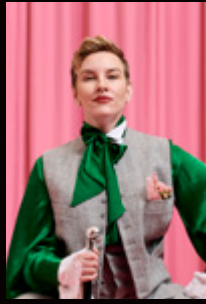
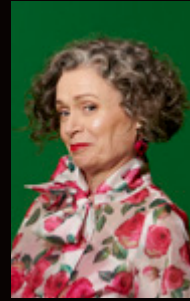


MILB



MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY

THIA



CMP

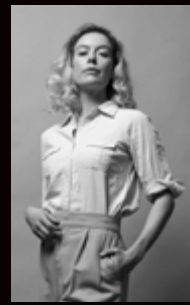


MILB



SEASON 2023
ANNUAL REPORT

THIA



CMP



Melbourne Theatre Company HQ
252 Sturt St
Southbank VIC 3006

Southbank Theatre
140 Southbank Blvd
Southbank VIC 3006

mtc.com.au

Contents

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung 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 Nations people, their Elders past and present, and their enduring connections to Country, knowledge and stories.

As a Company we remain committed to the invitation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for voice, truth and treaty.

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



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

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

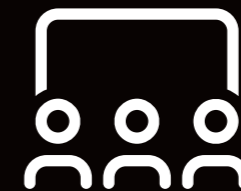
**The ones less told
The ones told before
The ones yet to be told**

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



\$16m+

total box office income



186k+

total paid attendance



520

performances



\$26.94m

total revenue



6k+

paid attendance at performances outside of Melbourne



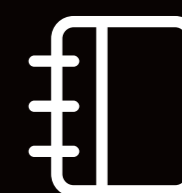
485

actors, creatives and industry professionals employed



13k+

ticket buyers were new to Melbourne Theatre Company



5

works commissioned

Chair's report

JANE HANSEN AO



It is a bittersweet feeling as I reflect on my final year as Chair of Melbourne Theatre Company while ushering in the next chapter of this leading arts organisation under new board and executive leadership. I leave the Company with full confidence in very capable hands, with the bold new artistic vision championed by Anne-Louise Sarks in tandem with Co-CEO Sally Noonan, and the elevation of Martina Murray to Deputy CEO and Executive Producer.

I joined the Management Board at the same time as establishing and chairing the Foundation Board in 2015, before moving to Chair the Board of Management in 2020. Over my nine-year tenure it has been an honour and a delight to be involved in the rich history of this long standing institution, to witness the extraordinary talent both on and offstage and to oversee the ongoing success of landmark programs such as Women in Theatre, the award-winning Education & Families Program, the NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, and the First Peoples Young Artists Program, a one-of-a-kind opportunity for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people interested in pursuing a career in performing arts. I am also very proud of the establishment of the General Endowment Fund, the interest earnings of which will soon be available to provide valuable annual funding for some of the Company's programs. This strong financial footing, along with the steadfast support of the University of Melbourne, Donors, Subscribers, Corporate Partners and loyal audiences leaves the Company well placed to lead the world-class theatre scene in our vibrant city. To those who support Melbourne Theatre Company, whether large or small, your generosity is the lifeblood of this organisation and we are all deeply grateful for your continued commitment to our endeavours.

Thank you to my fellow Board members across the entirety of my tenure for their crucial contribution to this Company and their passion and dedication to the arts industry. A special thank you to Tony Burgess, who also stepped down from the Board at the end of 2023 and played a major role in chairing our Finance Committee over many years.

In the interim period before the appointment of our new Chair, Martin Hosking, in July 2024, Patricia Faulkner has graciously stepped into the role. Her wealth of experience has served the Company well during this transitional period.

Finally, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to our executive team and the wider Melbourne Theatre Company staff for your commitment and unwavering dedication over many years, particularly during some difficult times in the not too distant past. You should each feel proud of your individual contribution to our successes.

While my time on the Board has now concluded, I will continue to support the Company as it holds a very special place in my heart. Theatre for me is the most genuine, most immediate and compelling art form, and I look forward to seeing excellence on stage as our team continues to create works that inspire, captivate and stimulate audiences for years to come.

Thank you.

Jane



Executive Director & Co-CEO's report

SALLY NOONAN



When I stepped into the role of Executive Director & Co-CEO in April, I was inspired by the bold new vision of Artistic Director & Co-CEO Anne-Louise Sarkis. After years in executive and board roles in the performing arts industry in Australia and the UK, the opportunity to be a part of Melbourne Theatre Company with its enduring imprint on the cultural fabric of the city after 70 years of existence (and counting!) felt like an important one. Since then, I have spent time listening and learning more about this much-loved institution and thinking about how we can go further with the Company's next 70 years, supported by the great community around us.

We're leading the charge to cement ourselves as a cornerstone of live theatre in not only Victoria, but Australia too. I'm pleased to report those efforts are paying off with tangible results. In 2023, we've seen an increase in key audience metrics including the highest number of single ticket buyers on record, and the greatest proportion of new audiences that we've ever experienced (38.8%).

Our overall 2023 financial results were also pleasing in what continues to be a highly challenging commercial environment. Ticket sales revenue increased 25% compared with 2022, reflecting ongoing sector recovery after the performance cancellations and theatre closures of the pandemic-affected years. This provides vital reserves as we continue to incur underlying operating losses albeit not to the same extent as those endured over recent years.

Central to our success has been collaborating with our industry partners to ensure theatre goes across the country get to experience the best in local theatre. Our commissioned work *Sunday*, after an extended run on our stage thanks to overwhelming demand, heads to Sydney Theatre Company in 2024. The smash-hit *Prima Facie* had a sold-out run here in Melbourne after first premiering at Griffin Theatre in 2019, inspiring similarly successful runs on the West End and Broadway. *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill* saw us partner with State Theatre Company South Australia and Belvoir to present the final stop of the acclaimed production's three-city tour.

These strong partnerships ensured that productions resonated with audiences beyond Melbourne, enriching the cultural landscape across the country. Through strategic alliances and innovative programming, we strive to make Australian theatre accessible to all, regardless of location. As we navigate the evolving – sometimes challenging – landscape of contemporary theatre, collaboration remains essential in delivering captivating and thought-provoking experiences to audiences nationwide.

As she steps down, we thank outgoing Chair, Jane Hansen, for her exemplary leadership. Jane has worked tirelessly with, and for, the Company to share her belief in the power of theatre. Not only did Jane and her husband Paul contribute the single largest gift in the Company's history to establish the General Endowment Fund, but she departed the Company at the conclusion of 2023 with another generous gift. This \$500,000 donation to the Fund will be matched up to an additional \$500,000 raised from the Company's Donors, creating a total of \$1.5 million. Her legacy will endure for years to come.

As well, to the artists, creatives, our staff, Corporate Partners, our Donors and Subscribers, you've supported us every step of the way. Your unwavering commitment to Melbourne Theatre Company ensures we can continue the long running legacy of Australia's oldest professional theatre company in leading the cultural conversation with the stories we share.

Artistic Director & Co-CEO's report

ANNE-LOUISE SARKIS



What a year it's been. Season 2023 was my first as Artistic Director & Co-CEO, and the beginning of a new chapter for the Company. When I stepped into this role, I envisaged leading a company that would not only entertain audiences but challenge, provoke and inspire them too. In 2023, that became a reality thanks to the dedication and talent of everyone involved and the way our audiences embraced a new direction.

There have been so many highlights: we appointed 12 Artistic Associates to make sure artists are at the heart of what we do; introduced Blaktix, offering affordable tickets for First Nations people across the season, and made sure our productions were tailored to the needs of our audiences through Auslan interpretation and Relaxed Performances.

The season was a remarkable testament to the power of theatre to captivate and engage audiences. We kicked off the year with an extraordinary production of *Sunday*, written by Anthony Weigh and directed by Sarah Goodes. The first show of the year broke the record for the highest selling day of a new Australian work post opening. Then in July, *Bloom*, by Tom Gleisner and Katie Weston and directed by Dean Bryant, took the stage and once again, our audiences responded with overwhelming support, breaking that record again. These records weren't for classic plays or musicals with Hollywood stars, but for two new works created right here and supported by our commitment to investing in the future of the industry through our NEXT STAGE Writers' Program. The bold and ambitious play development initiative rivals those at some of the world's best institutions, and we're proud to nurture that journey: from the very first words of a script to the thrill of Opening Night and beyond.

The success of these new Australian works speaks volumes about the appetite of our community for productions tackling big topics that help us navigate the complexities of the world around us. Just look at the sold-out season of *Prima Facie*, by Susie Miller and directed by Lee Lewis, exposing the systemic issues in the legal system when it comes to sexual assault, and *Bloom*, full of humour while also shining a spotlight on the

failure of Australia's aged care system. We also saw the growth of new audiences across the whole season. Almost half of all *Is God Is* audience members were new to us, and it was the highest percentage of under 30s tickets we've ever experienced.

My first artistic season affirmed how special it is to be a part of a cultural institution committed to the craft of theatre making, and united by a shared belief in its transformative power. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have steered this season alongside my Co-CEO and the Company's Executive Director, Sally Noonan, as well as Executive Producer and Deputy CEO Martina Murray. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the artists, makers, technicians and staff at Melbourne Theatre Company who work tirelessly to bring our productions to the stage. It's your creativity, passion and expertise that make it the vibrant creative hub it is today.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to outgoing Chair, Jane Hansen, for her exceptional leadership and unwavering support. Thank you for nine years of service to the company, including your leadership in the most difficult period in the Company's history during COVID. Your dedication has been instrumental in guiding the Company into a new era. Thank you for your belief in theatre and your belief in me.

As we look ahead to Season 2024 and beyond, I'm confident that together, we will continue to push culture forward, celebrate the best new Australian writing and tell stories that inspire and unite us.



16 JAN—21 FEB 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

SUNDAY

BY **ANTHONY WEIGH**
DIRECTED BY **SARAH GOODES**



'A world-class performance.
In fact, it's a world-class production.'

THE GUARDIAN



'Its dreamlike, episodic approach effortlessly
takes us backwards and forwards in time.'

LIMELIGHT

Cast

John Matt Day
Joy Ratidzo Mambo
Nolan Josh McConville
Sunday Nikki Shiels
Sweeney Joshua Tighe

Creative and production team

Director Sarah Goodes
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 Coach Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Intimacy Coordinator Amy Cater
Fight Choreographer Lyndall Grant
Standby Covers Jessica Clarke,
Daniel Frederiksen, Tom Stokes
Set Design Assistance Kris Bird,
Harry Gill, Jessamine Moffett

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 20 Jan
Forum Nights Mon 23 Jan, Mon 30 Jan
Donor Night Mon 30 Jan
Audio Described Sat 4 Feb, Tue 7 Feb
Tactile Tour Sat 4 Feb
Open Captioning Sat 11 Feb
Auslan Interpreted Tue 14 Feb

Nominations and awards

Nominated: Green Room Award
for Outstanding Lighting Design,
Paul Jackson
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Composition & Sound
Design, Jethro Woodward

The season in numbers

Performances 40
Paid Attendance 19,632

Sunday was commissioned by Melbourne Theatre Company with the support of the Joan and Peter Clemenger Trust. Supported by our *Sunday* Production Patrons; Andrew Sisson AM and Tracey Sisson, Joanna Baeovski, Glenda and Greg Lewin AM, Kerry Gardner AM and Andrew Myer AM, Virginia Lovett and Rose Hiscock, Orcadia Foundation, Anonymous (1).

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





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

PRIMA FACIE

BY **SUZIE MILLER**
DIRECTED BY **LEE LEWIS**



'Extraordinary and visceral, *Prima Facie*
is a play that must not be missed.'

THE AGE

'Sheridan Harbridge is a force of nature
in 90 minutes of compelling theatre.'

THE BLURB/3AW

Cast

Tessa Sheridan Harbridge

Creative and production team

Director Lee Lewis

Set & Costume Designer Renée Mulder

Lighting Designer Trent Suidgeest

Composer & Sound Designer
Paul Charlier

Standby Cover Luisa Hastings Edge

Key dates

Opening Night Sat 11 Feb

Forum Nights Mon 13 Feb, Mon 20 Feb

Donor Night Tue 14 Feb

Audio Described Sat 25 Feb, Tue 28 Feb

Tactile Tour Sat 25 Feb

Open Captioning Sat 4 Mar

Auslan Interpreted Tue 7 Mar

Nominations and awards

Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding New Australian Writing,
Suzie Miller

Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Performer, Sheridan
Harbridge

Nominated: Green Room Award for
Direction, Lee Lewis

The season in numbers

Performances 53

Paid Attendance 18,578

Highlights

91% propensity to recommend

7.5% youth ticket buyers

A Griffin Theatre
Company Production

GRIFFIN
THEATRE
COMPANY

Major Marketing Partner

The Saturday
Paper

4 MAR—15 APR 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

BERNHARDT/ HAMLET

BY **THERESA REBECK**
DIRECTED BY **ANNE-LOUISE SARKS**



'A work of sheer theatrical beauty.'

