rural town, the relatability of *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* was uncanny and really moving.'

STUDENT, MILDURA ARTS CENTRE



**BEST PERFORMANCE BY
A THEATRE COMPANY for VCE
Drama, Drama Victoria Awards**

Commissioned through Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, supported by the Donors, Foundations and organisations of the Playwrights Giving Circle.

Regional tour supported by Linda Herd, The Bonnici Family and the Education Giving Circle.

Education production

Backstage during the livestream performance



SLAP. BANG. KISS.

LIVESTREAM PERFORMANCE & MTC DIGITAL THEATRE

We presented the first ever livestream of a performance from Southbank Theatre, enabling young people isolated by distance, medical or social factors to access live theatre. The performance was followed by a Q&A with the actors, with the livestream audience able to ask questions remotely through an online chat portal.

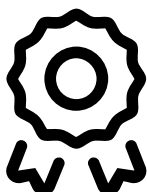
The livestream performance was also recorded and distributed through MTC Digital Theatre for schools to purchase and watch on demand.

In addition to students watching the recording to revise for exams, *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* is now reaching new audiences at schools across Australia.

**‘Having a
livestreamed
professional
production
is such an
invaluable
asset.’**

TEACHER, WARRNAMBOOL

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government Department of Education through the Strategic Partnerships Program.



**EXCELLENCE IN THE DIGITAL/ONLINE
DELIVERY OF DRAMA *SLAP. BANG. KISS.*
livestream and digital resources**



Supported by



Enhancing the theatre experience

Laurinda Q&A



EDUCATION PERFORMANCES

Students gain unique insights into professional theatre through pre-show talks and post-show Q&As at designated education performances. Cast members from *Fun Home*, *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* and *Laurinda* generously returned to the stage after the curtain call to answer students' questions about key moments in the play, actors' preparation and performance techniques, and career pathways.

REVISION WEBINARS

Students and teachers revisit productions in live, interactive webinars. Director Dean Bryant, performers Euan Fistrovic Doidge and Lucy Maunder, and Associate Designer Isabel Hudson talked through *Fun Home* for VCE Theatre Studies students; Director Katy Maudlin, performers Conor Leach and Tsungirai Wachenuka, and Lighting Designer Amelia Lever-Davidson revisited *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* for VCE Drama.

'Great for revision and getting into the specifics. It's also a wonderful way to revisit the show and connect the students' learning to real-world applications.'

Teacher, Bellarine Secondary College

'One of the rare moments where I have truly seen myself on stage.'

Laurinda AUDIENCE MEMBER,
NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL

EDUCATION PACKS

Rich with background information, interviews and behind-the-scenes photos, two-part education packs enable teachers and students to make connections between our productions and the VCE curriculum. Part A prepares students for watching the play; Part B supports post-show reflection and assessment tasks. Education packs are made available to schools for free, and over 900 packs were downloaded in 2022.

'They give me the opportunity to extend with students, embedding concepts and linking to what we are learning.'

Teacher, Horsham College

Careers week

Careers week program, 2022



Victorian high school students in Years 10–11 experience the inner workings of Melbourne Theatre Company in a week-long online program directed by Katie Cawthorne (*Touching the Void* Assistant Director) and Bernard Sam (*Hungry Ghosts* cast).

Students participated in mini-art projects and seminars with guest artists including cast and creatives from *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* and staff from Casting, Costume, Lighting, Marketing, New Work, Philanthropy and Production departments.

'I know I want to go into the theatre industry but didn't really know in what aspects. Careers week provided a lot of clarity on all the ways I could get involved, as well as different paths I could take.'

Participant

'I learnt about acting but also about different jobs relating to theatre. I had always wanted to compose music but I never realised how passionate I was about it until our Sound Design and Composing workshop.'

Participant

'It was a wonderful insight into all the various production roles at Melbourne Theatre Company.'

PARTICIPANT

Supported by the Education Giving Circle

Engagement programs

First Peoples Young Artists Program, 2022



FIRST PEOPLES YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

A one-of-a-kind creative learning and arts engagement initiative for young First Nations people aged 16–22.

Supported by teaching artists, the program featured three intensive workshop weeks that covered key aspects of making theatre.

The participants also met with industry professionals and saw a range of productions to inform the creation of their own original work.

'To come into a space where I was actually able to see myself and actually make something was really special to me. I've never had that opportunity before.'

Participant

'I learned a lot about who I am as a performer and as a First Nations artist. To be with other First Nations artists has been amazing.'

Participant

**'Through
[participating
in] the program
I realised I want
to direct and
write.'**

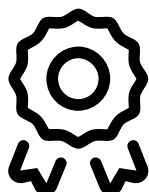
PARTICIPANT, FIRST PEOPLES
YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

Supported by the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation and partnered by the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at VCA and YIRRAMBOI



YIRRAMBOI

WILIN.



