



NETFLIX THE COMPANY

SEASON 2024
ANNUAL REPORT

Melbourne Theatre Company HQ
252 Sturt St
Southbank VIC 3006

Southbank Theatre
140 Southbank Blvd
Southbank VIC 3006

mtc.com.au

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**

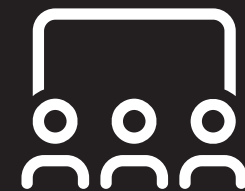


THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



\$14m+

total box
office income



181k+

total paid
attendance



571

performances



\$26.57m

total revenue



20k+

paid attendance at
performances
outside of Melbourne



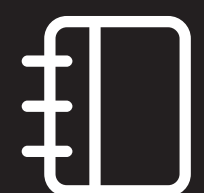
433

actors, creatives
and industry
professionals employed



12k+

ticket buyers were new to
Melbourne Theatre Company



6

new Australian works
commissioned



Chair's report

MARTIN HOSKING



More than 40 years ago, I arrived in Melbourne and was immediately captivated by its vibrant theatre scene. So much so, I wrote my Melbourne University Honours thesis on the history of the Australian Performing Group which operated the Pram Factory in Carlton. Melbourne Theatre Company was well established by then as one of Australia's leading theatre companies. I am both humbled and honoured to now serve as Chair of this remarkable company, which has been an important part of my life for so many years.

As someone who has spent much of my career in the tech and business sectors, I have seen first-hand the power of innovation and collaboration. My experiences as co-founder of Redbubble and in various other entrepreneurial roles have given me an appreciation for the need to balance creative ambition with sustainable growth. I have this in mind in my role as Chair, working alongside a talented Board and Executive team to ensure the Company continues to thrive.

I took up the role of Chair in July, around the time one of the 20th century's most famous plays – *A Streetcar Named Desire* – took over the Playhouse at Arts Centre Melbourne. Watching the revival, brought to the stage by Artistic Director & Co-CEO Anne-Louise Sarks, highlighted to me the enduring value of great theatre. Despite the challenging climate for arts organisations, marked by changing consumer behaviours and ongoing price pressures, we as a company continue to engage both new and returning audiences with thrilling theatre. In 2024 we presented renowned classics like *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Pulitzer Prize-winning comedies like *English*, and brand-new Australian plays that celebrate the best of home-grown talent. In a time when our cultural fabric is being stretched and reformed, theatre has never been more relevant. Melbourne Theatre Company remains a powerful platform for addressing contemporary issues and sparking meaningful conversation.

Our success on the main stage goes hand-in-hand with diverse development and educational programs. The Company underpins theatre in Victoria and beyond through our commitment to new writers, directors, partnerships, educational programs, regional touring and digital products.

A crucial part of our success is the ongoing support of the University of Melbourne, as well as the invaluable contributions of the Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation and the General Endowment Fund, all key to ensuring our long-term stability and resilience.

Our successes this year would not have been possible without the continued generosity of our Donors, Subscribers, and Corporate Partners. Your support enables us to remain a leading force in Australian theatre, while also nurturing the next generation of talent through our development programs and initiatives beyond the main stage.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and expertise of my fellow Board members. A special note of gratitude is owed to Patricia Faulkner AO, who stepped in as interim Chair prior to my appointment in July. And to my deputy Chair, Leigh O'Neill. Finally, my sincere thanks to Artistic Director & Co-CEO Anne-Louise Sarks, Executive Director & Co-CEO Sally Noonan and all Melbourne Theatre Company staff, including the creatives and artists who join us throughout the year – your commitment, passion, and hard work make the Company what it is today.

I look forward to the exciting journey ahead as we continue to shape the future of theatre in Melbourne and beyond.

Martin Hosking

Executive Director & Co-CEO's report

SALLY NOONAN



As we reflect on another year at Melbourne Theatre Company with continued challenges, I'm buoyed by the momentum surrounding our artistic program and the reach and impact we've been able to drive around our programming and artistic initiatives.

In 2024, we welcomed more than 180,000 people into our theatres – including 12,000 first-time visitors – a powerful demonstration of the community's belief in theatre as a force for connection, insight and cultural leadership. Importantly, our impact extended beyond the theatre walls. We estimate that our audiences generated almost \$15.8 million in ancillary economic activity in 2024 alone, including \$5.2 million on food and drinks. This reinforces not only our cultural value but also our role as a key driver of Melbourne's creative economy and a vital contributor to the broader precinct.

This commitment to cultural and economic impact was matched by our efforts to reimagine how our spaces – particularly the Lawler theatre – could serve as incubators for artistic innovation and community engagement. We aligned our Cybec play-reading series with Melbourne Fringe, opening up the program to new audiences and voices within the independent sector.

Cross-platform events such as Open House Melbourne further positioned the Lawler as an accessible space within the expanding Melbourne Arts Precinct.

Productions like *Topdog/Underdog*, which transformed the venue into an intimate, lived-in apartment setting, exemplified the creative possibilities of the space and helped drive a record number of new ticket buyers for a Lawler season. These initiatives are part of a long-term strategy to more deeply embed the Company and the Southbank Theatre within the artistic heartbeat of the city.

We also renewed our Major Partnership with MinterEllison, extending the life of the MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative. This is such an integral part of our commitment to helping early-career theatre makers take the next step and in 2024 four Future Directors were mentored under the program, with three continuing their journeys with the Company in other capacities, alongside past alumni such as Miranda Middleton (*My Brilliant Career*) and Roshelle Yee Pui Fong (Season 2025). MinterEllison is an enlightened firm that understands its place as an authentic collaborator contributing to the community and city in which it works, and we value their holistic approach to our partnership.

While we reflect on the impact and engagement that demonstrates our place as one of the cultural experiences of Melbourne, we are also mindful of the ongoing challenges we face. These challenges are not unique to us but are instead widely felt in our industry. The ticketing environment for live performance remains tough, and we reported an 11% decrease in ticket sales revenue compared to 2023. We are indebted to the core group of Subscribers who delight in our mission and we are also committed to evolving to ensure relevance and sustainability in coming years, and to investing in building the audience of the future. In an uncertain economic environment, we continue necessarily to manage rising production costs, focusing on containing expenses, which resulted in a 1.5% decrease in total expenses in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Despite the ongoing underlying operating deficit, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our supporters, we have seen a remarkable increase in donations and bequests into our General Endowment Fund. This has resulted in a modest overall company surplus of \$193,790, and importantly, it means that

the value of our Endowment Fund has surpassed \$10 million for the first time, securing an additional annual income stream for the Company starting in 2025. This milestone is a direct result of the forward-thinking leadership of our outgoing Chair, Jane Hansen, whose dedication to Melbourne Theatre Company has been transformative. It's of course paramount to thank the Foundation Board, and Chair Tania Seary, for their guidance, energy and governance.

2024 also saw the renewal of the Company's National Performing Arts Partnership Framework annual funding for a new four-year term beginning in 2025. I thank Creative Australia and Creative Victoria for acknowledging our work to carefully evolve this cherished company to be fit for the future.

With changes to our Board of Management in 2024, I would like to thank Patricia Faulkner for her leadership as Interim Chair and welcome Martin Hosking as our new Chair and Leigh O'Neill as Deputy Chair. Their guidance will be invaluable as we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of Australian theatre. I acknowledge and thank the University of Melbourne and would like to take the opportunity to farewell Duncan Maskell as Vice Chancellor upon the conclusion of his term in 2025.

My huge thanks to our creatives, corporate and government partners, Donors, Subscribers, and audiences. Your continued support is never more essential and valued and ensures that Melbourne Theatre Company continues to be a vibrant and energising part of Australia's arts scene.

Finally, I acknowledge the efforts of the extraordinary Melbourne Theatre Company team who work every day to send us in the right direction project by project, production by production. It is by no means easy, but it is very much appreciated.

Artistic Director & Co-CEO's report

ANNE-LOUISE SARKS



This year included an expansive season of work that brought together local and international voices and celebrated the transformative power of live theatre. We presented 15 productions across 571 performances, including three brand new works as part of *Blak in the Room*. We welcomed 433 artists, creatives and makers to our stages and spaces.