ARTSHUB



'A funny, fierce, and intellectually stimulating comedy-drama.'

THE AGE



Cast

Constant Coquelin Marco Chiappi
Lysette Tahlee Fereday
Louis John Leary
Maurice William McKenna
Sarah Bernhardt Kate Mulvany
Francois / Worker Dushan Philips
Raoul Sahil Saluja
Alphonse Mucha Tim Walter
Edmond Rostand Charles Wu
Rosamond Izabella Yena

Creative and production team

Director Anne-Louise Sarks
Set & Costume Designer Marg Horwell
Lighting Designer
Amelia Lever-Davidson
Composer & Sound Designer
Joe Paradise Lui
Movement & Fight Director
Nigel Poulton
Voice & Text Coach
Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Voice & Text Coach Amy Hume
Associate Set Designer Jacob Battista
Costume Associate Sophie Woodward
Assistant Director Tasnim Hossain
Intimacy Coordinator Amy Cater
Assistant to the Fight Director
Tom Royce-Hampton

Key dates

Media Night Wed 8 Mar
Opening Night Thu 9 Mar
Forum Nights Mon 13 Mar, Mon 20 Mar
Donor Night Tue 14 Mar
Education Performance Wed 29 Mar
Audio Described Sat 18 Mar, Tue 21 Mar
Tactile Tour Sat 18 Mar
Open Captioning Sat 1 Apr
Auslan Interpreted Tue 4 Apr

Nominations and awards

Winner: Green Room Award for Outstanding Costume Design, Marg Horwell
Nominated: Green Room Award for Outstanding Performer, Kate Mulvany OAM

The season in numbers

Performances 47
Paid Attendance 14,983

Media Partner





1 MAY—10 JUN 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

HAPPY DAYS

BY **SAMUEL BECKETT**

DIRECTED BY **PETRA KALIVE**



'Judith Lucy's performance is one of
telling vulnerability and style.'

ARTSHUB



'Wonderfully disturbing.'

THE GUARDIAN

Cast

Winnie Judith Lucy
Willie Hayden Spencer

Creative and production team

Director Petra Kalive
Set & Costume Designer Eugyeene Teh
Lighting Designer Paul Lim
Composer & Sound Designer
J. David Franzke
Movement Consultant Xanthe Beesley
Voice & Text Coach Amy Hume
Assistant Director Keegan Bragg
Standby Cover Ben Grant

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 5 May
Forum Nights Mon 8 May, Mon 15 May
Donor Night Thu 11 May
Audio Described Sat 20 May, Tue 23 May
Tactile Tour Sat 20 May
Open Captioning Sat 27 May
Auslan Interpreted Tue 30 May

The season in numbers

Performances 46
Paid Attendance 16,163

11—27 MAY 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER

I WANNA BE YOURS

BY **ZIA AHMED**
DIRECTED BY **TASNIM HOSSAIN**

'A sweet, heartrending depiction
of young interracial love.'
THE AGE

'It's a great joy to watch a play like this,
full of fresh, young talent.'
THEATRE MATTERS

Cast

Ella Eleanor Barkla
Haseeb Oz Malik

Creative and production team

Director Tasnim Hossain
Set & Costume Designer Kat Chan
Lighting Designer Rachel Lee
Composer & Sound Designer
Mufeez Al Haq
Voice & Dialect Coach
Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Dialect Coach (UK) Gurkiran Kaur
Movement Consultant Jonathan Homsey
Intimacy Coordinator Isabella Vadiveloo

Key dates

VIP Night Mon 15 May
Education Performances
Tue 16 May, Thu 18 May, Mon 22 May
Livestream Wed 24 May
Tactile Tour Fri 19 May
Open Captioning Tue 23 May
Auslan Interpreted Mon 22 May

The season in numbers

Performances 20
Paid attendance 2,401
Paid live stream attendance 113



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

JACKY

BY **DECLAN FURBER GILLICK**

DIRECTED BY **MARK WILSON**



★★★★★
'Enormously entertaining,
hilarious and heartbreaking.'
ARTSHUB

★★★★★
'This is an excellent new work that all
involved can be very proud of.'
THEATRE MATTERS

Cast

Keith Ngali Shaw
Jacky Guy Simon
Glenn Greg Stone
Linda Alison Whyte,
Sarah Sutherland (22—23 May)

Creative and production team

Director Mark Wilson
Set Designer Christina Smith
Costume Designer Emily Barrie
Lighting Designer Matt Scott
Composer & Sound Designer
James Henry
Intimacy Coordinator Amy Cater
Voice & Text Coach Matt Furlani
Assistant Director Joel Bray
Dramaturgs Jennifer Medway,
Mark Wilson

Key dates

First Nations Community Night
Thu 25 May
Opening Night Sat 27 May
Forum Nights Mon 29 May, Mon 5 Jun
Donor Night Thu 6 Jun
Audio Described Sat 10 Jun, Tue 13 Jun
Tactile Tour Sat 10 Jun
Open Captioning Sat 17 Jun
Auslan Interpreted Tue 20 Jun

Nominations and awards

Winner: Green Room Award for
Outstanding New Australian Writing,
Declan Furber Gillick
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Performer, Ngali Shaw
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Production
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Ensemble
Shortlisted: Victorian Premier's
Literary Award 2024 for Drama

The season in numbers

Performances 38
Paid Attendance 9,230

Highlights

85% propensity to recommend

Media Partner



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

NEXTSTAGE

Production supported
by Craig Semple and
the Trawalla Foundation.

19 JUN—15 JUL 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

IS GOD IS

BY **ALESHEA HARRIS**
CO-DIRECTED BY **ZINDZI OKENYO & SHARI SEBBENS**

★★★★★
'Exhilarating, devastatingly funny
and a rollicking good time.'
THE AGE

★★★★★
'A breath of fresh air in
Australian theatre.'
LIMELIGHT

Cast

Anaia Henrietta Enyonam Amevor
Angie Clare Chihambakwe
Man Kevin Copeland
Racine Masego Pitso
She Cessalee Stovall
Scotch Darius Williams
Chuck Hall Patrick Williams
Riley Grant Young

Creative and production team

Co-Directors Zindzi Okenyo,
Shari Sebbens
Set & Costume Designer
Renée Mulder
Lighting Designer Jenny Hector
Composer & Sound Designer
Joe Paradise Lui
Intimacy Coordinator Amy Cater
Fight Choreographer Lyndall Grant
Assistant Director Kuda Mapeza
Community Engagement Lead
Effie Nkrumah
Community Engagement Team
Members Noah Da Costa, Lydia Tesema
Voice Coach Lisa Dallinger
Accent Coaches Amani Dorn,
Rachel Finley

Melbourne Theatre Company wishes
to thank the following for their
contribution to the program of
Community Engagement activities:
Anyaa Abiel, Titan Debirioun, Jeanette
Nkrumah, Zii Nzira, Amarachi Okorom,
Daniel Olasoji, Nana Owusu, Ema
Quartamont, Fabian Quartamont

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 23 Jun
Forum Nights Mon 26 Jun, Mon 3 Jul
Donor Night Mon 26 Jun
Post Show Panel Mon 10 Jul
Audio Described Sat 8 Jul, Tue 11 Jul
Tactile Tour Sat 8 Jul
Open Captioning Sat 15 Jul
Auslan Interpreted Mon 10 Jul
Closing Night Community Event
Sat 15 Jul

Interstate season

15 Sep—21 Oct 2023
Sydney Theatre Company,
Wharf 1 Theatre

Nominations and awards

Winner: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Composition & Sound
Design, Joe Paradise Lui
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Set Design, Renée Mulder
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Lighting Design, Jenny
Hector
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Ensemble
Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Production
Nominated: Casting Guild of Australia
for Best Casting in a Theatre Production,
Janine Snape and Alex Souvlis

The season in numbers

Performances 30
Paid Attendance 9,528

Highlights

11% youth ticket buyers,
the highest for 2023



Co-producer

SYDNEY
THEATRE
CO



18 JUL—26 AUG 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, PLAYHOUSE

BLOOM

MUSIC BY **KATIE WESTON** LYRICS BY **TOM GLEISNER**
BOOK BY **TOM GLEISNER**
DIRECTED BY **DEAN BRYANT**



'Charming, humorous and heart-wrenching.'

SCENESTR



'Poignantly funny and uniquely Aussie comedy'

TIME OUT

Cast

Mrs MacIntyre Anne Edmonds
Doug Frankie J. Holden
Rose Evelyn Krape
Ruby Vidya Makan
Betty / Chef Maria Mercedes
Sal / Inspector / News Reporter / Trev
Eddie Muliaumaseali'i
Roland John O'May
Gloria Christina O'Neill
Lesley Jackie Rees
Finn Slone Sudiro

Band

Cello Sophie Allan
Reeds Emily Clarke
Drums Tom Doublier
Guitar Kathleen Halloran
Bass Ann Metry

Creative and production team

Director Dean Bryant
Music Director & Orchestrator
Zara Stanton
Choreographer Andrew Hallsworth
Set Designer Dann Barber
Costume Designer Charlotte Lane
Lighting Designer
Amelia Lever-Davidson
Sound Designer Nick Walker
Assistant Director Tasnim Hossain
Production Dramaturg Dean Bryant
Dramaturgs Matt Edgerton,
Jennifer Medway
Voice & Text Coach Matt Furlani
Original Arrangements
Katie Weston, Ned Wright Smith
Premiere Production Arrangements
Zara Stanton
Standby Covers Kate Cole, Keanu
Gonzalez, Milo Hartill, Troy Sussman,
Anne Wood, Vicky Jacobs
Voice of News Anchor Peter Hitchener
Voice in Pine Grove Advertisement
Denis Walter
Singer in Pine Grove Advertisement
Katie Weston

Key dates

Opening Night Sat 22 Jul
Music Night Mon 24 Jul
Donor Night Mon 24 Jul
Audio Described Sat 5 Aug, Tue 8 Aug
Tactile Tour Sat 5 Aug
Open Captioning Sat 12 Aug
Auslan Interpreted Tue 5 Aug
Relaxed Performance Wed 16 Aug

Nominations and awards

Winner: Green Room Award for New Australian Music Theatre Writing, Tom Gleisner (Book and Lyrics) and Katie Weston (Music)
Nominated: Green Room Award for Artists (Supporting), Vidya Makan

The season in numbers

Performances 44
Paid Attendance 34,319

Highlights

52.1% of audience new to file
1,089 tickets—highest number of tickets sold on a single day for a new Australian work in the Company's history

Major Marketing Partner

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

The Monthly

NEXTSTAGE



7 AUG—9 SEP 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

ESCAPED ALONE AND WHAT IF ONLY

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



'An inimitable night of theatre.'
AUSTRALIAN BOOK REVIEW ON *ESCAPED ALONE*



'A gem about grief and possibility.'
LIMELIGHT ON *WHAT IF ONLY*

Escaped Alone Cast

Lena Kate Hood
Vi Debra Lawrance
Mrs Jarrett Helen Morse
Sally Deidre Rubenstein

What If Only Cast

F Lucy Ansell
S Alison Bell
P Steve Mouzakis
Fs Anna Francesca Armenia
Fs Iopu Auva'a
Fs Sepideh Fallah
Fs Kate Hood
Fs Debra Lawrance
Fs Helen Morse
Fs Jalen Ong
Fs Tomas Parrish
Fs Deidre Rubenstein
C Teja Kingi
C Caleb Lee
C Imogen Premraj
Fs Aubrey Flood
Fs Aram Geleris
Fs Jonty Reason

Creative and production team

Director Anne-Louise Sarks
Set & Costume Designer Marg Horwell
Lighting Designer Paul Jackson
Composer & Sound Designer Jethro Woodward
Voice & Text Coach Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Assistant Director Brigid Gallacher
Directing Secondment (VCA) Marni Mount

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 11 Aug
Forum Nights Mon 14 Aug, Mon 21 Aug
Donor Night Tue 15 Aug
Audio Described Sat 26 Aug, Tue 29 Aug
Tactile Tour Sat 26 Aug
Open Captioning Sat 2 Sep
Auslan Interpreted Tue 5 Sep

Nominations and awards

Winner: Green Room Award for Outstanding Set Design, Marg Horwell
Nominated: Green Room Award for Outstanding Composition & Sound Design, Jethro Woodward

The season in numbers

Performances 38
Paid Attendance 10,758



23 SEP—28 OCT 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MY SISTER JILL

BY **PATRICIA CORNELIUS**

DIRECTED BY **SUSIE DEE**



'Another poignant and powerful collaboration by the winning team of Cornelius and Dee.'