**AWARD FOR RECONCILIATION
IN DRAMA EDUCATION**
Drama Victoria Awards

Engagement programs

GERALDINE LAZARUS REGIONAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

A suite of on-demand workshops available exclusively to schools in regional Victoria in support of the *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* tour and covering topics including acting, directing, production, Shakespearean comedy and exploring *Macbeth*.

'We loved having Melbourne Theatre Company back on-site at our school. We were so thrilled to see our Year 10 English students in the *Macbeth* workshop. This program is a game changer for our students.'

Teacher, Bayview College

Supported by

The Gailey Lazarus Foundation

Youth Ambassadors outside Southbank Theatre



YOUTH AMBASSADORS

In this year-long program, a select group of Year 11 students from across Victoria develop their theatre skills through attending productions and in-person seminars with artists and staff. Our Education team supports the Youth Ambassadors to share their new knowledge and passion for performing arts in their community.

'Through watching these spectacular performances, it has allowed me to grow as a person, learn new skills and open my mind to more possibilities in stories and theatre.'

Youth Ambassador 2022

Supported by the Youth Ambassador Giving Circle donors

'The program helped me to connect and explore the theatre world.'

YOUTH AMBASSADOR 2022

Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship Course



Students onstage in the Betty Amsden Youth Scholarship Course

Targeted for young people aged 14–16 years with limited access to the arts, the course enables participants to develop their creative skills and work collaboratively with like-minded peers.

Nominated by teachers, this year's cohort included participants from regional schools and socio-economic disadvantaged communities, and young people living with disability. Our popular teaching artists Katrina Cornwell and Morgan Rose returned to direct the course for the third time.

'The student wrote in the school newsletter that it was life-changing, elating, connecting and defining. For a student at risk, that was a powerful intervention.'

Nominating Teacher

'People like me don't usually get to have experiences like this.'

PARTICIPANT

Supported by the Betty Amsden Foundation 2017–2022 and Accommodation Partner Quest

BETTY
AMSDEN
FOUNDATION

QUEST
SOUTH BANK

Digital education

Still of timelapse video of the *Berlin* bump-in



Our Education team continued to expand its extensive range of digital resources, designed to enhance students' engagement with dramatic texts, production elements and performance.

Through interactive resources and behind-the-scenes videos, students could deep dive into industry roles to gain insight into how Melbourne Theatre Company's productions are brought to life on stage.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES VIDEOS

Students and teachers had access to our library of high-quality videos, featuring interviews and footage of Melbourne Theatre Company artists at work. Three new videos explore our production of *As You Like It: Creating Costumes, Playing the Part* and *Shakespearean Comedy*.

'The videos are such quality and it's great to see what happens behind the scenes.'

TEACHER, DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL

Digital education

As You Like It virtual tour



VIRTUAL SET TOURS

Virtual tours provide opportunities to move around our production settings on stage, via a computer, mobile device or VR headset. Students can explore Alicia Clements's picturesque design for Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, Eugyeene Teh's dynamic set for *Laurinda*, Christina Smith's hyper-realistic community hall for *The Heartbreak Choir*, Elizabeth Gadsby's meta-theatrical theatre for *Cyrano* and Kate Davis's modular design for *SLAP. BANG. KISS*.

INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

Students can expand their theatre vocabulary and discover hidden terms with our interactive resources. Melbourne Theatre Company offers online drama modules that address the Victorian Curriculum Arts Years 9–10 content and general capabilities.

'The interactive set tours are amazing!'

TEACHER, MARYBOROUGH
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Supported by



Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the support of the Department of Education Training, Victoria, through the Strategic Partnerships Program and the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series



Education Giving Circle 2022



Students attending *Laurinda*

LEADING EDUCATION DONORS

Joanna Baevski
Paul & Wendy Bonnici & Family
Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM
Tom & Elana Cordiner

Linda Herd
Anne & Mark Robertson OAM
Andrew Sisson AO & Tracey Sisson
Rob Stewart & Lisa Dowd

EDUCATION GIVING CIRCLE DONORS

Anita & Graham Anderson
Judy Bourke
Deborah Conyngham
Ann Darby
Mark & Jennifer Hayes
Diana Heggie
Sam & Jacky Hupert
Larry Kornhauser & Natalya Gill
Professor Duncan Maskell

Barbara & David Mushin
Veronica & John Rickard
Ken Roche
Roslyn & Richard Rogers Family
Christopher Swan
Richard & Debra Tegoni
Walter & Gertie Wagner
Ann & Alan Wilkinson
Anonymous

**Thank you to all of our 2022 Education Giving Circle Donors.
Together we can continue to transform young lives through theatre.**

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