We saw impressive audience engagement across the year, with productions like *37*, *Julia*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *My Brilliant Career* and *The Almighty Sometimes* sparking strong emotional responses, and impressive youth and new audience figures – clear evidence of the power of theatre to lead and unlock cultural conversations. This signals great progress towards our vision to amplify Australian stories, expand access and to deepen our national identity through groundbreaking work. Reflecting on this momentum, arts critic Cameron Woodhead observed, 'Of all the good news stories in theatre in 2024, it is the runaway success of the Melbourne Theatre Company's season... galvanised by the sense of an artistic community pushing to new heights – that stands out most.'

What I loved in 2024 was the broad range of appetites from our audiences. We saw enthusiastic responses to international hits like Suzan Lori-Parks's *Topdog/Underdog* and Sanaz Toossi's *English*, both of which saw extended runs due to strong demand. These award-winning plays resonated with people in ways that are both energising and humbling,

demonstrating the desire for stories that reflect diverse experiences and which speak to universal truths. Just as much as we embraced powerhouse plays from abroad, our commitment to creating new Australian work was equally celebrated.

The impact of *37*, commissioned and developed through our NEXT STAGE program, was remarkable. It was loved by critics and award panels alike and won a Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Drama. It was also embraced by audiences, who showed a hunger for bold, original Australian stories. Nathan Maynard's hilarious play experienced the best single day of sales of Season 2024 and importantly welcomed new audiences into the Sumner. Plus, we worked with co-producers Queensland Theatre to take *37* beyond Melbourne. Another sensation was *My Brilliant Career*, a reimagining of Miles Franklin's celebrated classic from Dean Bryant and Sheridan Harbridge. It was a triumph, selling out and extending due to overwhelming demand. These successes are not only a reflection of the talent of the creatives behind them but also of the hunger for locally created work.

We've worked hand-in-hand with companies in Victoria and across other states to bring exciting new productions to the stage. We ensured Melbourne theatregoers had a chance to see Justine Clarke's extraordinary performance in a sold-out season of *Julia*, by Joanna Murray-Smith, after its successful run in Sydney. The production's popularity continued here in Joanna's home city – we added Friday matinees to meet the high demand – a testament to the growing appetite for exceptional live theatre in our city. Our *Blak in the Room* initiative, delivered in partnership with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, exemplified our focus on equity, collaboration and First Nations voices. We are excited to continue working with one of those playwrights, Isobel Morphy-Walsh, who will join us as Resident Dramaturg in 2025.

Beyond Melbourne, we toured our Education & Families productions *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* and *World Problems* to regional audiences in Victoria and New South Wales, and saw our acclaimed production, *Sunday*, reach new audiences both online and at the Sydney Opera House.

We also had a full circle moment in Merlynn Tong's high octane *Golden Blood*, a work that made its way from our Cybec Electric play-reading series through our NEXT STAGE Writers' Program and onto the Melbourne stage via Griffin Theatre Company.

In addition to celebrating the artists and works of today, we are equally focused on nurturing the future of Australian theatre. We are developing and refining 20 active commissions to bring brand-new plays to our stages. We're proud to continue providing space and resources for Deadly Creatives, the young First Nations theatre makers as they create new work for 2025. And we are excited about the success of our inaugural Future Creatives programs. This initiative, which seeks to address under-representation in the theatre industry, has received incredible feedback from early-career designers and their mentors and has given those emerging artists unparalleled opportunities to work alongside world class designers.

Of course, Season 2024 would not be possible without the extraordinary artists, makers, and technicians who brought it to life. I am deeply grateful to the performers, designers, directors, writers, and the staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes here at Melbourne Theatre Company with rigor and talent and care. And finally, to our audiences: thank you. Your passion and engagement allows us to continue creating and sharing stories that excite, challenge and inspire.

See you at the theatre.



15 JAN—17 FEB 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

SEVENTEEN

BY **MATTHEW WHITTET**

DIRECTED BY **MATT EDGERTON**

‘Outstanding veterans of the stage
take on the issues of today’s teens
in this sentimental tale.’

TIME OUT

‘Comedy and poignancy ripple
through the performances
to complex effect.’

THE AGE

Cast

Fiona Choi Lizzy
Robert Menzies Tom
Genevieve Picot Emilia
Richard Piper Mike
Pamela Rabe Jess
George Shevtsov Ronny

Creative and production team

Matt Edgerton Director
Christina Smith
Set & Costume Designer
Paul Jackson Lighting Designer
Joe Paradise Lui
Composer & Sound Designer
Vincent Crowley Movement Director
Tom Willis Associate Lighting Designer
Tasnim Hossain Assistant Director
Amy Cater Intimacy Coordinator

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 19 Jan
Forum Night Mon 22 Jan
Donor Night Tue 30 Jan
Audio Described Sat 3 Feb, Tue 6 Feb
Tactile Tour Sat 3 Feb
Live Captioning Sat 10 Feb
Auslan Interpreted Tue 13 Feb

The season in numbers

Performances 37
Paid Attendance 10,618



10 FEB—16 MAR 2024
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

MEET ME AT DAWN

BY **ZINNIE HARRIS**
DIRECTED BY **KATY MAUDLIN**

★★★★★
'Deeply moving and
poignant.'
TIME OUT

'Two excellent actors
at its centre.'
THE GUARDIAN

Cast

Jing-Xuan Chan Robyn
Sheridan Harbridge Helen

Creative and production team

Katy Maudlin Director
Romanie Harper
Set & Costume Designer
Amelia Lever-Davidson
Lighting Designer
Daniel Nixon
Composer & Sound Designer
Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Voice & Text Coach
Isabella Vadiveloo Intimacy Coordinator

Key dates

Opening Night Thurs 15 Feb
Forum Night Mon 19 Feb
Donor Night Mon 26 Feb
Audio Described Sat 2 Mar, Tue 5 Mar
Tactile Tour Sat 2 Mar
Live Captioning Sat 9 Mar
Auslan Interpreted Tues 12 Mar

The season in numbers

Performances 40
Paid Attendance 8,284

Major Marketing
Partner

The Monthly



2 MAR—5 APR 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

37
BY NATHAN MAYNARD
DIRECTED BY ISAAC DRANDIC

★★★★★
‘Funny, big-hearted, vigorous and
accessible...a thrilling defining moment.’
THE AGE

★★★★★
‘In a nutshell: perfect theatre.’
ARTSHUB

Cast

Syd Brisbane The General
Mitchell Brotz Gorby
Samuel Buckley Apples
Costa D’Angelo Ant
Thomas Larkin GJ
Eddie Orton Woodsy
Ben O’Toole Joe
Ngali Shaw Jayma
Anthony Standish Dazza
Tibian Wyles Sonny

Creative and production team

Isaac Drandic
Director & Co-Choreographer
Dale Ferguson Set & Costume Designer
Ben Hughes Lighting Designer
James Henry
Composer & Sound Designer
Waangenga Blanco Co-Choreographer
Matt Furlani Voice & Text Coach
Kamarra Bell-Wykes Assistant Director
Lyndall Grant Fight Choreographer
Isabella Vadiveloo Intimacy Coordinator

Key dates

Opening Night Thu 7 Mar
Forum Night Mon 11 Mar
Donor Night Tue 19 Mar
Audio Described Sat 16 Mar, Tue 19 Mar
Tactile Tour Sat 16 Mar
Live Captioning Sat 23 Mar
Auslan Interpreted Tue 26 Mar
Community Nights
Sat 2 Mar, Sat 23 Mar

The season in numbers

Performances 37
Paid Attendance 12,711

Interstate season

11 Apr—4 May
Bille Brown Theatre
South Brisbane QLD

Nominations and awards

Victorian Premier’s Literary Award
Winner Drama 2025
Matilda Award Winner
Best Mainstage Production
Matilda Award Winner
Best Direction – Isaac Drandic
Matilda Award Nomination
Best Performance in a Leading Role –
Mainstage Production – Tibian Wyles
Matilda Award Nomination
Best Performance in a Supporting Role
– Mainstage Production –
Anthony Standish
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Production
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Ensemble
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding New Australian Writing
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Direction – Isaac Drandic
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Performance – Syd Brisbane
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Performance – Tibian Wyles
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Lighting Design – Ben Hughes

Co-producer

Commissioned and developed through Melbourne
Theatre Company’s NEXT STAGE Writers’ Program,
with the support of our Playwrights Giving Circle.