ARTSHUB



'A new classic.'

THEATRE MATTERS

Cast

Jack Ian Bliss
Martha Maude Davey
Jill Lucy Goleby
Door Benjamin Nichol
Johnnie James O'Connell
Mouse Zachary Pidd
Christine Angourie Rice

Creative and production team

Director Susie Dee
Set & Costume Designer Marg Horwell
Lighting Designer Rachel Burke
Composer & Sound Designer Kelly Ryall
Assistant Director Kitan Petkovski
Intimacy Coordinator Amy Cater
Voice & Text Coach Matt Furlani
Fight Choreographer Lyndall Grant

Key dates

Opening Night Thu 28 Sep
Forum Nights Mon 2 Oct, Mon 9 Oct
Donor Night Mon 2 Oct
Audio Described Sat 14 Oct, Tue 17 Oct
Tactile Tour Sat 14 Oct
Open Captioning Sat 21 Oct
Auslan Interpreted Tue 24 Oct

Nominations and awards

Winner: Green Room Award for Outstanding Production
Winner: Green Room Award for Outstanding Ensemble
Winner: Green Room Award for Direction, Susie Dee
Winner: Green Room Award for Outstanding Lighting Design, Rachel Burke
Nominated: Green Room Award for Outstanding New Australian Writing, Patricia Cornelius

The season in numbers

Performances 40
Paid Attendance 11,433

NEXTSTAGE

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

Supported by our *My Sister Jill* Production Patrons: Andrew Sisson AO and Tracey Sisson, Virginia Lovett and Rose Hiscock.

19 OCT—9 DEC 2023
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

LADY DAY

AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL

BY **LANIE ROBERTSON**
DIRECTED BY **MITCHELL BUTEL**



'Zahra Newman pulls off a rare feat.
Lady Day lives again in this tour de force.'

THE AGE



'Sure to sell out quickly ... a production
not to miss for jazz lovers and theatre fans alike.'

THEATRE MATTERS

Cast

Billie Holiday Zahra Newman
Alternate Billie Holiday
Elenoa Rokobaro
Jimmy Powers Kym Purling

Band

Upright Bass Dan Witton
Drums Edward York

Creative and production team

Director Mitchell Butel
Associate Director Zahra Newman
Musical Director & Additional Arrangements Kym Purling
Set & Costume Designer Ailsa Paterson
Lighting Designer Govin Ruben
Sound Designer Andrew Howard
Voice & Dialogue Coach
Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Voice & Dialogue Coach Jennifer Innes

Key dates

Opening Night Tue 24 Oct
Forum Nights Mon 30 Oct, Mon 6 Nov
Donor Night Tue 31 Oct
Audio Described Sat 11 Nov, Tue 14 Nov
Tactile Tour Sat 11 Nov
Open and Closed Captioning Sat 18 Nov
Auslan Interpreted Tue 21 Nov

Interstate season

25 Aug—9 Sep 2023
State Theatre Company South Australia
14 Sep—15 Oct 2023
Belvoir St Theatre

Nominations and awards

Nominated: Green Room Award for
Outstanding Performer, Zahra Newman

The season in numbers

Performances 60
Paid Attendance 20,371

Co-producers

Presenting Partner

Media Partner

Piano generously supplied by





14 NOV—16 DEC 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

A VERY JEWISH CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY ELISE ESTHER HEARST WITH PHILLIP KAVANAGH

AFTER CHARLES DICKENS

DIRECTED BY SARAH GILES



'A heart-warming, must-see production.'
THEATRE MATTERS



'Cleverly reinvented with cross-cultural humour,
heart and Christmas magic.'
LIMELIGHT

Cast

Fran / Lilith / Ensemble Natalie Gamsu
Ely Miriam Glaser
Sarah / Ensemble Emma Jevons
Bubi / Golem / Ensemble Evelyn Krape
Rivka / Ensemble Jude Perl
Carol / Rein-Dybbuk / Ensemble Louise Siversen
Ben / Ensemble Michael Whalley

Creative and production team

Director Sarah Giles
Associate Director Cassandra Fumi
Musical Director / Arranger Jude Perl
Set Designer Jacob Battista
Costume Designer Dann Barber
Lighting Designer Richard Vabre
Composer & Sound Designer Jed Palmer
Dramaturgs Sarah Giles, Jennifer Medway
Design Concept Contributor Jonathon Oxlade
Additional Composition Jude Perl
Voice & Text Coach Matt Furlani
Fight Choreographer Lyndall Grant
Intimacy Coordinator Cessalee Stovall
Polish Translation & Language Coach Krystyna Duszniak
Yiddish Translation Rebecca (Rivke) Margolis
Yiddish Language Coach & Song Translation Freydi Mrocki
Directing Secondment (VCA) Kat Yates

Key dates

Opening Night Sat 18 Nov
Forum Nights Mon 20 Nov, Mon 27 Nov
Donor Night Tue 28 Nov
Audio Described Sat 2 Dec, Tue 5 Dec
Tactile Tour Sat 2 Dec
Open and Closed Captioning Sat 9 Dec
Auslan Interpreted Tue 12 Dec
Relaxed Performance Sat 16 Dec

Nominations and awards

Nominated: Green Room Award for Outstanding Costume Design, Dann Barber

The season in numbers

Performances 37
Paid Attendance 12,305

Media Partner



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

NEXTSTAGE



CYRANO

BY **VIRGINIA GAY** AFTER **EDMOND ROSTAND**
DIRECTOR **SARAH GOODES**

Cast

3 Holly Austin
Cyrano Virginia Gay
2 Robin Goldsworthy
1 Zenya Carmellotti
Yan Joel Jackson
Roxanne Tuuli Narkle

Creative and production team

Director Sarah Goodes
Musical Director & Additional Composition Xani Kolac
Set Concept & Design Elizabeth Gadsby
Costume Designer & Set Design Realisation Jo Briscoe
Lighting Designer Paul Jackson
Sound Designer Kelly Ryall
Associate Lighting Designer Tom Willis
Assistant Director George Lazaris
Assistant Lighting Designer Amelia Baker
Intimacy Coordinator Amy Cater
Roller Skate Choreographer Belle Hadiwidjaja
Voice & Dialect Coach Amy Hume

On tour

17 Feb—5 Mar 2023
Heath Ledger Theatre,
State Theatre Centre of WA

The season in numbers

Performances 18
Paid Attendance 6,169

Presented by Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA in association with Perth Festival

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

Script development has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, Sydney Festival and the NSW Government through Create NSW and the City of Melbourne COVID-19 Arts Grants.



BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY OF WA

PERTH
FESTIVAL



SYDNEY
FESTIVAL



I WANNA BE YOURS

BY **ZIA AHMED**
DIRECTED BY **TASNIM HOSSAIN**

Cast

Ella Eleanor Barkla
Haseeb Oz Malik

Creative and production team

Director Tasnim Hossain
Set & Costume Designer Kat Chan
Lighting Designer Rachel Lee
Composer & Sound Designer Mufeez Al Haq
Voice & Dialect Coach Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Dialect Coach (UK) Gurkiran Kaur
Movement Consultant Jonathan Homsey
Intimacy Coordinator Isabella Vadiveloo

On tour

30 May—9 Jun 2023
Bunjil Place, Narre Warren, Tue 30 May
The Potato Shed, Drysdale, Thu 1 Jun
Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon 7 Jun
Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo 9 Jun

The season in numbers

Performances 5
Paid Attendance 200

Regional tour supported by Linda Herd and the Education Giving Circle

Access Services



In 2023 we broadened our access services to offer Auslan-interpreted performances for every production in the season and introduced Relaxed Performances for select shows.

Other services we offer to ensure our performances are accessible to the widest audience include audio description and tactile tours for people who are vision impaired and live captioning for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

Relaxed Performances adapt the theatre environment for audiences who would benefit from a more relaxed environment, while maintaining the creative integrity of the show. For each Relaxed Performance, we published a visual story to help audiences prepare for their visit, and members of the cast came on stage immediately before the show to welcome the audience.

Audio Description Partner Vision Australia
Auslan Interpretation Service Provider Auslan Stage Left
Live Captioning Service Provider The Captioning Studio

Relaxed Performances

Bloom Wed 16 Aug
Introduction Anne Edmonds, Vidya Makan, Eddie Muliaumaseali'i
Visual Story Anna Molnar and Matt Edgerton
Relaxed Performance Partner Arts Centre Melbourne

A Very Jewish Christmas Carol Sat 16 Dec
Introduction Natalie Gamsu and Michael Whalley
Visual Story Jennifer Medway

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

Digital Theatre



MTC DIGITAL THEATRE

In 2023 five productions were available to stream digitally on MTC Digital Theatre, enabling audiences across Australia to access Melbourne Theatre Company productions from their living rooms and classrooms.

We continued our work on building a catalogue of digital productions in 2023 and focus shifted to the capture and recording of additional productions. These recordings are currently in post-production and slated for release in 2024.

Since its launch in 2021, MTC Digital Theatre showcases select Melbourne Theatre Company productions through high-definition, multi-camera recordings, bringing world-class productions direct from stage to screen.



1,242+
viewers of MTC Digital
Theatre productions



17.5%
of viewers were from
outside metropolitan
Melbourne

Viewers based on 2.5 people per household as per Australian Institute of Family Studies data

Available to stream in 2023



**Sexual Misconduct
of the Middle Classes**
by Hannah Moscovitch



The Heartbreak Choir
by Aidan Fennessy



Berlin
by Joanna Murray-Smith



SLAP. BANG. KISS.
By Dan Giovannoni



Shakespeare's
As You Like It

Education & Families

In 2023 we launched the Melbourne Theatre Company Education Hub, an ever-expanding library of digital resources to support performing arts education for students, teachers and self-directed learners.

Education Hub

Through interactive resources and behind-the-scenes videos, students deep dive into industry roles to gain insight into how our productions are brought to life onstage.

Launch 2 Oct
Subscriptions by 31 Dec 84

SHORT COURSES

Students and self-directed learners can undertake online courses in theatre practice, each with a series of instructional videos featuring industry professionals.

Voice For Actors with Amy Hume, Victorian College of the Arts

Movement for Actors with Colin Sneesby, Victorian College of the Arts

Documenting Rehearsal with Eleanor Barkla and Oz Malik

AV Recording Eva Otsing

Editing Emily Doyle

SCRIPT NOTES

In these videos, Melbourne Theatre Company playwrights, actors and directors provide insights on how they use pages of script to perform their roles in a production.

Bernhardt/Hamlet Script Notes with Kate Mulvany

I Wanna Be Yours Script Notes with Eleanor Barkla and Oz Malik

Jacky Script Notes with Ngali Shaw and Guy Simon

Is God Is Script Notes with Zindzi Okenyo and Shari Sebbens

Bloom Script Notes with Dean Bryant and Vidya Makan

My Sister Jill Script Notes with Susie Dee and Patricia Cornelius

AV Recording Brett Walker, EINWICK, Eva Otsing, Sapphic Flicks

Editing Emily Doyle



Drama Victoria Award

Excellence in the Digital/Online Delivery of Drama
Script Notes Video Series



INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

These media-rich, web-based resources enhance student engagement through interactive elements including videos, information pop-ups, activities and maps.

Technical & Production Departments with Jacob Battista

Creating Special Effects with Jacob Battista and Brittany Stock

Creating a Character with the cast of *Bernhardt/Hamlet*

Realising the Role with the cast of *I Wanna Be Yours*

Creating a Character with the cast of *Sunday*

Costume Design with *Sunday* designer Harriet Oxley

Regional Touring with the cast and crew of *I Wanna Be Yours*

Design World of Bernhardt/Hamlet with Anne-Louise Sarks, Marg Horwell, Jacob Battista and Shane Dunn

AV Recording Brett Walker, Brodi Purtill, Emily Doyle, Eva Otsing

Editing Emily Doyle, Eva Otsing

Laurinda 360° VIDEOS

These innovative videos enable viewers to immerse themselves in a performance of Melbourne Theatre Company's 2022 production *Laurinda* in Southbank Theatre. Viewers can watch a scene and then perform the lead role, speaking dialogue that appears as video captions.

Perform Onstage with Fiona Choi, Gemma Chua-Tran

Watch the Scene with Fiona Choi, Gemma Chua-Tran, Ngoc Phan

Watch the Stage Manager with Brittany Stock

360° Video Production Richard Kickbush, Tenacious VR

Audio Production Darius Kedros

Producers Bonnie Leigh-Dodds and Emily Doyle

Supported by



VIRTUAL SET TOURS

Students can explore theatre sets from Melbourne Theatre Company productions as though they were actors on stage.

Compatible with VR headsets, these interactive online tours include pop-up panels to learn behind-the-scenes insights about the design.

New VR Tours *Sunday* and *Jacky*
VR Capture RealTour3D

EDUCATION PACKS

These two-part PDF resources help students prepare to see a Melbourne Theatre Company production and unpack the performance afterwards.

Education Packs include Q&As with cast and creatives, rehearsal and production photos, behind-the-scenes insights and design renders, paired with activities that bring the VCE curriculum to life.

Bernhardt/Hamlet VCE Theatre Studies by Nick Tranter

I Wanna Be Yours VCE Drama by Brodi Purtill and Nick Tranter

Downloads 766

The Education Hub is supported by The Ian Potter Foundation, Telematics Trust, the Department of Education, Victoria, through the Strategic Partnerships Program and the Education Giving Circle.



Education & Families

Our Education & Families program enables students, young people and educators to access high quality arts experiences, provides unique insights into professional theatre making, and supports the development of students' creative practice.

The Education Giving Circle supports the annual Education & Families production and core activities, with the donors and foundations listed below supporting signature programs.

School tickets

Sunday 24
Bernhardt/Hamlet 1,061
Happy Days 83
I Wanna Be Yours 700
Jacky 3
Bloom 733
Escaped Alone and *What If If Only* 26
My Sister Jill 361
Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill 43
A Very Jewish Christmas Carol 102
Total paid attendance 3,136
Total complimentary attendance 167

Enhancing the theatre experience

PRE-SHOW TALKS

Students gain unique insights into professional theatre through pre-show talks and post-show Q&As at designated education performances.

Bernhardt/Hamlet 29 Mar
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Paid Attendance 145

I Wanna Be Yours 18 May
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Paid Attendance 72

HQ TOURS

Tours begin with a seminar on the lifecycle of a production, followed by a guided walk through the building to explore costume, wigs, millinery, props, scenic art and workshop departments, and the rehearsal rooms.

PAID ATTENDANCES
 12 schools | 300 students

Teaching Artists George Abbott, Hugo Gutteridge, Matisse Knight, Brodi Purtill, Taylor Reece, Nick Tranter

REVISION WEBINARS

Students and teachers revisit productions in live, interactive webinars for VCE Theatre Studies and VCE Drama.

Bernhardt/Hamlet 12 Oct
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Tahlee Fereday, Tasnim Hossein, William McKenna, Sophie Woodward, Izabella Yena
Paid Attendance 64

I Wanna Be Yours 19 Oct
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Eleanor Barkla, Kat Chan, Tasnim Hossain, Oz Malik

Paid Attendance 30

Melbourne Theatre Company acknowledges the support of the Department of Education, Victoria, through the Strategic Partnerships Program.



School Partnerships

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

On Stage is a semester-long course for Year 11 Theatre Arts students that enhances the study of VCE Drama and Theatre Studies. Students follow a condensed production lifecycle with guest sessions from our staff and artists to devise an ensemble performance. Year 12 students participate in a series of professional development seminars.

Year 11
Lead Teaching Artist Katy Maudlin
Instructional Designer Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Jacob Battista, Xanthe Beesley, Anna Cordingley, Kate Davis, Sarah Fitzgerald, Matt Furlani, Conor Leach, Amelia Lever-Davidson Isabella Vadiveloo, Tsungirai Wachenuka

Participants 20

Year 12
Guest Artists James Lipari, William McKenna, Sahil Saluja
Guest Staff Zoey Dawson, Tasnim Hossain, Thomas Roach, Janine Snape, Rhys Valesquez

Participants 12

Supported by



VIRTUAL SCHOOL VICTORIA

In and out of Worlds is an innovative Year 8 Drama course delivered entirely online over terms three and four. Students work with professional theatre artists to devise and perform a live, online anthology performance.

Lead Teaching Artists
 Morgan Rose and Justin Gardam
Guest Artists Aljin Abella, Mufeez Al Haq, Sarah Fitzgerald, Spencer Herd, Karine Larché, Oz Malik
Guest Staff Jacob Battista, Emily Doyle, Brodi Purtill, Ashlee Read, Nick Tranter

Virtual School Victoria Teachers
 Jessica Craigmyle, Sarah Davies, Raquel Hirsch, Cheryl Kaloger
Lead Teacher Arts (Acting)
 Jared Webster

Participants 87

Supported by



IGNITE

Every young Victorian deserves to access the life-changing benefits of theatre. IGNITE is a donor-supported program that removes financial barriers to give students an experience they'll never forget and spark a lifelong love of theatre.

Schools ranked 1,000 and below on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ISCEA) accessed \$5 Tickets and Relief Teacher Subsidies to select live Melbourne Theatre Company productions. All regional schools can apply for a travel subsidy.

Productions *Bloom*, *My Sister Jill*, *A Very Jewish Christmas Carol*

IGNITE Tickets 700
Travel Subsidies \$3,400

IGNITE Supported by Krystyna Campbell-Pretty, Anonymous

Education & Families

University of Melbourne

INTERNSHIPS

Students enrolled in the Master of Arts and Cultural Management program volunteer to assist with delivery and evaluation of an Education & Families program.

Jul—Sep, Amy Smith – Youth Scholarship Course

Jul—Oct, Wenting Yang – Virtual School Victoria Year 8 Drama

ROBERT McDONALD AWARD

The Theatre Board of the University of Melbourne makes the award in memory of the late Robert McDonald, Education Manager 1998–2010. The Award winner receives a bursary, undertakes a directing placement on the Education & Families production, and meets with artistic staff.

2023 Award Recipient Sabina Donato

BEHIND THE CUES

Design and production students from Victorian College of the Arts attend a 45 minute 'dry run' of technical cues in the Sumner theatre, with creative artists and stage crew explaining the creative rationale and production process behind the cues.

Escaped Alone and What If Only 7 Sep
Teaching Artists Brigid Gallacher, Pippa Wright

VCA Design Course Coordinator
Christina Smith

INSIDE LOOK AT MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

A breadth subject for University of Melbourne students, delivered in collaboration with the Victorian College of the Arts, offering an inside look at the art, craft and business of Melbourne Theatre Company. Students watch two MTC Digital Theatre productions, read online teaching materials and write a comparative review.

Productions *The Heartbreak Choir* and *SLAP. BANG. KISS.*

Attendance 208

Supported by



Engagement Programs

CAREERS WEEK

Delivered entirely online during the winter school holidays, Careers Week is a program of webinars for high school students in Years 10–11, directed by professional theatre artists with guest artists and staff from Casting, Design, Lighting/Sound, Marketing, New Work, Scenic Art, Southbank Theatre and Stage Management.

26 Jun—30 Jun

Lead Teaching Artists Bernard Sam, Izabella Yena

Guest Artists Katy Maudlin, James Lipari
Guest Staff Jacob Battista, Alison Crawford, Zoey Dawson, Allan Hirons, Tasnim Hossain, Rain Iyahan, Jess Maguire, Michele Preshaw, Meg Richardson, Julia Smith, Brittany Stock, Jane Sutherland, James Tucker, Rhys Velasquez, Mark Wheeler

PARTICIPANTS 23

WORK EXPERIENCE

High school students in Years 10–11 experience the inner workings of Melbourne Theatre Company in a one-week placement at HQ or Southbank Theatre, observing rehearsals and backstage activities, and assisting with administration and production tasks.

Jun—Dec
Participants 6

Careers Week and Work Experience supported by the Education Giving Circle

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, then share their new knowledge and passion for performing arts in their community.

Apr—Dec

Lead Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Kat Chan, Declan Furber Gillick, Matt Furlani, Paul Lim, Margot Morales, Mark Wilson, cast and creatives of *Seventeen*
Guest staff Zoey Dawson, Rhys Velasquez

PARTICIPANTS 16

Supported by the Education Giving Circle

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP COURSE

Tailored 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-economically disadvantaged communities, and young people living with disability.

19—23 Sep

Lead Teaching Artists Katrina Cornwell, Morgan Rose

Associate Teaching Artist
Sarah Fitzgerald

Wellbeing Artist Sarah Hosford

Guest Artists Matt Furlani, Amelia Jean O'Leary, Claire Mercer

Participants 25

Supported by



The Geraldine Lazarus Regional Enrichment Program

To make creative experiences accessible to all students in Victoria, a suite of on-demand workshops is available exclusively to schools in regional Victoria, delivered by skilled teaching artists.

Acting Skills

Ararat Secondary College 17 May
Teaching Artists Jack Green, Suzie Thomas

St Mary MacKillop College, Swan Hill 30 Mar
Teaching Artists Jack Green, Suzie Thomas

St Phillip's College, Alice Springs 10 Feb
Teaching Artist Stephen Nicolazzo

Warrnambool College 5 Oct
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla, Oz Malik

Exploring *Bernhardt/Hamlet*

Virtual School Victoria 23 Apr
Teaching Artists Tasnim Hossain, Nick Tranter

Exploring *I Wanna Be Yours*

Horsham College 16 Jun
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla, Brodi Purtill

Exploring *SLAP. BANG. KISS.*

Gleneagles Secondary College 21 Aug
Teaching Artists Sarah Fitzgerald, Conor Leach

Lifecycle of a Production

Warrnambool College 7 Dec (online)
Teaching Artist Petra Kalive

Learning in Virtual Reality – *Laurinda in 360°*

Swan Hill College 19 Jun
Teaching Artists Emily Doyle, Brodi Purtill and Nick Tranter

VR Partner Digital Learning Lab, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Melbourne, Jairus Bowne, Director, and Keenan Hellyer, Lecturer and Software Developer

Workshops 18
Participants 330

Teaching Artist Professional Development

Melbourne Theatre Company HQ 31 Aug
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla, Ella Ferris, Sarah Fitzgerald, Conor Leach, Oz Malik, Stephen Nicolazzo, Krystalla Pearce, Sahil Saluja, Bernard Sam

Facilitators Brodi Purtill and Nick Tranter

The Gailey Lazarus Foundation

The Geraldine Lazarus Regional Enrichment Program is supported by The Gailey Lazarus Foundation



Learning in Virtual Reality workshops supported by the Telematics Trust



Deadly Creatives

Deadly Creatives (formerly the First Peoples Young Artists Program) is an engagement initiative for young First Nations people from across Australia.

In 2023, the Deadly Creatives performed their original creative work in March at MPavilion and in May for YIRRAMBOI. A program of skills development workshops continued for the rest of the year with program alumni and new participants.

2023 Deadly Creatives

Participants

Jyden Brailey
 Emma Clarke-King
 Matisse Knight
 Brodie Murray
 Amelia O'Leary
 Jasper Quinn
 Tahila Rendell
 Emma Salmon
 Corey Saylor-Brunskill
 Christian Seiuli
 Joshua Vickery Stewart

Program Administrator

Brodi Purtill

Programs Producer

Karin Farrell

Teaching Artists

Jacob Battista
 Emily Doyle
 Shanice Osita
 James Paul
 Mark Wilson

MMeets Intertwined

Program alumni presented *Intertwined*, a reading of devised work inspired by the provocation: 'are we already woven?'

The ensemble also performed extracts from their original performance work *ONE DAY*.

Date 12 Mar

Venue MPavilion

Performances 1

Ensemble

Brodie Murray, Corey Saylor-Brunskill, Emma Salmon, Matisse Knight

Assistant Producer

Jyden Brailey

Stage Manager

Brodi Purtill

ONE DAY

The 2023 participants re-staged *ONE DAY*, originally devised in 2022, for the YIRRAMBOI Festival.

Presented at the Irene Mitchell Studio Theatre, *ONE DAY* used movement, music and spoken word to showcase young voices and their examination of how environment shapes identity and connection.

Dates 12 & 13 May

Venue The Irene Mitchell Studio Theatre

Performances 2

Attendances 159

Ensemble

Brodie Murray, Ella Clarke-King, Emma Salmon, Jasper Quinn, Jyden Brailey, Matisse Knight, Tahila Rendell

Director

Nathan Maynard

Choreographer

Amelia Jean O'Leary

Stage Manager

Brodi Purtill

This program is made possible thanks to the support of the John and Myriam Wylie Foundation and partnered by the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development at the Victorian College of the Arts and YIRRAMBOI Festival.



WILIN. YIRRAMBOI

NEXT STAGE Writers' Program



NEXT STAGE is our bold and ambitious play development initiative that rivals some of the world's very best cultural institutions.

It positions new Australian works as contenders on the national stage through strategic investment in stories that reflect our community, are relevant to our times, challenge the boundaries of theatre making and fuel the cultural conversation.

NEXT STAGE productions

Jacky Bloom
My Sister Jill
A Very Jewish Christmas Carol

New Commissions

We commissioned five new plays from a broad group of exciting writers including playwright, novelist and cultural commentator Van Badham, award-winning screen and theatre writer Andrew Bovell, theatre and television writer Michele Lee, theatre maker Joe Paradise Lui and award-winning playwright S.Shakthidharan.