15 APR—18 MAY 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIMES

BY **KENDALL FEAVER**
DIRECTED BY **HANNAH GOODWIN**



‘Cogently teases out and does justice
to the nuances of Feaver’s words’

ARTSHUB



‘Pulling off a dramatic, emotionally charged dissection of
[mental illness] with clinical precision.’

THE AGE

Cast

Nadine Garner Renee
Max McKenna Anna
Louisa Mignone Vivienne
Karl Richmond Oliver

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 19 Apr
Forum Night Mon 22 Apr
Donor Night Mon 29 Apr
Audio Described Sat 4 May, Tue 7 May
Tactile Tour Sat 4 May
Live Captioning Sat 11 May
Auslan Interpreted Tues 14 May

Nominations and awards

**Time Out Melbourne Arts & Culture
Critics’ Choice Award Winner –**
Max McKenna
**Time Out Melbourne Arts & Culture
People’s Choice Award Winner –**
Max McKenna

Creative and production team

Hannah Goodwin Director
Jacob Battista Set & Costume Designer
Amelia Lever-Davidson
Lighting Designer
Kelly Ryall Composer & Sound Designer
Matt Furlani Voice & Text Coach
Lyndall Grant Fight Choreographer &
Movement Consultant
Bayley Turner Intimacy Coordinator
Jennifer Sarah Dean Assistant Director

The season in numbers

Performances 37
Paid Attendance 12,387

Major Marketing Partner

**The Saturday
Paper**



EDUCATION & FAMILIES

3 MAY—22 MAY 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER

WORLD PROBLEMS

BY **EMMA MARY HALL**
DIRECTED BY **CASSANDRA FUMI**

'Perfect fodder for interrogation and speculation.'
THEATRE MATTERS

'A tour de force.'
THE SATURDAY PAPER

Cast

Carly Sheppard Performer

Creative and production team

Cassandra Fumi Director

Dann Barber Set & Costume Designer

Harrie Hogan Lighting Designer

Rachel Lewindon
Composer & Sound Designer

Amelia Jean O'Leary
Movement Consultant

Kamarra Bell-Wykes
Additional Dramaturgy

Bridie Noonan
Robert McDonald Award Intern

Nicki Jam Volunteer Directing Placement

Key dates

Opening Night Wed 8 May

Forum Night Mon 13 May

Education Performances Thu 9 May,
Wed 15 May, Tue 21 May

Livestreamed Performance Wed 15 May

Community Night Mon 20 May

Livestream performance

Wed 15 May

**Arts Centre Melbourne Audio Visual
& Broadcasting** Digital broadcast

Brian Cohen Livestream director

The season in numbers

Performances 20

Paid Attendance 1,897



31 MAY—13 JUL 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

JULIA

BY JOANNA MURRAY-SMITH
DIRECTED BY SARAH GOODES

'It's worth seeing this show
just to watch Justine Clarke
transform into Gillard.'

THE AGE

★★★★★
'A masterful work
of collaborative art.'

ARTS HUB

'A revealing portrait of
a leader under duress.'

THE BLURB

Cast

Jessica Bentley Young Woman
Justine Clarke Julia

Creative and production team

Sarah Goodes Director
Renée Mulder Designer
Alexander Berlage Lighting Designer
Steve Francis
Composer & Sound Designer
Susie Henderson Video Designer
Charley Allannah Assistant Director
Jennifer White Voice & Dialect Coach
Caroline Craig Understudy

Key dates

Opening Night Tue 4 Jun
Forum Night Mon 10 Jun
Donor Night Thu 13 Jun
Audio Described Sat 22 Jun, Tue 25 Jun
Tactile Tour Sat 22 Jun
Live Captioning Sat 29 Jun
Auslan Interpreted Tue 2 Jul
Education Performance Thu 6 Jun

The season in numbers

Performances 53
Paid Attendance 27,950

A Sydney Theatre Company and
Canberra Theatre Centre production

SYDNEY THEATRE CO
CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE



9 JUL—17 AUG 2024
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, PLAYHOUSE

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

BY **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

DIRECTED BY **ANNE-LOUISE SARKS**



‘Classic-with-a-twist interpretation.’

LIMELIGHT



‘Fuelled by powerful performances
from the cast.’

THE AGE

Cast

Gabriella Barbagallo Gee Gee / Nurse
Kaya Byrne Young Collector / Doctor
Michelle Lim Davidson Stella
Stephen Lopez Pablo
Steve Mouzakis Mitch
Veronica Pena Negrette Flower Seller
Nikki Shiels Blanche
Katherine Tonkin Eunice
Mark Leonard Winter Stanley
Gareth Yuen Steve

Key dates

Opening Night Sat 13 Jul
Forum Night Mon 15 Jul
Donor Night Mon 22 Jul
Audio Described Sat 27 Jul, Tue 30 Jul
Tactile Tour Sat 27 Jul
Live Captioning Sat 3 Aug
Auslan Interpreted Tue 6 Aug
Education Performance Wed 7 Aug
Relaxed Performance Wed 14 Aug

The season in numbers

Performances 43
Paid Attendance 25,758

Creative and production team

Anne-Louise Sarks Director
Mel Page Set & Costume Designer
Niklas Pajanti Lighting Designer
Stefan Gregory Music
Amy Cater Intimacy Coordinator
Geraldine Cook-Dafner
Voice & Dialect Coach
Nigel Poulton Fight Director
Joe Paradise Lui Assistant Director
Bianca Pardo
Assistant Set & Costume Designer
Lucy Goleby Standby Cover
Josh McConville Standby Cover
James O’Connell Standby Cover
Ursula Searle Standby Cover



29 JUL—31 AUG 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

ENGLISH

BY **SANAZ TOOSSI**
DIRECTED BY **TASNIM HOSSAIN**

'Enduring and relatable.'
ARTSHUB

★★★★
'Smart, subtle and
deceptively feelgood.'
THE GUARDIAN

Cast

Maia Abbas Elham
Delaram Ahmadi Goli
Salme Geransar Marjan
Marjan Mesbahi Roya
Osamah Sami Omid

Creative and production team

Tasnim Hossain Director
Kat Chan Set & Costume Designer
Paul Lim Lighting Designer
Hamed Sadeghi Composer
Marco Cher-Gibard Sound Designer
Ana Bayat Persian Language Accent /
Dialect Coach
Mark Wong Voice & Text Coach
Afsaneh Torabi Assistant Director
Giovanna Yate Gonzalez
Assistant Lighting Designer
Ali Samaei Voice in recorded English
lesson & Voice of Nader
Effie Nkrumah
Voice in recorded English lesson

Key dates

Opening Night Fri 2 Aug
Forum Night Mon 5 Aug
Donor Night Mon 12 Aug
Audio Described Sat 10 Aug, Tue 13 Aug
Tactile Tour Sat 10 Aug
Live Captioning Sat 17 Aug
Auslan Interpreted Tue 20 Aug
Community Nights
Mon 29 Jul, Thu 29 Aug

Nominations and awards

Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Ensemble
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Production

The season in numbers

Performances 38
Paid Attendance 16,262



23 AUG—26 SEP 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER

TOPDOG/ UNDERDOG

BY **SUZAN-LORI PARKS**

DIRECTED BY **BERT LABONTÉ**



'Profoundly emotionally intelligent writing.'
THE AGE



'It woos you with its wit and charm – in the
writing and the star making performances'
ARTSHUB

Cast

Damon Manns Lincoln
Ras-Samuel Booth

Creative and production team

Bert LaBonté Director
Sophie Woodward
Set & Costume Designer
Rachel Lee Lighting Designer
Dan West Composer & Sound Designer
Lyndall Grant Fight Choreographer
Laurence Boxhall Card Consultant
Rachel Finley Accent Coach
Matt Furlani Voice & Text Coach

Key dates

Opening Night Tue 27 Aug
Forum Night Mon 2 Sep
Audio Described
Sat 14 Sep, Tue 17 Sep
Tactile Tour Sat 14 Sep
Live Captioning Sat 21 Sep
Auslan Interpreted Tue 17 Sep

Nominations and awards

Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Performance –
Ras-Samuel
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Set & Costume Design –
Sophie Woodward

The season in numbers

Performances 38
Paid Attendance 4,506



14 SEP—19 OCT 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

COST OF LIVING

BY **MARTYNA MAJOK**
DIRECTED BY **ANTHEA WILLIAMS**



'A world-class production that will
leave theatregoers humbled at its power.'