Thank you to Peter Clemenger, The Malcolm Robertson Foundation and the Playwrights Giving Circle for support of these commissions.

NEXT STAGE Playwriting Fellowship

Our inaugural NEXT STAGE Fellowship was awarded to writer and director Jean Tong. This appointment celebrates Jean's talent and ensures extraordinary professional development through immersion in the Company. Jean will work as a NEXT STAGE Fellow until mid-2024.

First Nations Dramaturg

In line with our Company commitment to ensuring greater opportunities for First Nations storytelling and theatre makers, a dedicated role was created in 2023 as part of the New Work team. The 2023 First Nations writer, dramaturg and theatre maker was Bryan Andy. He was responsible for contributing to Season 2024 programming, dramaturgy of mainstage productions and new play development.

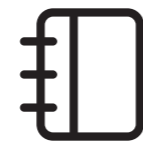
Supported by



Playwrights Giving Circle

Thank you to our Playwrights Giving Circle for sharing our passion and commitment to Australian stories and Australian writers.

Paul and Wendy Bonnici & Family, Tony and Janine Burgess, Kathleen Canfell, Fitzpatrick Sykes Family Foundation, Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO, Larry Kamener and Petra Kamener, The Margaret Lawrence Bequest, Helen Nicolay, Tania Seary and Chris Lynch, Craig Semple, Dr Richard Simmie.



23
Active commissions



25
Workshops and developments



127
Artists employed



4
NEXT STAGE productions



74k+
Audiences



3
Scripts published

MinterEllison Future Directors



The MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative supports Melbourne Theatre Company's commitment to fostering the professional development of Australia's next directors, contributing to our ongoing investment in local artists and the sustainability of the arts sector.

Four participants took part in the paid placements alongside senior theatre directors, each gaining practical experience, honing their skills and developing relationships to support their careers.

2023 Future Directors

Keegan Bragg – *Happy Days*
(Director: Petra Kalive)

Joel Bray – *Jacky*
(Director: Mark Wilson)

Kuda Mapeza – *Is God Is*
(Co-Directors: Zindzi Okenyo, Shari Sebbens)

Kitan Petkovski – *My Sister Jill*
(Director: Susie Dee)

Major Partner

MinterEllison.

Cybec Electric



For over a decade, our annual series of Cybec Electric play readings have brought exciting, fresh and urgent new writing to audiences. A professional team of cast and creatives present these works-in-progress as public readings – a crucial step in the creation of new work.

In 2023 five emerging playwrights took part in Cybec Electric supported by leading industry directors, dramaturgs and actors. Three of these works were given a public presentation as a key part of their development. Two, at earlier stages in their development, had a closed workshop.

Public Readings

Malacanang/Montgomery

Writer Jordan Shea

Director Trudy Dunn

Dramaturg Stephanie Ghajar

Cast Roman Berry, Aiden Gale Miranda, Marty Rhone

HELL FIRE, mortal boys

Writer Henry Kelly

Director George Lazaris

Dramaturg Zoey Dawson

Cast Meg Dunn, Milo Hartill, Will King, Sebastian Li, Kurt Pimblett

REALish

Writer Wendy Mocke

Director Jessica Arthur

Dramaturg Tasnim Hossain

Cast Enya Daly, Bessie Holland, Lucas Linehan, Margaret Pittas, Laila Thaker, Sherry-Lee Watson, Jay Wymarra

Workshops

The Wall Remix

Writer Monique Grbec

Dramaturg Bryan Andy

Cast Kristel Kickett, Kaninna Lagford, Carissa Lee, Leonie Whyman

Feminist Artists

Writer Vanessa Jo Di Natale

Dramaturg Susie Dee

Cast Anna Francesca Armenia, Endrico Botha, Molly Holohan, Sarah Morrison



23

actors, directors and dramaturgs engaged



3

interns engaged



453

total attendance



303

total paid attendance



Board of Management

Jane Hansen AO (Chair until Dec 2023)

CEO and Chair, Hansen Little Foundation; 23rd Chancellor of the University of Melbourne; Chair, University of Melbourne Campaign Advisory Board; Board Member, Melbourne Humanities Foundation; Board Member, Opera Australia; Board Member, The Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation; Fellow, University of Melbourne; Member, Chief Executive Women; Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors; former Chair, Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board. Chair since Jan 2020.

Patricia Faulkner AO (Chair from Dec 2023)

Chair, Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH); Chair, Jesuit Social Services; Chair, Commonwealth Bank of Australia CEO Advisory Panel; Board Member, Aware Super; Board Member, Caritas Australia; Chair Plan International Australia; Chair Expert Committee ASM. Board Member since Jan 2015.

Tony Burgess (until Dec 2023)

Chairman, Flagstaff Partners; Director, Diversified United Investment Limited; Director, Melbourne Business School Limited; Chairman, Foundation for Business and Economics, University of Melbourne; Governor, The Ian Potter Foundation; Former Global co-Head of Mergers and Acquisitions, Deutsche Bank AG; CPA Australia; Fellow, Financial Services Institute of Australia. Board Member since 2015.

Martin Hosking

Group CEO and Managing Director, Articore Ltd. Business person and philanthropist. Director, Three Springs Foundation; Advisory Board Member, Contemplative Studies Center, University of Melbourne and Monash University Centre for Consciousness and Contemplative Studies; Director, Agape Meditation. BA (Hons) and MBA, University of Melbourne.

Tony Johnson

Director and Adviser. Chair, BUPA ANZ; Director, Allianz Australia and E&P Financial Group; Advisory Board Member, Fujitsu ANZ (Chair) and Kieser Australia; Committee Member, Melbourne Cricket Club, Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation and 30%+ Club Education Working Group; Trustee of the Collier Charitable Fund; BEc, MBA (Exec), GradDipAppFin&Inv, GAICD, FCA, FFIN. Board Member since Aug 2023.

Larry Kamener

Senior Adviser to the Boston Consulting Group; Chair, Save the Children Australia and Board Member, Save the Children International; Chair of the Centre for Public Impact a BCG Foundation. Board Member since Jan 2018.

Katerina Kapobassis

Chief Financial Officer, University of Melbourne. BBus; CPA. Board Member since Oct 2022.

Professor Duncan Maskell

Vice Chancellor, The University of Melbourne; Professor of Microbiology; Member, Melbourne Business School Board of Directors; Member, Group of Eight; Member, Victorian Vice-Chancellor's Committee; Non-executive Director of CSL Limited; Non-Executive Director of WEHI Board; Honorary Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge; MA, PhD, FMedSci, HonAssocRCVS. Board Member since Dec 2018.

Sally Noonan

Melbourne Theatre Company Executive Director & Co-CEO. Board Member since Apr 2023.

Chris Oliver-Taylor

Chief Content Officer, ABC. Former CEO Asia Pacific, Fremantle. Former Director of Production for Australia & New Zealand, Netflix. Board Member, AFTRS; Board Member, Screenworks; Former President of Screen Producers Australia; Former Board Director and Deputy Chair of Screenrights; Former Global Director, Fremantle Global Operating Board. Board Member since 2023.

Leigh O'Neill

Executive General Manager, Global Financial Services, Xero; Committee Member of Human Rights Watch Australia. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member Mar 2015 to Jun 2021. Board Member since Jun 2021.

Tiriki Onus

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, University of Melbourne. Practising artist, performer and filmmaker. Board Member, VicScreen. Board Member since Mar 2023.

Anne-Louise Sarks

Melbourne Theatre Company Artistic Director & Co-CEO. Board Member since Oct 2021.

Craig Semple

Partner, Gilbert + Tobin; Chair of Joel Bray Dance; Member of Audit and Risk Committee for Aurora Education Foundation; Community Member of School Council of Monterey Secondary College. Board Member since Jan 2024.

Professor Marie Sierra

Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, the University of Melbourne. Practising artist and arts writer. Member of the Australian National Academy of Music Board. PhD, MFA, BA, GradDipEd. Board Member since Jun 2021.

Tania Seary

MBA, B. Bus, Founder of The Faculty, Procurious and The Source; Board member of Opera Australia Capital Fund since April 2018. Board Member since Jan 2023.

Foundation Board

Tania Seary (Chair)

MBA, B. Bus, Founder of The Faculty, Procurious and The Source; Board member of Opera Australia Capital Fund since April 2018. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Dec 2021.

Jennifer Darbyshire (Deputy Chair)

Board Member, Melbourne International Jazz Festival; Independent Chair, Risk & Compliance Committee, Wingate Group. Previously Executive General Manager Conduct & Regulatory Risk, and General Counsel Governance, NAB; Former Chair, Heide Museum of Modern Art; former Board Member St Vincent's & Mercy Private Hospital, the Financial Ombudsman Service and the Australian Financial Complaints Authority. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Aug 2021.

Jane Grover

Chief Operating Officer of Box Hill Institute (BHI); Chief Executive Women (CEW) member; previously Chair of the Centre of Contemporary Photography (CCP); Chief Executive Officer at SMCT; General Manager Crown Resorts (Communications, Corporate Services, Security Services). Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Oct 2020.

Sally Noonan

Melbourne Theatre Company Executive Director and Co-CEO. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Apr 2023.

Rob Pratt

Melbourne Theatre Company Director of Finance & IT. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member from Mar 2021 to Dec 2023.

Hilary Scott

General Counsel, GFG Alliance; previously Corporate Counsel, Kin Group Pty Ltd & Pact Group Holdings; Legal Counsel, Symbion formerly Mayne Group Limited; Lawyer, Deacons (now Norton Rose Fulbright); Non-Executive Director Craft Council of Victoria. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since January 2016.

Rupert Sherwood

Melbourne Theatre Company Development Director; Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Feb 2019.

Tracey Sisson

Board Member of Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden Foundation; Consult Legal; formerly Director of Law Institute Victoria; formerly TeeRoy Pty Ltd TA Yardmill In-house Counsel, Molino Cahill Lawyers Senior Associate, Baker & McKenzie General Associate; Member, Law Institute of Victoria and Fitzroy Legal Service; Former Fellow, Taxation Institute of Australia; Former Registered Tax Agent. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Jul 2018.

Melbourne Theatre Company

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Artistic Director & Co-CEO
Anne-Louise Sarks
Executive Director & Co-CEO
Sally Noonan
Executive Producer & Deputy CEO
Martina Murray
Executive Administrator to the Executive Director & Co-CEO Emma Vincin
Executive Assistant to the Artistic Director & Co-CEO
Olivia Brewer (from Nov)
Clio Kennedy (Jul to Oct)
Carmen Lai (Jan to May)

ARTISTIC

Resident Director
Tasnim Hossain
Head of New Work
Jennifer Medway
New Work Associate
Zoey Dawson
New Work Associate
Mark Wilson (leave cover)
Playwriting Fellow
Jean Tong

CASTING

Casting Director
Janine Snape
Casting Associate
Rhys Velasquez

PRODUCING

Senior Producer
Stephen Moore
Programs Producer
Karin Farrell
Company Manager
Julia Smith
Deputy Company Manager
Lachlan Steel

DEVELOPMENT

Director of Development
Rupert Sherwood
Senior Philanthropy Manager
Sophie Boardley
Annual Giving Manager
Chris Walters (to Dec)
Philanthropy Coordinator
Emily Jenik
Business Development Manager
José Ortiz
Partnerships Manager
Portia Atkins
Partnerships Coordinator
Isobel Lake

EDUCATION & FAMILIES

Director of Families & Education
Jeremy Rice
Learning Manager
Nick Tranter
Education Content Producer
Emily Doyle
Education Coordinator
Brodi Purtil

PEOPLE & CULTURE

Director of People & Culture
Sean Jameson
People & Culture Business Partners
Christine Verginis
Glenn Sinnott
Receptionist
David Zierk

FINANCE & IT

Director of Finance & IT
Rob Pratt
Finance Manager
Andrew Slee
Assistant Accountant
Nicole Chong
IT & Systems Manager
Michael Schuettke
IT Support Officer
Darren Snowdon
Payroll Officer
Julia Godinho
Payments Officer
Harper St Clair
Building Services Manager
Adrian Aderhold

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Director of Marketing & Communications
David Geoffrey Hall
Marketing Manager
Rebecca Lawrence
Marketing Campaign Managers
Grace Gaylard
Ashlee Read
Digital Engagement Manager
Jane Sutherland
Digital Coordinator
Isabelle Wawrzon
Lead Graphic Designer/Art Director
Kate Francis
Graphic Designer
Helena Turinski (to Sep)
Editorial Content Producer
Paige Farrell
Editorial Content Producer
Tilly Graovac (leave cover)
Publicist
Wendy Trieu (to Aug)
Publicity Consultant
Good Humans PR