THE AGE



'A notable and welcome
theatrical landmark'

LIMELIGHT

Cast

Rachel Edmonds Ani
Mabel Li Jess
Aaron Pedersen Eddie
Oli Pizzey Stratford John

Creative and production team

Anthea Williams Director
Matilda Woodroffe
Set & Costume Designer
Richard Vabre Lighting Designer
Jethro Woodward
Composer & Sound Designer
Amy Cater Intimacy Coordinator
Matt Furlani Voice & Dialect Coach
Alistair Baldwin Assistant Director
Todd J. Bennett
Assistant Composer & Sound Designer
Satria Arbai
Speech Consultant (role of John)
Marnie Cameron
Speech Consultant (role of John)
Lyndall Grant Movement Consultant
Samantha Kwan Cantonese Translator

Key dates

Opening Night Thu 19 Sep
Forum Night Mon 23 Sep
Audio Described Sat 5 Oct, Tue 8 Oct
Tactile Tour Sat 5 Oct
Live Captioning Sat 12 Oct
Auslan Interpreted Tue 15 Oct

Nominations and awards

Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Performance –
Oli Pizzey Stratford
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Performance –
Rachel Edmonds

The season in numbers

Performances 40
Paid Attendance 9,316



25 OCT—30 NOV 2024
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE, FAIRFAX STUDIO

GOLDEN BLOOD

BY **MERLYNN TONG**
DIRECTED BY **TESSA LEONG**

★★★★★
'Hilarious and sharp.'
TIMEOUT

★★★★★
'Effortlessly funny and
wonderfully twisty.'
THE AGE

Cast

Merlynn Tong Girl
Charles Wu Boy

Creative and production team

Tessa Leong Director
Michael Hankin Set & Costume Designer
Fausto Brusamolino Lighting Designer
Rainbow Chan
Composer & Sound Designer
Jennifer Medway Dramaturg
Emily Parsons-Lord Effects Consultant

Key dates

Opening Night Wed 30 Oct
Forum Night Mon 4 Nov
Audio Described Sat 16 Nov, Tue 19 Nov
Tactile Tour Sat 16 Nov
Live Captioning Sat 23 Nov
Auslan Interpreted Tue 26 Nov

Nominations and awards

Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding New Australian Writing –
Merlynn Tong
Shortlisted VIC Premier's Literary Award
Nick Enright Prize 2023
Shortlisted VIC Premier's Literary Award
for Drama 2023

The season in numbers

Performances 41
Paid Attendance 7,418

A Griffin Theatre
Company production

**GRIFFIN
THEATRE
COMPANY**

Commissioned through Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program,
with the support of our Playwrights Giving Circle. Developed through the NEXT STAGE
Writers' Program, Cybec Electric Play Reading Series and Griffin Theatre Company.

NEXTSTAGE



7 NOV—21 DEC 2023
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE SUMNER

MY BRILLIANT CAREER

A NEW MUSICAL BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MILES FRANKLIN
BOOK BY **SHERIDAN HARBRIDGE & DEAN BRYANT**
MUSIC BY **MATHEW FRANK** LYRICS BY **DEAN BRYANT**
DIRECTED BY **ANNE-LOUISE SARKS**

★★★★★
'A funny, feminist triumph.'
THE GUARDIAN

★★★★★
'Brimming with abundant
heart and soul.'
TIMEOUT

★★★★★
'This rebellious, moving musical
is not to be missed.'
THE AGE

Cast

Cameron Bajraktarevic-Hayward
Frank / Ensemble
Lincoln Elliott
Jimmy / Horace / Ensemble
Victoria Falconer Ensemble
Kala Gare Sybylla
Raj Labade Harry / Peter / Ensemble
Drew Livingston
Father / Jay-Jay / M'Swat / Ensemble
HaNy Lee Gertie / Blanche / Ensemble
Ana Mitsikas
Grannie / Rose Jane / Ensemble
Christina O'Neill
Mother / Helen / Mrs M'Swat / Ensemble
Jarrad Payne Ensemble

Creative and production team

Anne-Louise Sarks Director
Victoria Falconer Musical Director
Amy Campbell Choreographer
Marg Horwell Set & Costume Designer
Matt Scott Lighting Designer
James Simpson
Orchestrator / Vocal Arranger
Joy Weng Sound Designer
Miranda Middleton Assistant Director
Drew Livingston
Assistant Musical Director
Savanna Wegman
Assistant Set & Costume Designer
Additional Music Arrangements
Victoria Falconer
Voice & Text Coach Matt Furlani
Track Producer ('Make A Success')
Jarrad Payne
**Specialist for Whip Cracking/
Blanket Throw** Nicci Wilks
Offsite Standby Cover Alister Kingsley
Offsite Standby Cover Imogen Moore

Nominations and awards

Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Artist – Leading Role –
Kala Gare
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Artist – Supporting Role –
Raj Labade
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Ensemble/Featured
Ensemble – The Company
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Design – Marg Horwell (Set)
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Choreography –
Amy Campbell
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Direction – Music –
Victoria Falconer
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Direction – Stage –
Anne-Louise Sarks
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Production

The season in numbers

Performances 47
Paid Attendance 22,576

Key dates

Opening Night Tue 12 Nov
Forum Night Mon 18 Nov
Audio Described Sat 30 Nov, Tue 3 Dec
Tactile Tour Sat 30 Nov
Live Captioning Sat 7 Dec
Auslan Interpreted Tue 10 Dec
Relaxed Performance Mon 16 Dec

NEXTSTAGE

Developed by Monash University, Melbourne, as part of the Jeanne Pratt Artist in Residency program,
City of Stonnington and Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program.



27 NOV—7 DEC 2024
SOUTHBANK THEATRE, THE LAWLER

BLAK IN THE ROOM

Melbourne Theatre Company

X

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company



'A deeply enriching cultural
experience for all.'

ARTSHUB



'A historic creative alliance.'

THE AGE

Gunawarra Re-creation

Cast and Creatives

Isobel Morphy-Walsh Writer
Rachael Maza Director
Kristel-Lee Kicket Performer
Hannah Morphy-Walsh Performer
Melodie Reynolds Performer
Carly Sheppard Performer

A Wake – A Woke Mob

Cast and Creatives

Maurial Spearim Writer/Performer
Kamarra Bell-Wykes Director
Jordan Barr Performer
Zach Blampied Performer
Greg Fryer Performer
Lisa Maza Performer

Emu in the Sun

Cast and Creatives

Phoebe Grainer Writer/Performer
Amy Sole Director
Luke Currie-Richardson Performer
Trevor Jamieson Performer
Teresa Moore Performer

Blak in the Room

Creative Team

Dann Barber Set & costume Designer
Katie Sfetkidis Lighting Designer
James Henry
Composer & Sound Designer
Miela Anich Associate Director
Emma Holgate Design Associate
Jules Orcullo Dramaturg
Emma Salmon
Set & Costume Design Secondment
Stone Turner
Set & Costume Design Secondment
Todd J. Bennett
Sound Design Secondment

Key dates

Celebration Day Wed 27 Nov

Free events

Blak in the Lounge 27 Nov—7 Dec
Weaving Workshop
27 Nov, 30 Nov, 4 Dec
**MPavilion Panel: The Future
of Blak Theatre** 29 Nov
In Conversation:
Healing and Story 30 Nov
Music by Mob 4 Dec
In Conversation:
Sovereignty and Process 7 Dec

Nominations and awards

Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Composition & Sound
Design – James Henry
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Lighting Design –
Katie Sfetkidis
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Ensemble for *Emu in the Sun*
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Set & Costume Design –
Dann Barber for *Emu in the Sun*
Green Room Award Nomination
Outstanding Performance – Melodie
Reynolds-Diarra for *Gunawarra
Re-Creation*

The season in numbers

Performances
Gunawarra Re-creation 8
A Wake – A Woke Mob 8
Emu in the Sun 7
Paid Attendance
Gunawarra Re-creation 347
A Wake – A Woke Mob 424
Emu in the Sun 287

ILBIJERRI
THEATRE COMPANY

Supported by Linda Herd and
the Canny Quine Foundation

The Future of Blak Theatre
panel supported by

MPAVILION



SLAP. BANG. KISS.

BY **DAN GIOVANNONI**
DIRECTED BY **KATY MAUDLIN**

Cast

Tomáš Kantor Sofia/As Cast
Tsungirai Wachenuka Darby/As Cast
Sarah Fitzgerald Immi/As Cast

Creative and production team

Katy Maudlin Director
Kate Davis Set & Costume Designer
Amelia Lever-Davidson Lighting Designer
Ian Moorhead Composer & Sound Designer

On tour

30 Jul—11 Sep 2024

Bunjil Place Narre Warren, Tue 30 Jul
The Potato Shed Drysdale Thu 1 Aug
West Gippsland Art Centre Tue 6 Aug
Paranple Art Centre Devonport TAS, Fri 9 Aug
Portland Art Centre Wed 14 Aug
Kingston Art Centre Fri 16 Aug
The Wedge Sale, Thu 22 Aug
The Round Nunawading, Sat 24 Aug
Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre Tue 27 Aug
Riverlinks Shepparton Thu 29 Aug
Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre NSW, Tue 3 Sep
The Cube, Wodonga Thu 5 Sep
Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre NSW, Wed 11 Sep

The season in numbers

Performances 17
Paid Attendance 1,421

Commissioned and developed through Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, with the support of our Playwrights Giving Circle.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Exclusive agent Nicholas Clark Management



NEXTSTAGE



SUNDAY

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

Cast

Matt Day John
Jude Hyland Sweeney
Ratidzo Mambo Joy
James O'Connell Nolan
Nikki Shiels Sunday

Creative and production team

Sarah Goodes Director
Anna Cordingley Set Designer
Harriet Oxley Costume Designer
Paul Jackson Lighting Designer
Jethro Woodward Composer & Sound Designer
Geraldine Cook-Dafner Voice & Dialect Coach
Amy Cater Intimacy Coordinator
Lyndall Grant Fight Choreographer
Sonya Soares Assistant Director
Beau Esposito Assistant Sound Designer

On tour

28 Oct—7 Dec 2024

Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House Sydney NSW

The season in numbers

Performances 48
Paid Attendance 17,125

Presented by



Sunday was commissioned by Melbourne Theatre Company with the support of the Joan and Peter Clemenger Trust and originally presented with the support of the *Sunday* Production Patrons.



Australian Government
RISE Fund



WORLD PROBLEMS

BY **EMMA MARY HALL**
DIRECTED BY **CASSANDRA FUMI**

Cast

Carly Sheppard Performer

Creative and production team

Cassandra Fumi Director
Dann Barber Set & Costume Designer
Harrie Hogan Lighting Designer
Rachel Lewindon
Composer & Sound Designer
Amelia Jean O'Leary
Movement Consultant
Kamarra Bell-Wykes
Additional Dramaturgy
Bridie Noonan
Robert McDonald Award Intern
Nicki Jam Volunteer Directing Placement

On tour

4 May—7 Jun 2024

Founders Theatre Caro Convention
Centre, Mt Helen, Fri 24 May
Mildura Arts Centre, Tue 28 May
Ulumbarra Theatre Bendigo, Thu 30 May
The Potato Shed Drysdale, Wed 5 Jun
Gippsland Performing Art Centre
Traralgon, Fri 7 Jun

The season in numbers

Performances 6
Paid Attendance 220

Regional Tour supported by

The Gailey Lazarus
Foundation



ENGLISH

BY **SANAZ TOOSSI**
DIRECTED BY **TASNIM HOSSAIN**

Cast

Maia Abbas Elham
Delaram Ahmadi Goli
Salme Geransar Marjan
Marjan Mesbahi Roya
Osamah Sami Omid

Creative and production team

Tasnim Hossain Director
Kat Chan Set & Costume Designer
Paul Lim Lighting Designer
Hamed Sadeghi Composer
Marco Cher-Gibard Sound Designer
Ana Bayat Persian Language Accent /
Dialect Coach
Mark Wong Voice & Text Coach
Afsaneh Torabi Assistant Director
Giovanna Yate Gonzalez
Assistant Lighting Designer
Ali Samaei Voice in recorded English
lesson & Voice of Nader
Effie Nkrumah
Voice in recorded English lesson

On tour

5—7 Sep 2024

Canberra Theatre Centre
Canberra ACT

The season in numbers

Performances 4
Paid Attendance 1,289

Presented by

CANBERRA
THEATRE
CENTRE

Access Services



In 2024 we continued our commitment to making our performances accessible to the widest audience.

We offered audio description and tactile tours for people who are vision impaired and captioning for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.

We also delivered two Relaxed Performances, where the theatre environment was adapted 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 providers
Auslan Stage Left and Expression Australia
Captioning service provider The Captioning Studio

Select access services are made possible with generous support from Arts Centre Melbourne.

Relaxed Performances

A Streetcar Named Desire Wed 14 Aug 2pm
Introduction Kaya Byrne and Michelle Lim Davidson
Visual Story Emily Doyle and Brodi Purtill
Relaxed Performance Partner Arts Centre Melbourne

My Brilliant Career Mon 16 Dec 6.30pm
Introduction Kala Gare, Raj Labade and Jarrad Payne
Visual Story Emily Doyle and Brodi Purtill

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

NEXT STAGE Writers' Program



NEXT STAGE is our bold and ambitious play development initiative that rivals some of the world’s very best producing theatres.

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.

Since 2017, the program has commissioned 50 works, run 96 workshops and development sessions, published 12 scripts and supported 14 playwriting residencies and fellowships.

NEXT STAGE Productions

My Brilliant Career
Golden Blood
37

NEXT STAGE Playwriting Fellowship

Our Playwriting Fellow for 2024/2025 is Anchuli Felicia King. The Playwriting Fellow spends 12 months with the New Work Department developing a play for Melbourne Theatre Company and takes part in wider Artistic department activity such as programming, commissioning and supporting the work in development and production.

New Commissions

We commissioned 6 new plays from a broad group of exciting writers including (pictured above) Playwriting Fellow Anchuli Felicia King (HBO’s *The Sympathiser*), Michelle Brasier, Melissa Reeves, Marieke Hardy, Lally Katz and Osamah Sami.

Thank you to Peter Clemenger for supporting commissions for Marieke Hardy and Lally Katz, and the Malcolm Robertson Foundation for supporting the commission for Osamah Sami.

First Nations Dramaturgy

A series of First Nations dramaturgs worked across various projects throughout the year as we continue to support Blak dramaturgy and work towards a Resident Dramaturg position for 2025.

Throughout 2024 we worked with: Jyden Brailey, Kamarra Bell-Wykes, Aunty Doris Patton, Dr Julia Hurst, Isobelle Morphy-Walsh, Phoebe Grainer and Lavinia Heffernan.

In 2025 Isobel Morphy-Walsh will commence a three day per week position as Resident Dramaturg, supporting the development of various new works across the year and building and honing her craft as a dramaturg.