PRODUCTION

Technical & Production Director
Adam J Howe
Senior Production Manager
Michele Preshaw
Production Manager
Jess Maguire
James Lipari (to Dec)
Production Management Secondment
Amy Norton (NIDA)
Production Administrator
Alyson Brown
Production Assistant
Chris Haggarty
Technical Manager – Lighting & Sound
Kerry Saxby
Senior Production Technician Coordinator
Allan Hirons
Production Technician Coordinator
Nick Wollan
Production Technician Operators
Marcus Cook
Max Wilkie
Production Technicians
Olivia Borghesan
Stella Dandolo
Claire Ferguson
Justin Gardam
Sidney Millar
Scott McAlister
Lila Neiswanger
Gemma Rowe
Mungo Trumble
Technical Manager – Staging & Design
Andrew Bellchambers
Production Design Coordinator
Jacob Battista
Head Mechanist
Mikee Burnell (to Jul)
Bryn Cullen (from Aug)
Deputy Mechanist
Sam Bruechert (Jun to Nov)
CAD Drafting
Max Bowyer
Design Secondments
Ishan Vivekanantham (VCA)
Thomas Vulcan (VCA)

PROPERTIES

Properties Supervisor
Geoff McGregor
Props Maker
Colin Penn

SCENIC ART

Scenic Art Supervisor
Shane Dunn
Scenic Artists
Alison Crawford
Laurie Davidson (Mar to Apr)
Colin Harman

WORKSHOP

Workshop Supervisor
Andrew Weavers
Set Makers
Aldo Amenta (to Jul)
Brian Easteal (to Jul)
Sarah Hall (from Oct)
Nick Gray
Philip De Mulder
Peter Rosa
Simon Julliff
Welder
Ken Best

COSTUME

Costume Manager
Kate Seeley
Costume Staff
Lara Barwick (to Nov)
Nicole Lacsni (Jun to Nov)
Jocelyn Creed
Lyn Molloy
John Van Gastel
Millinery
Enza Geddes (Oct to Nov)
Phillip Rhodes
Costume Coordinator
Sophie Woodward (to Sep)
Costume Buyer
Carletta Childs
Ady Chisholm (to Dec)
Sarah Carr (to Nov)
Matilda Woodroffe (to Sep)
Costume Hire
Liz Symons
Costume Maintenance
Susan Baksheev (May to Dec)
Jodi Hope
Angela Silver (to Apr)
Art Finishing
Alicia Aulsebrook
Claire Mercer
Wigs and Make Up
Simone Carter (to Sept)
Kym McConville
Dresser
Emily Keely Heitzman
Jacinda Hill
Martelle Hunt
Charlotte Webb
Costume Secondments
Georgia Shackleton (VCA)
Carmen Goldsbrough (Melbourne Polytechnic)

SOUTHBANK THEATRE

Theatre Manager
Mark D Wheeler
Events Manager
Mandy Jones
Production Services Manager
Frank Stoffels
Front of House Manager
Drew Thomson
Lighting Supervisor
Geoff Adams-Walsh
Deputy Lighting Supervisor
Tom Roach
Sound Supervisor
Joy Weng
Deputy Sound Supervisor
Will Patterson
Fly Supervisor
James Tucker (to Jul)
Sean Waite (from Jul)
Deputy Fly Supervisor
Adam Hanley (to Feb)
Callum O'Connor (from Jul)
Stage & Technical Staff
Jon Bergen
Al Brill
Suzy Brooks
Connor Brown
Emily Campbell
Steve Campbell
Will Campbell
Bryan Chin
Jeremy Fowlie
Tallulah Gordon
Kylie Hammond
Justin Heaton
Spencer Herd
Chris Hubbard
Ethan Hunter
Louis Kennedy
Marcus Macris
Alexandre Malta
Jason Markoutsas
Terry McKibbin
David Membership
Sharna Murphy
James Paul
George Richardson
Jake Rogers
Natalya Shield
Jim Stenson
Nathaniel Sy
Tom Vulcan
Dylan Wainwright-Berrell
Tom Willis
Sound and Lighting Observation
Tamzyn Miller (Melbourne Polytechnic)
Patricia Nagel (Melbourne Polytechnic)
House Supervisors
George Abbott
Tanya Batt
Matt Bertram
Sarah Branton
Kasey Gambling

House Attendants
Rhiannon Atkinson-Howatt
Stephanie Barham
Emily Busch
Briannah Borg
Zak Brown
Sam Diamond
Liz Drummond
Leila Gerges
Hugo Gutteridge
Abby Hampton
Michael Hart
Elise Jansen
Kathryn Joy
Natasha Milton
Ernesto Munoz
Ben Nichol
Brooke Painter
Lucy Pembroke
Brigid Quonoey
Taylor Reece
Solomon Rumble
Sophie Scott
Mieke Singh Dodd
Ayesha Tauseef
Olivia Walker
Alison Wheeldon
Rhian Wilson

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Head of Stage Management
Whitney McNamara
Stage Managers
Liz Bird
Tiah Bullock
Ben Cooper
Lisette Drew (to Sep)
Annie Gleisner
Claudia Howarth
Rain Iyahan
Jessica Keepence
Zsuzsa Gaynor Mihaly
Millie Mullinar
Liam Murray
Thomas O'Sullivan
Finlay Pedler
Vivienne Poznanski
Meg Richardson (to Dec)
Georgia Sealey
Brittany Stock
Lucie Sutherland
Victoria Woolley
Pippa Wright
Stage Management Secondment
Liz Bird (VCA)
Jessica Smart (VCA)
Chloe Goldsmith (VCA)
Sophie Walter (VCA)
Amy Gray (Polytechnic)
Stage Management Observation
Sunday Bowes (VCA)
Ellie Roth (VCA)
Jordan Smith (VCA)
Phi-Phi Nguyen (VCA)
Morgan Clyne (VCA)

TICKETING

Director of Ticketing Operations
Brenna Sotiropoulos
Customer Service Sales Manager
Jessie Phillips
VIP Ticketing Officer
Michael Bingham
Education & Ticketing Officer
Mellita Ilich
Subscriptions & Telemarketing Team Leader
Peter Dowd
Box Office Supervisors
Bridget Mackey
Tain Stangret
Box Office Attendants
Tanya Batt
Sarah Branton
Britt Ferry
Darcy Fleming
Kasey Gambling
Min Kingham
Matisse Knight
Julia Landberg
Evan Lawson
Julie Leung
Nick Rose
Lee Threadgold
Rhian Wilson
Subscriptions Team Leader
Julie Leung
Subscriptions Officers
Daniel Alder
Stephanie Barham
Amy Dorner
Casey Gould
Hugo Gutteridge
Erin Hazel
Petria Hogarth
Min Kingham
Matisse Knight
Julia Landberg
Tom O'Sullivan
Isabelle Paci
Frederick Pryce
Cara Richards
Molly Webb

CRM & AUDIENCE INSIGHTS

Director of CRM & Audience Insights
Jerry Hodgins
Database Specialist
Ben Gu
Data Analyst
Sionna Maple

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES

Tony Briggs
Zoë Coombs Marr
Patricia Cornelius
Roshelle Fong
Kate Hood
Paul Jackson
Margot Morales
Stephen Nicolazzo
Zindzi Okenyo
Corey Saylor-Brunskill
Amy Sole
Sonya Soares

COMMISSIONS

The Joan & Peter Clemenger Commissions
Kylie Coolwell
NEXT STAGE Commissions
Van Badham
Kamarra Bell-Wykes
Andrew Bovell
Angus Cerini
Claire G Coleman
Patricia Cornelius
Roshelle Fong
Declan Furber Gillick
Sheridan Harbridge
Elise Esther Hearst
Matt Heffernen
Andrea James
Claudia Karvan
Phil Kavanagh
Benjamin Law
Michele Lee
Joe Paradise Lui
Kirsty Marillier
Nathan Maynard
Glenn Moorhouse
Kate Mulvany
Joe Penhall
Leah Purcell
Chris Ryan
Sally Sara
S Shakhidaran
Melanie Tait
Aran Thangaratnam
Megan Washington
Mark Winter

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVE

New York
Kevin Emrick

Circles of Giving

LIFETIME PATRONS

Acknowledging a lifetime of extraordinary support.

Rowland Ball OAM and
The Late Monica Maughan
Pat Burke
Peter Clemenger AO and
The Late Joan Clemenger AO

Greig Gailey and Dr Geraldine Lazarus
Allan Myers AC KC and Maria Myers AC
The Late Bidy Ponsford
The Late Dr Roger Riordan AM
Maureen Wheeler AO and Tony Wheeler AO

The Late Ursula Whiteside
Caroline Young and Derek Young AM

ENDOWMENT FUND DONORS

Supporting Melbourne Theatre Company's long term sustainability and creative future.

Leading Gifts

Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO
The Late Max Schultz and
The Late Jill Schultz
The University of Melbourne

\$50,000+

The Late Margaret Anne Brien
Tony and Janine Burgess
The Late Geoffrey Cohen AM
The Late Valerie Gwendolyn King
The Late Bidy Ponsford
Andrew Sisson AO and Tracey Sisson
The John & Myriam Wylie Foundation

\$20,000+

Robert A. Dunster
Tania Seary and Chris Lynch

\$10,000+

Tony and Nathalie Johnson
Jane Kunstler

\$5,000

Anonymous (1)

\$2,500+

Anonymous (1)

\$1,000+

Xue Snowe Li

PLAYWRIGHTS GIVING CIRCLE

Supporting the NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, our industry-leading commissioning initiative.

Paul and Wendy Bonnici & Family, Tony and Janine Burgess, Kathleen Canfell, Fitzpatrick Sykes Family Foundation, Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO, Larry Kamener and Petra Kamener, The Margaret Lawrence Bequest, Helen Nicolay, Tania Seary and Chris Lynch, Craig Semple, Dr Richard Simmie



TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS



The Gailey Lazarus
Foundation



BENEFACTORS CIRCLE

Acknowledging Donors whose recent gifts help enrich and transform lives through the magic of theatre.

\$50,000+

Krystyna Campbell-Pretty AM
Peter Clemenger AO

Fitzpatrick Sykes Family Foundation
Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO

Andrew Sisson AO and Tracey Sisson ●
Maureen Wheeler AO and Tony Wheeler AO

\$20,000+

Alan and Mary-Louise
Archibald Foundation ●

Edith Burgess
Tony and Janine Burgess
The Margaret Lawrence Bequest

Tania Seary and Chris Lynch
Craig Semple

\$10,000+

Joanna Baevski ●
John and Lorraine Bates
Jay Bethell and Peter Smart
The Late Dr Jane Bird
Michael Buxton AM and Janet Buxton
Kathleen Canfell
The Cattermole Family
The Cordiner Family ●
Jennifer Darbyshire and David Walker
John and Joan Grigg oam

Linda Herd ●
Tony and Nathalie Johnson
Petra and Larry Kamener
Daryl Kendrick and Leong Lai Peng (Betty)
Suzanne Kirkham
Macgeorge Bequest
Ian and Margaret McKellar
Helen Nicolay
Pimlico Foundation
Catherine Quealy

Janet Reid OAM and Allan Reid
Lisa Ring
Anne and Mark Robertson OAM ●
Dr Richard Simmie
Rob Stewart and Lisa Dowd ●
Three Springs Foundation
Ralph Ward-Ambler AM
and Barbara Ward-Ambler
Matt Williams – Artem Group
Anonymous (2)

\$5,000+

Bagôt Gjergja Foundation
James Best and Doris Young
Paul and Wendy Bonnici and Family
Bowness Family Foundation
Dr Douglas Brown and Treena Brown
Dr Andrew Buchanan and Peter Darcy
Ian and Jillian Buchanan
Bill Burdett AM and Sandra Burdett
Lynne and Rob Burgess
Pat Burke and Jan Nolan
Diana Burleigh
Alison and John Cameron
Ann Cutts
Prof Glyn Davis AC
and Prof Margaret Gardner AC
The Dowd Foundation

Roger and Jan Goldsmith
Lesley Griffin
David and Lily Harris
Jane Hemstrich AO
Tony Hillery and Warwick Eddington
Bruce and Mary Humphries
Sam and Jacky Hupert
Dr Sonay Hussein, in memory of Prof
David Penington AC
Amy and Paul Jasper
Josephine and Graham Kraehe AO
Jane Kunstler
Glenda and Greg Lewin AM
Helen Lynch AM and Helen Bauer
Martin and Melissa McIntosh
Paula McKinnon

Kim and Peter Monk
George and Rosa Morstyn
MRB Foundation
Tom and Ruth O'Dea ■
Leigh O'Neill
Dr Kia Pajouhesh (Smile Solutions)
Bruce Parncutt AO
Christopher Reed
Renzella Family
Lynne Sherwood
Tintagel Bay P/L
Marion Webster AM
Janet Whiting am and Phil Lukies
Anonymous (7)

PROGRAM GIVING CIRCLES
■ YOUTH AMBASSADORS
● EDUCATION

To find out more about giving at Melbourne Theatre Company,
please contact Director of Development Rupert Sherwood on 03 8688 0954

Corporate Partners

Major Partner

Future Directors Initiative Partner

MinterEllison.