Playwrights Giving Circle

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

Fitzpatrick Sykes Family Foundation, The Glenholme Foundation, Jane Hansen AO and Paul Little AO, Larry Kamener and Petra Kamener, Susanna Mason, Helen Nicolay, Pimlico Foundation, Tania Seary and Chris Lynch, Craig Semple, Dr Richard Simmie, Derek and Caroline Young.



20
Active
commissions



3
NEXT STAGE
productions



154
Artists
employed



18
Workshops and
developments



42k+
Audiences



2
Scripts published

MinterEllison Future Directors



In 2024, MinterEllison renewed their partnership with Melbourne Theatre Company for a further three years, extending the life of the MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative.

The 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. The program has grown to play a pivotal role in developing career pathways, with interest increasing from 27 applications in 2022 to 83 in 2023, and 110 for the 2024 cohort.

Since its inception in 2022, it has provided invaluable opportunities for twelve emerging directors over the course of the partnership’s initial three-year period.

MinterEllison Future Directors have continued to be involved with the Company following their placement. Miranda Middleton, one of the inaugural Future Directors, recently returned as Assistant Director on *My Brilliant Career*.

Three of our 2024 Future Directors – Alistair Baldwin, Jennifer Sarah Dean and Kamarra Bell-Wykes – participated in further programs and initiatives after their placements, including *Cybec Electric* and *Blak in the Room*, our partnership with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company.

2024 Future Directors

Kamarra Bell-Wykes – 37
(Director: Isaac Drandic)

Jennifer Sarah Dean –
The Almighty Sometimes
(Director: Hannah Goodwin)

Alistair Baldwin – Cost of Living
(Director: Anthea Williams)

Afsaneh Torabi – English
(Director: Tasnim Hossain)

‘Being Assistant Director on 37 as part of the MinterEllison Future Directors Initiative was such an incredible opportunity to build relationships and become familiar with the working processes of the company.’

Kamarra Bell-Wykes

Major Partner

MinterEllison.

Deadly Creatives



Deadly Creatives is a bespoke, multi-year creative learning and professional development program.

The program has been designed specifically to provide young First Nations artists with the skills, support, experience, networks and professional ongoing employment needed to build sustainable arts careers.

In 2024 the Deadly Creatives transitioned from volunteer participants to paid creative artists, and developed two new original scripts for performance, *Peggy Sue* by Amelia Jean O’Leary and Emma Salmon, and *Wiran’s Dream* by Brodie Murray.

The works will be presented in a double bill at Southbank Theatre, The Lawler as part of YIRRAMBOI Festival in 2025.

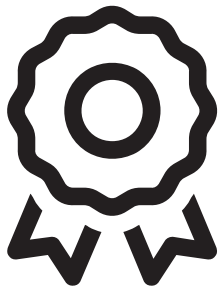
In 2024, Deadly Creatives collaborated with experienced professional artists and undertook mentorships with First Nations companies and productions.

2024 Deadly Creatives

Participants
Jyden Brailey
Emma Clarke-King
Matisse Knight
Brodie Murray
Amelia O’Leary
Jasper Quinn
Emma Salmon
Christian Seiuli

Guest artists and mentors
Cynda Beare
Kamarra Bell-Wykes
Jacinta Keefe
Isobel Morphy-Walsh
Sapphic Flicks
Jackie Sheppard

Program coordinator
Brodi Purtill (until Nov 2024)
Emma Holgate (from Nov 2024)



**Drama Victoria
Award**

**Reconciliation in
Drama Education**
Deadly Creatives

Supported by



Program Partners

WILIN.



YIRRAMBOI

Future Creatives



In 2024, we launched the Future Creatives program to provide a pathway from the independent sector to mainstage for early career designers from historically underrepresented cultural backgrounds.

The program supports participants to work alongside senior theatre designers in paid placements on two Melbourne Theatre Company productions across the two-year program.

Participants learn about production processes for creating works-of-scale, as well as attend meetings and events to further their skills and build their networks.

2024—2025 Participants

Todd J. Bennett
Assistant Composer & Sound Designer on *Cost of Living* (dir. Anthea Williams), alongside Jethro Woodward

Giovanna Yate Gonzalez
Assistant Lighting Designer on *English* (dir. Tasnim Hossain), alongside Paul Lim

Bianca Pardo
Assistant Set & Costume Designer on *A Streetcar Named Desire* (dir. Anne-Louise Sarks), alongside Mel Page

Savanna Wegman
Assistant Set & Costume Designer on *My Brilliant Career* (dir. Anne-Louise Sarks), alongside Marg Horwell

‘It’s amazing... I wouldn’t expect to be in this position without a program like this.’

Bianca Pardo
2024–2025 Future Creative

Cybec Electric



This year’s Cybec Electric play reading series was a tremendous success, particularly in collaboration with the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

In addition to three full-length play readings, we introduced supplementary activities designed to create a festival experience and engage a new generation of playwrights. We also introduced the Emerging Writer Award, providing an opportunity to support a writer we had not yet worked with, while enhancing accessibility for artists.

Public readings

Love & Reparation
Thu 17 Oct
Writer Danish Sheikh
Director Jennifer Sarah Dean
Dramaturg Tasnim Hossain
Cast Kane Felsing, Kaivu Suvarna, Sinead Fernandes, Isha Menon, Dinesh Mathew, Naavikaran.
Paid attendance 89

The Greek Word for Funeral
Fri 18 Oct
Writer George Lazaris
Director Bridget Balodis
Dramaturg Zoey Dawson
Cast Petra Kalive, Katerina Kotsonis, Maria Mercedes, Maria Theodorakis, Steve Mouzakis, Eb Papanastasiou, Olivia Charalambous, Tony Nikolakopoulos.
Paid attendance 107

Mature skin
Sat 19 Oct
Writer Gabrielle Fallen
Director Alistair Baldwin
Dramaturg Jennifer Medway
Cast Peter Paltos, Bailey Ackling Beecham.
Paid attendance 95

Workshops

How to Write a Musical with Yve Blake
Sat 19 Oct
Paid tickets 20

How To Write A Play with Tasnim Hossain for Emerging BIPOC Writers
Sat 19 Oct
Paid tickets 16

Networking events

Creative Speed Dating (Strictly Professional)
Hosted By Mark Wilson
Sat 19 Oct
Free event

Social Events Up-Late
Social Events at Miss Pearl
Over three nights, after each play reading.



22

actors, directors and dramaturgs engaged



493

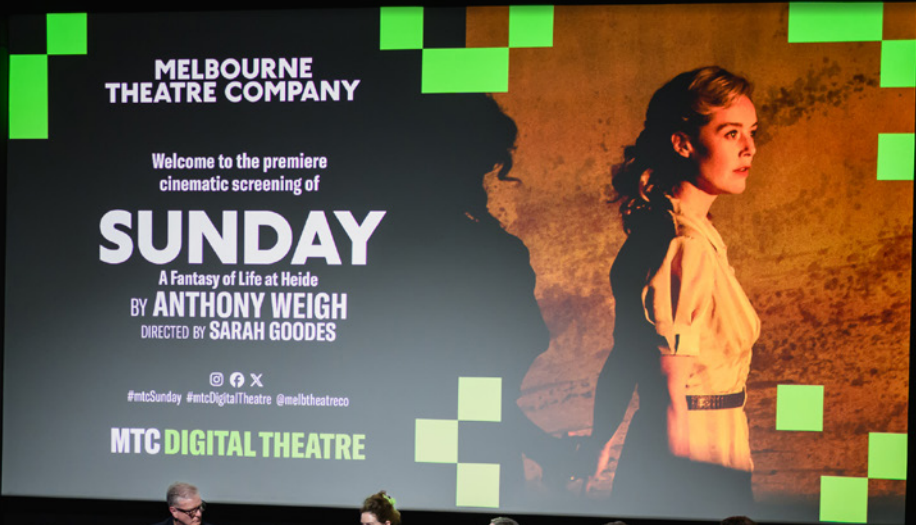
total attendance



89

workshops and networking attendance

Digital Theatre



MTC DIGITAL THEATRE

In 2024, we released *Sunday* on MTC Digital Theatre, enabling audiences across Australia the chance to see this rave-reviewed production by celebrated playwright Anthony Weigh, directed by Sarah Goodes.