Major Marketing Partners



The Monthly
The Saturday Paper
7am

Presenting Partner

THE LANGHAM
MELBOURNE

Associate Partners



Supporting Partners



Marketing Partners



Southbank Theatre Partners



FINANCIAL REPORT

Key Performance Indicators

	2023	2022
ARTISTIC VIBRANCY		
Subscription Season		
Productions	8	8
Co-productions	2	1
Buy-ins	1	1
Total	11	10
New productions	10	9
Other Plays		
Touring/Sold Off	1	1
Self-presented	-	-
Co-productions	-	-
Buy-ins	-	-
Total	1	1
New productions	-	-
Profile of Plays		
New Australian	5	4
Existing Australian	1	1
New International	5	5
Existing International	-	-
Education & Families Program		
Productions	1	1
Tours	1	1
Workshops/Forums/Talks	35	13
Deadly Creatives	1	1
University of Melbourne – Breadth Program	1	1
VCA Secondary School Theatre Arts Program	1	1
Youth Ambassadors Program	1	1
Virtual School Victoria Program	1	1
Youth Scholarship Course	1	1

	2023	2022
ACCESS		
Number of Performances		
Self-presented		
Home City	330	322
Buy-ins		
Home City	53	39
Co-productions		
Home City	90	31
Touring/Sold Off		
Home City	-	-
Regional	-	-
Other Capital City	19	40
International	-	-
Education	25	20
Development	3	5
Total Performances	520	457
Regional		
Number of Productions	1	1
Number of Towns	4	3

	2023	2022
NUMBER OF PAID ATTENDANCES		
Self-presented		
Home City	128,823	116,751
Buy-ins		
Home City	18,578	13,382
Co-productions		
Home City	29,899	17,949
Touring/Sold Off		
Home City	-	-
Regional	-	-
Other Capital City	6,169	6,017
International		-
Education	2,601	2,568
Development	303	367
Total Paid Attendances	186,373	157,034

Key Performance Indicators

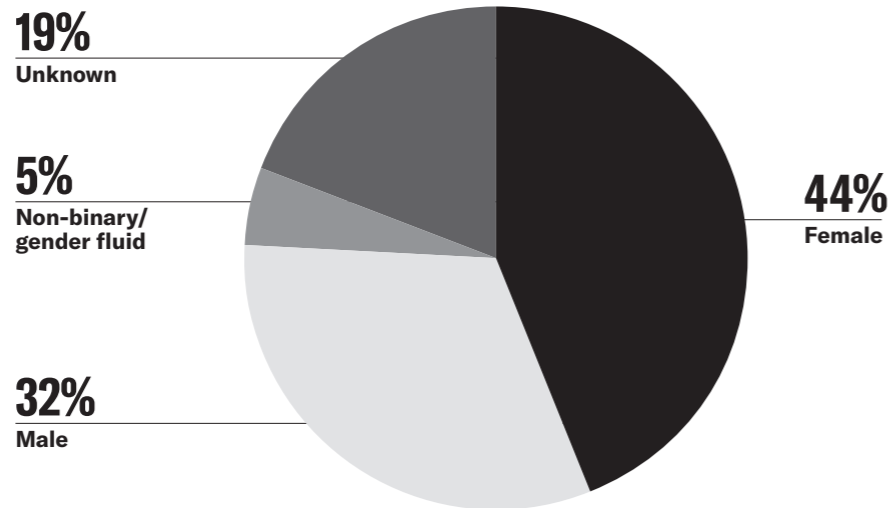
In 2022, we published a culture pledge committing to report on diversity markers within our workforce, artists and productions.

The results from our first year of reporting cover our paid workforce, including production and administration staff as well as any employed artists.

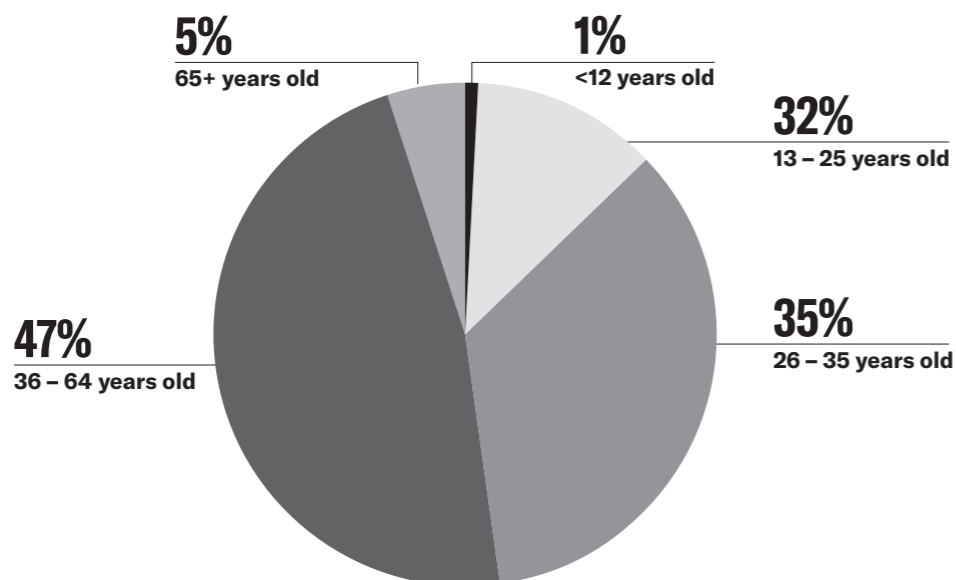
Please note that while certain information is collected during employment onboarding, other diversity markers are provided voluntarily by employees. As a result, there is a significant portion where information is not known.

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

GENDER



AGE

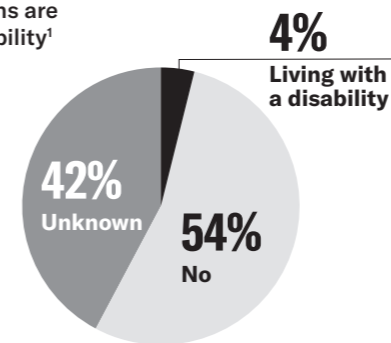


¹ Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria (2022) 'People with a disability in Victoria'

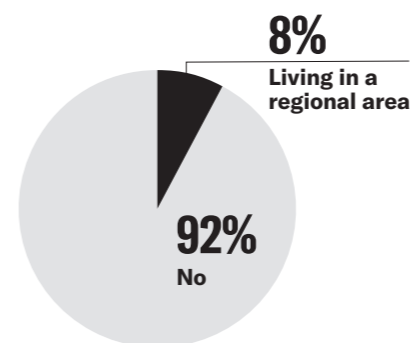
² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons'

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

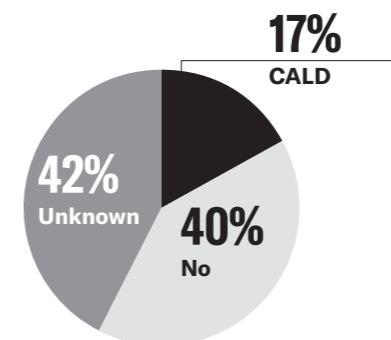
18.4% of Victorians are living with a disability¹



LIVING IN A REGIONAL AREA



CALD



EMPLOYED ARTISTS

FIRST NATIONS

1.2% Victorians identify as First Nations²



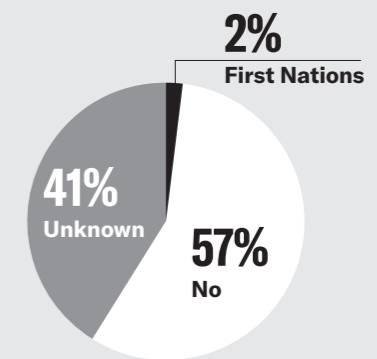
39

First Nations artists employed



3

Partnerships with First Nations organisations



1

First Nations production in the annual season

FEMALE / NON-BINARY



63%

Female / non-binary writers commissioned

BIPOC



4

BIPOC newly commissioned writers



60%

Female / non-binary creative representation



3

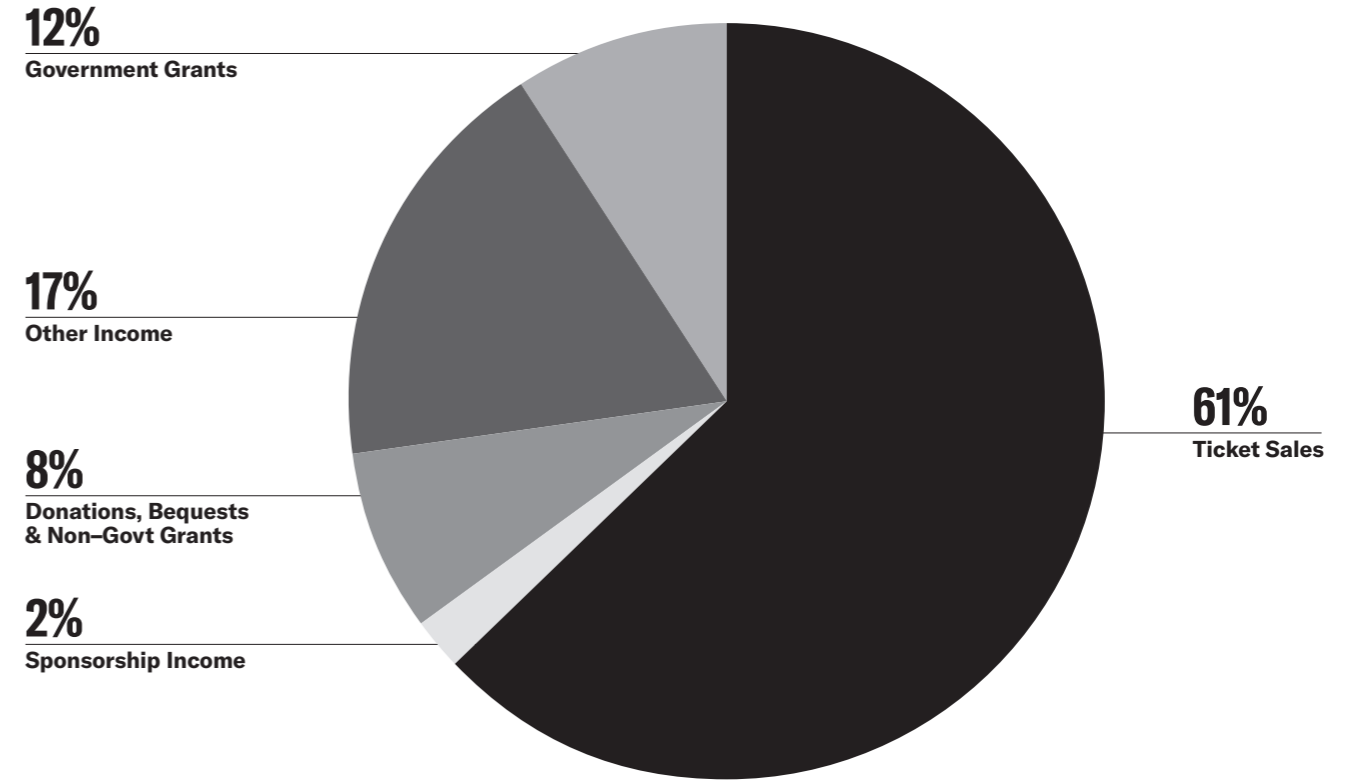
BIPOC-led productions in annual season

Key Performance Indicators

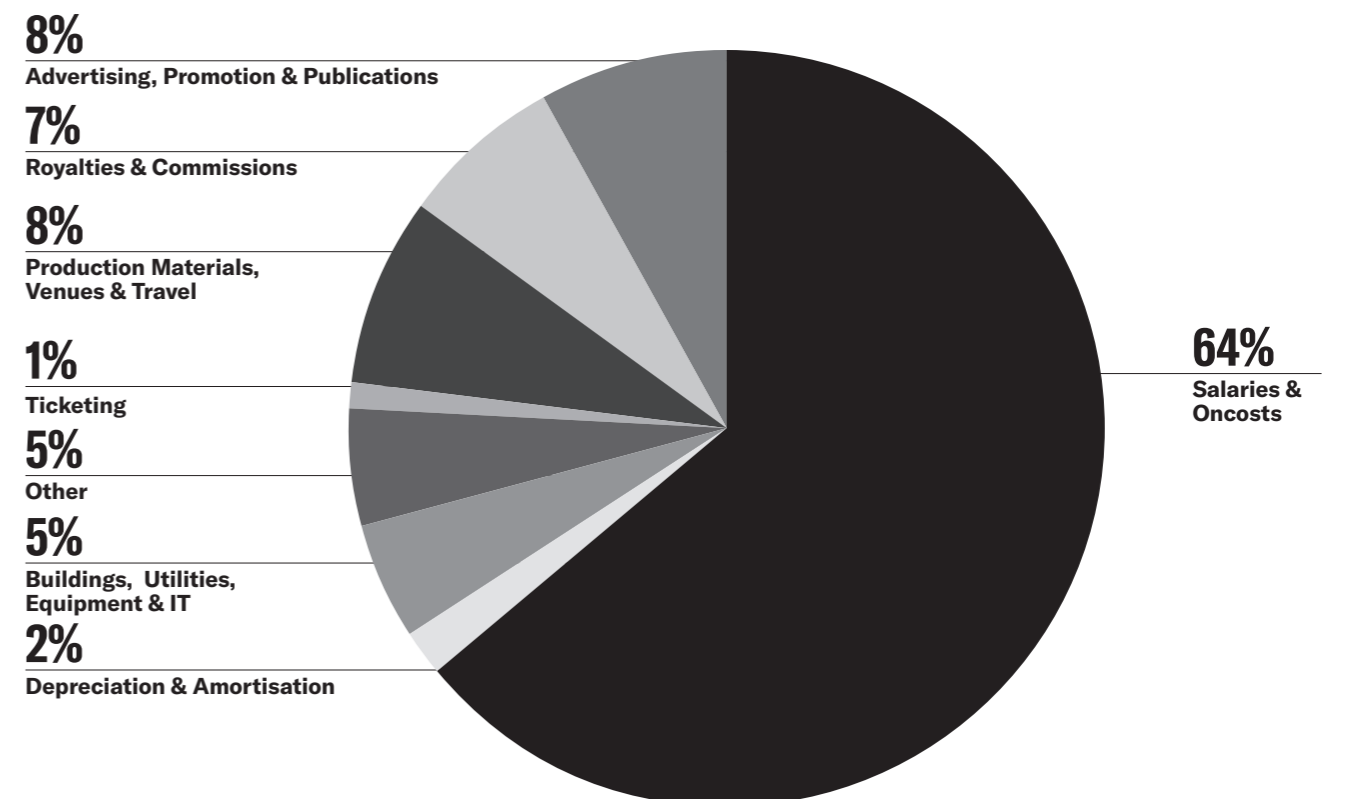
	2023	2022
FINANCIAL INDICATORS		
Financial Viability		
Strength of Reserves (% of Revenue) <small>* revenue calculated on 5-year rolling average</small>	68.4%	63.7%
Surplus/(Deficit) by Accounting Entity		
Core Operations	(252,964)	1,953,198
Foundation	(1,229,003)	1,052,582
General Endowment Fund	1,917,183	394,638
TOTAL	435,216	3,400,417
Sources of Income as % of Total		
Ticket Sales	61%	48%
Sponsorship Income	2%	3%
Donations, Bequests and Non-Govt Grants	8%	9%
Other Income	17%	8%
Government Grants	12%	32%
TOTAL	100%	100%

	2023 \$	2022 \$
GRANTS		
Commonwealth – Base Grants		
Quadrennial Grant	2,436,910	2,382,121
TOTAL COMMONWEALTH BASE GRANTS	2,436,910	2,382,121
Commonwealth – Project Grants		
Dept. of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Dev. and Comms. – RISE	–	640,200
Dept. of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Dev. and Comms. – Arts Sustainability	–	4,300,000
TOTAL COMMONWEALTH PROJECT GRANTS	–	4,940,200
State – Base Grants		
Quadrennial Grant	790,246	779,335
TOTAL STATE BASE GRANTS	790,246	779,335
State – Project Grants		
Department of Education – Strategic Partnerships Program Funding	74,506	73,134
Department of Education – Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series	15,960	–
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions – Sustaining Creative Organisations	–	366,444
TOTAL STATE PROJECT GRANTS	90,466	439,579
OTHER GRANTS		
City of Melbourne	–	60,000
Cybec Foundation	80,000	72,000
The Ian Potter Foundation	156,085	198,492
Playking Foundation	–	30,000
The John & Myriam Wylie Foundation	100,000	100,000
TOTAL OTHER GRANTS	336,085	460,492

2023 Income



2023 Expenditure



Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
REVENUE		
Ticket Sales	16,363,874	12,999,838
Commonwealth Government Grants	2,436,910	7,322,321
Victorian Government Grants	880,713	1,218,914
Other Grants	336,085	460,492
Donations and Bequests	1,738,473	1,948,394
Sponsorship Income	555,668	809,942
Investment Income	1,128,527	768,731
Realised Investment Capital Gains	505,613	-
Contribution from University of Melbourne	1,142,959	336,943
Other Income	1,855,846	1,001,982
TOTAL REVENUE	26,944,666	26,867,558
LESS EXPENSE		
Salaries and Oncosts	16,848,797	14,883,132
Utilities	285,845	379,534
Building and Equipment Maintenance and Repairs	751,119	875,049
Computer Software and Services	222,976	260,987
Equipment and IT Consumables	101,081	108,308
Stage Materials and Supplies	520,646	638,020
Depreciation and Amortisation	468,877	398,384
Finance Costs	7,426	9,087
Production related Travel, Accommodation and Tour Costs	433,237	284,613
Advertising, Promotion and Publications	2,123,596	2,302,745
Theatre Venue Rental and Hire Charges	1,233,514	705,511
Royalties and Commissions	1,917,869	1,500,582
Ticketing	472,203	287,287
Other Expenses	1,122,266	833,901
TOTAL EXPENSE	26,509,450	23,467,140
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	435,216	3,400,417
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		
Available-for-sale Financial Assets:		
Unrealised Capital Gain/(Loss) on Investments	468,493	(1,251,915)
	468,493	(1,251,915)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	903,708	2,148,502

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	12,577,309	7,763,492
Receivables	185,843	180,550
Other Assets	1,576,291	1,254,646
Investments	-	7,493,126
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	14,339,444	16,691,813
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	6,111,489	5,509,465
Other Assets	150,000	210,000
Investments	9,027,234	8,275,107
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	15,288,724	13,994,572
TOTAL ASSETS	29,628,167	30,686,385
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	2,996,754	2,827,536
Provisions	1,901,726	1,709,815
Other Liabilities	8,507,668	10,681,177
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	13,406,149	15,218,529
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	135,663	200,245
Provisions	242,345	327,309
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	378,008	527,553
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,784,156	15,746,082
NET ASSETS	15,844,011	14,940,303
EQUITY		
Reserves	12,484,340	12,687,326
Retained Surplus	3,359,671	2,252,977
TOTAL EQUITY	15,844,011	14,940,303

Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 AND 2023

	Core Operations \$	Foundation \$	Endowment \$	Total \$
Retained Surplus	299,779	–	–	299,779
Reserve Funds	3,930,838	2,790,432	–	6,721,270
Endowed Funds	–	–	5,770,752	5,770,752
Equity Balance at 1 January 2022	4,230,617	2,790,432	5,770,752	12,791,801
2022				
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for 2022	1,953,198	1,052,582	394,638	3,400,417
Other comprehensive income for 2022	(607,370)	(207,806)	(436,739)	(1,251,915)
Equity Balance at 31 December 2022	5,576,445	3,635,208	5,728,650	14,940,303
2023				
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for 2023	(252,964)	(1,229,003)	1,917,183	435,216
Other comprehensive income for 2023	–	145,725	322,767	468,493
Equity Balance at 31 December 2023	5,323,482	2,551,930	7,968,600	15,844,011
Transfer of realised prior year investment gains from Reserve Funds to Retained Surplus	1,359,657	–	–	1,359,657
2023				
Retained Surplus	3,359,671	–	–	3,359,671
Reserve Funds	1,963,811	2,551,930	–	4,515,740
Endowed Funds	–	–	7,968,600	7,968,600
Equity Balance at 31 December 2023	5,323,482	2,551,930	7,968,600	15,844,011

Cash Flow Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2022 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES –		
Inflows:		
Commonwealth Government Grants	2,436,910	3,915,367
Victorian Government Grants	880,712	1,277,469
Investment Income Receipts	663,436	507,287
Other Operating Receipts	18,328,387	15,268,327
GST and WHT refunded by the ATO	300,041	44,501
Contributions from University of Melbourne (operational)	342,959	336,943
Outflows:		
Payments to Employees	(16,741,850)	(14,774,348)
Payments to Suppliers	(9,129,715)	(6,442,263)
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Operating Activities	(2,919,119)	133,284
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES –		
Inflows:		
Proceeds from Sale of Investments	7,998,172	–
Contributions from University of Melbourne (capital)	800,000	–
Outflows:		
Purchase of Investments (excludes reinvested income)	–	(153,651)
Purchase of Plant and Equipment	(1,057,809)	(282,497)
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Investing Activities	7,740,363	(436,148)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES –		
Outflows:		
Interest Costs related to Lease of Building	(7,426)	(9,087)
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Financing Activities	(7,426)	(9,087)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held	4,813,818	(311,952)
Cash at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	7,763,492	8,075,443
Cash at the End of the Reporting Period	12,577,309	7,763,492
Reconciliation of Cash at the End of the Reporting Period		
Cash in Bank Accounts and Term Deposits	12,526,826	7,713,019
Petty Cash Floats and Debit Cards	50,483	50,473
	12,577,309	7,763,492

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income by Accounting Entity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Core Operations \$	Foundation \$	Endowment \$	Total \$
REVENUE				
Ticket Sales	16,363,874	–	–	16,363,874
Commonwealth Government Grants	2,436,910	–	–	2,436,910
Victorian Government Grants	880,713	–	–	880,713
Other Grants	–	336,085	–	336,085
Donations and Bequests	–	1,699,973	38,500	1,738,473
Sponsorship Income	555,668	–	–	555,668
Investment Income	681,485	156,360	290,683	1,128,527
Realised Investment Capital Gains	505,613	–	–	505,613
Contribution from University of Melbourne	1,142,959	–	–	1,142,959
Other Income	1,841,210	14,636	–	1,855,846
TOTAL REVENUE	24,408,430	2,207,054	329,183	26,944,666
LESS EXPENSE				
Salaries and Oncosts	16,848,797	–	–	16,848,797
Utilities	285,845	–	–	285,845
Building and Equipment Maintenance and Repairs	751,119	–	–	751,119
Computer Software and Services	222,976	–	–	222,976
Equipment and IT Consumables	101,081	–	–	101,081
Stage Materials and Supplies	520,646	–	–	520,646
Depreciation and Amortisation	468,877	–	–	468,877
Finance Costs	7,426	–	–	7,426
Production-related Travel, Accommodation and Tour Costs	433,237	–	–	433,237
Advertising, Promotion and Publications	2,123,596	–	–	2,123,596
Theatre Venue Rental and Hire Charges	1,233,514	–	–	1,233,514
Royalties and Commissions	1,917,869	–	–	1,917,869
Ticketing	472,203	–	–	472,203
Other Expenses	1,122,266	–	–	1,122,266
TOTAL EXPENSE	26,509,450	–	–	26,509,450
Transfer from Foundation	1,848,057	(3,436,057)	1,588,000	–
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(252,963)	(1,229,003)	1,917,183	435,216
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR				
Available-for-sale Financial Assets:				
Unrealised Capital Gain/(Loss) on Investments	–	145,725	322,767	468,493
	–	145,725	322,767	468,493
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(252,963)	(1,083,278)	2,239,950	903,708

Statement of Financial Position by Accounting Entity

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Core Operations \$	Foundation \$	Endowment \$	Total \$
ASSETS				
Current Assets	12,468,641	220,063	1,650,740	14,339,444
Non-Current Assets	6,261,489	2,709,374	6,317,860	15,288,724
Total Assets	18,730,130	2,929,437	7,968,600	29,628,167
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities	13,028,641	377,508	–	13,406,149
Non-Current Liabilities	378,008	–	–	378,008
Total Liabilities	13,406,648	377,508	–	13,784,156
Net Assets	5,323,482	2,551,930	7,968,600	15,844,011

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Page 6 – Heath Warwick

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Page 14 – Brett Boardman

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Page 30, 40 – Sarah Walker

Page 32 – Matt Byrne

Page 36, 41 (*As You Like It*) – Jeff Busby

Page 41 Jo Duck (*The Heartbreak Choir, Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes*), Justin Ridler (*Berlin*), Brett Walker (*SLAP. BANG. KISS.*)

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