This was celebrated with a premiere screening and a Q&A with cast and creatives at Cinema Nova on 9 October and several screenings across a two-week period.

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.

Available to stream in 2024:

Sunday by Anthony Weigh

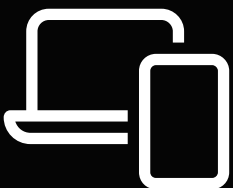
SLAP. BANG. KISS.
by Dan Giovannoni

Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes by Hannah Moscovitch

Berlin by Joanna Murray-Smith

The Heartbreak Choir by Aidan Fennessy

Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*



1,262+

viewers of MTC Digital Theatre productions



19%

of viewers were from outside metropolitan Melbourne

↑ 2% compared to 2023

Education & Families

Melbourne Theatre Company's Education & Families program provides accessible, meaningful theatre experiences for young people, regardless of their circumstances.

Our award-winning programs foster creativity, confidence and collaboration, with profound impact on students' lives. Our huge gratitude to the Education Giving Circle, which supports the annual Education & Families production as well as the many educational activities providing young people with further enrichment and engagement in live theatre.

School tickets

Seventeen 31
Meet Me At Dawn 17
37 168
The Almighty Sometimes 36
World Problems 898
Julia 147
A Streetcar Named Desire 1,714
English 70
Cost Of Living 154
Topdog/Underdog 37
Golden Blood 2
My Brilliant Career 217

Total paid attendance 3,491
Total complimentary attendance 203

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.

World Problems Wed 15 & Tue 21 May
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Paid Attendance 215

Julia Thu 6 Jun
Teaching Artist Krystalla Pearce
Paid Attendance 80

A Streetcar Named Desire Wed 7 Aug
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Paid Attendance 336

REVISION WEBINARS

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

World Problems Wed 6 Nov
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Emma Mary Hall, Harrie Hogan, Rachel Lewindon, Carly Sheppard
Paid attendance 72

A Streetcar Named Desire Wed 30 Oct
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Katherine Tonkin, Nikki Shiels, Mel Page, Michelle Lim Davidson
Paid attendance 52

SLAP. BANG. KISS. Wed 30 Oct
Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Katy Maudlin, Sarah Fitzgerald, Tomáš Kantor, Tsungirai Wachenuka
Paid attendance 12

Education Partnerships

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Since 2021, Melbourne Theatre Company has partnered with the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School (VCASS) to deliver a semester-long course for Year 11 Theatre Arts students that complements and enhances the study of VCE Drama and Theatre Studies.

Lead Teaching Artist Sarah Fitzgerald
Teaching Artist Brodi Purtill

Guest Artists Conor Leach and Tsungirai Wachenuka (acting), Jacob Battista, Anna Cordingley and Christina Smith (set & costume design), Katy Maudlin and Mark Wilson (directing), Matt Furlani (voice and text), Amelia Jean O'Leary (movement) and Amy Cater (intimacy coordination)

Participants 20

Supported by



WESTERN PORT SECONDARY COLLEGE

A new partnership facilitated by the Mornington Peninsula Foundation to support co-curricular drama with Year 9 and 10 students and enable them to experience professional theatre.

Lead Teaching Artists
Brodi Purtill and Sahil Saluja

Supported by



DRAMA VICTORIA

Our long-standing partnership with Drama Victoria, the oldest Drama teacher association in Australia, connects us with passionate drama educators across the state for professional development opportunities.

Dramaturgy – I get it now!
Annual Conference 28 Nov
Teaching Artist Mark Wilson

Participants 31

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 Oz Malik, William McKenna, Karl Richmond and Angourie Rice (acting), Matilda Woodroffe (costume design), Harrie Hogan (lighting design), Rachel Lewindon (composition & sound design), Amelia Jean O'Leary (movement), Madelaine Nunn and Jennifer Medway (writing)

Guest Staff Emily Doyle, Brodi Purtill, Nick Tranter

Virtual School Victoria Teachers Jessica Craigmyle, Sarah Davies, Josh Milton and David Williamson
Lead Teacher Arts Jared Webster

Participants 106
Performance date 5 Dec
Attendance 87

Supported by



Education & Families

Education Hub

To support student study and achievement, we have continued to expand our Education Hub, a comprehensive suite of curriculum-based digital resources for teachers and students to use in the classroom and at home.

Memberships by 31 Dec 603

SHORT COURSES

We offer online courses in theatre practice for students and self-directed learners. Each course includes a series of instructional videos featuring industry professionals.

Intro to Theatrical Lighting

Allan Hiron, Technical Manager, Electrics

Theatre Spaces

Nick Tranter and RealTour3D

Creating Special Effects

Jacob Battista, Set Designer
Brittany Stock, Assistant Stage Manager

AV Recording

Eva Otsing and Emily Doyle
Editing Emily Doyle

SCRIPT NOTES

In this award-winning video series, playwrights, actors and directors reveal how a production is created from the script page to the stage.

37 – Playwright Nathan Maynard, Actor Syd Brisbane and Director Isaac Drandic

A Streetcar Named Desire – Actor Nikki Shiels and Director Anne-Louise Sarks

My Brilliant Career – Actor Kala Gare and Musical Director Victoria Falconer

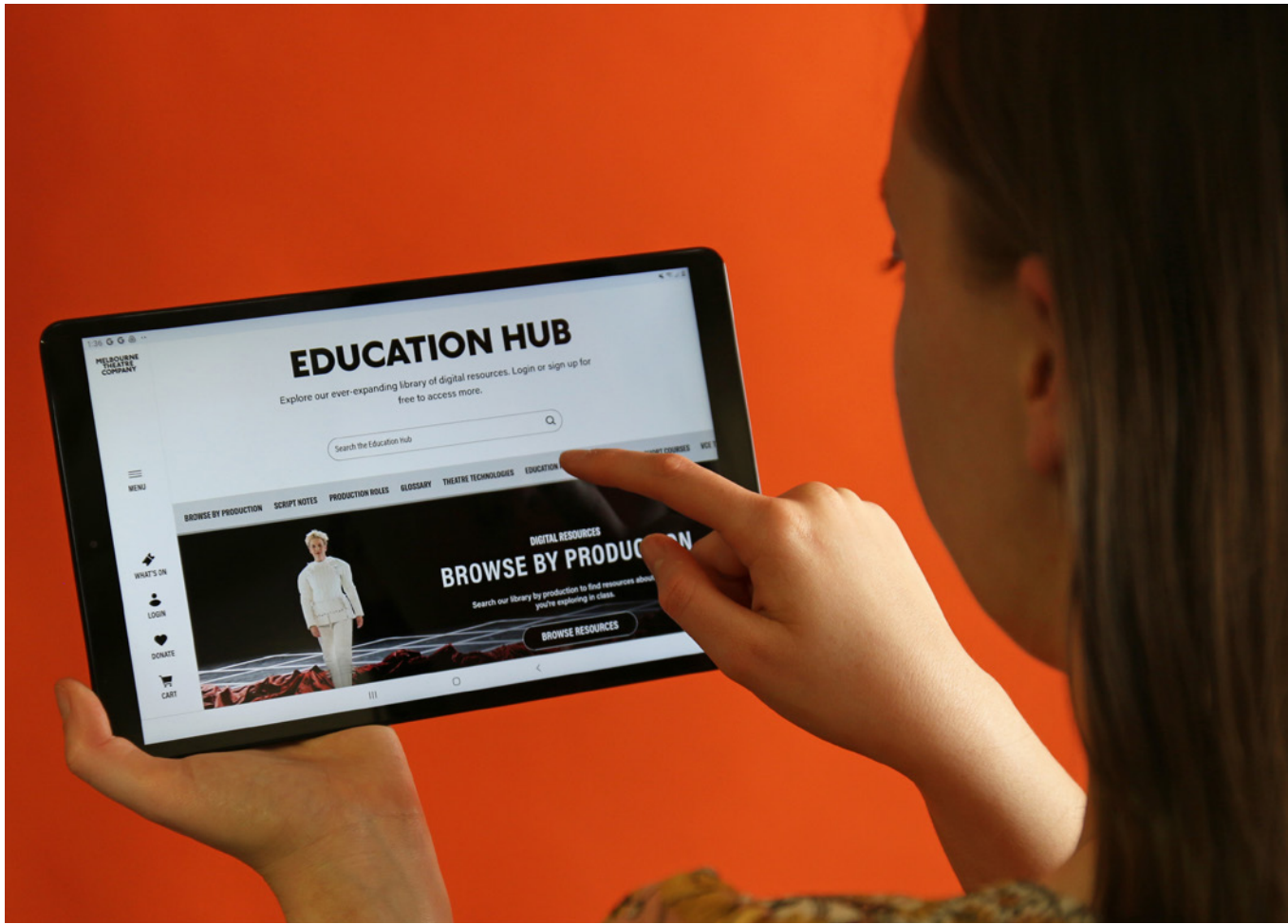
World Problems – Performer Carly Sheppard, Director Cassandra Fumi and Playwright Emma Mary Hall

AV Recording Eva Otsing, SIRAP
Editing Emily Doyle



Drama Victoria Award

Excellence in the Digital/
Online Delivery of Drama
Education Hub



INTERACTIVE RESOURCES

Students use our media-rich, web-based resources to enhance their understanding of professional theatre, gaining unique insights through interactive elements including videos, information pop-ups, and activities.

37

Production design with Dale Ferguson and Isaac Drandic

World Problems

Devising Movement

with Amelia Jean O'Leary, Carly Sheppard and Cassandra Fumi.

Design and Symbolism

with the creative team.

Creative Development

with the cast and creative team.

A Streetcar Named Desire

Acting skills in rehearsal with Anne-Louise Sarks and the cast.

Interpretation and Design

with the creative team.

Set tour and set design

with Bianca Pardo

My Brilliant Career

Intro to musical instruments with musical director Victoria Falconer.

Videography Emily Doyle, Eva Otsing, Sapphic Flicks, SIRAP
Editing Emily Doyle.

VIRTUAL SET TOURS

Virtual tours enable students anywhere in the world to walk through our set designs and stages. Created with unique 360° photography technology and accessible on any internet-connected device, tours include pop-ups and links with detailed behind the scenes insights.

New VR Tours

A Streetcar Named Desire, Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse

Topdog / Underdog, Southbank Theatre, The Lawler

World Problems, Southbank Theatre, The Lawler

VR Capture RealTour3D

PRE- & POST-SHOW RESOURCES

We publish two-part education resources for Melbourne Theatre Company productions that have been included in the VCE Playlist for Drama and Theatre Studies.

The resources help students to understand and analyse professional theatre practice, complete school-based assessments and prepare for exams. We now complement the traditional PDF education packs with interactive digital resources

A Streetcar Named Desire

VCE Theatre Studies

Packs by Krystalla Pearce
Post-show resource by Emily Doyle

SLAP. BANG. KISS. VCE Theatre Studies
Packs and resources by Nick Tranter

World Problems VCE Drama

Packs and resources by Nick Tranter

My Brilliant Career

Pre-show resource by Emily Doyle and Nick Tranter

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 Nabila Malik, Isabella Recca
Jul—Oct Riana Pinto, Bethanie Tardif
World Problems design Ashley Reid

ROBERT McDONALD AWARD

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.

2024 Award Recipient Bridie Noonan

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.

37 21 Mar
Guest Artists Dale Ferguson, James Henry, Liam Murray

The Almighty Sometimes 10 May
Guest Artists Jacob Battista, Rain Iyehen

English 15 Aug
Guest Artists Kat Chan, Giovanna Yate Gonzalez, Tasnim Hossain, Whitney McNamara

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 productions, read online teaching materials and write a comparative review.

Live productions 37, *Cost of Living*

MTC Digital Theatre *As You Like It*, *The Heartbreak Choir*

Attendance 331

Supported by



Engagement Programs

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.

Participating schools
Barrenjoey High School NSW
Camberwell High School
Castlemaine Secondary College (2)
Collingwood College (2)
Fitzroy High School
Footscray High School
Frankston High School
Heathmont College
Loreto College Ballarat
Mullauna College
Overnewton College
Princes Hill Secondary College
Suzanne Cory High School
Swinburne Senior Secondary College
University High School
Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
Participants 18

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

In this yearlong 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.

Apr—Dec
Lead Teaching Artist Nick Tranter
Guest Artists Amy Cater (intimacy coordination), Kat Chan (set & costume design), Caroline Craig (acting), Harrie Hogan (lighting design)
Guest Staff Jacob Battista, Allan Hiron, Jess Keepence, Anne-Louise Sarks
Participants 16

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.

Teaching Artists George Abbott, Hugo Gutteridge, Taylor Reece
Tours 36 groups

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.

The course culminates in a devised performance at Southbank Theatre, The Lawler, for participants’ family and friends.

30 Sep—4 Oct
Lead Teaching Artists Katrina Cornwell and Morgan Rose
Wellbeing Artist Sarah Hosford
Associate Teaching Artist Sarah Fitzgerald
Guest Artists Dann Barber (set & costume design), Matt Furlani (voice & text), Amelia Jean O’Leary (movement)
Administration Bethanie Tardif

Participants 23

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.

A suite of on-demand workshops, including Acting Skills, The Lifecycle of a Production, and Exploring Shakespeare, is available to regional Victoria schools. Companion workshops for *World Problems* supported schools attending the show, while workshops for *SLAP. BANG. KISS.* enhanced its national tour.

Acting Skills
Officer Secondary College 20 Aug (2)
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla and Sahil Saluja

Exploring World Problems
Marist College Bendigo 5 May
Mildura Senior College 29 May
Mount Rowan Secondary College 27 May
St Joseph’s College Mildura 29 May
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla and Amelia O’Leary

Exploring SLAP. BANG. KISS.
Colac Secondary College 16 Aug
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla and Sahil Saluja
Greater Shepparton Secondary School 29 Aug (2)
Teaching Artists Eleanor Barkla and Isabella Recca

Workshops 10
Participants 166

Teachers’ Professional Development Workshops
Teacher as director with SLAP. BANG. KISS.
Wagga Civic Theatre 3 Sep
Teaching Artist Bernard Sam
Participants 11

The Geraldine Lazarus Regional Enrichment Program is supported by

The Gailey Lazarus Foundation

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) can access \$5 tickets and relief teacher subsidies to attend live Melbourne Theatre Company productions. All regional schools can apply for a travel subsidy.

IGNITE tickets 1,097
Travel & Relief Teacher Subsidies \$8,530

IGNITE is supported by Krystyna Campbell-Pretty, The Gailey Lazarus Foundation and an anonymous donor

The Gailey Lazarus Foundation



THE COMPANY

Board of Management

Martin Hosking (Chair from July 2024)

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

Patricia Faulkner (Chair Dec 2023-June 2024)

Chair, Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH); Board Member, Aware Super; Board Member, Caritas Australia; Chair Plan International Australia; Chair Expert Committee ASM. Retired from Board June 2024.

Leigh O’Neill (Deputy Chair from July 2024)

COO, Susan McKinnon Foundation. Non-Executive Director, First Samuel Ltd. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member Mar 2015 to Jun 2021. Board Member since Jun 2021.

Tony Johnson

Director and Adviser. Chair, BUPA ANZ; Director, Allianz Australia, Mercer Superannuation (Australia), Kieser Australia and E&P Financial Group; Member, Melbourne Cricket Club Committee and Melbourne Theatre Company Board of Management; Trustee of the Collier Charitable Fund; BEc, MBA (Exec), GradDipAppFin&Inv, GAICD, FCA, FFIN. Board Member since July 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 Aug 2017.

Katerina Kapobassis

Vice-President (Administration and Finance) and Chief Operating Officer, University of Melbourne. BBus (RMIT); CPA; Graduate Member, GAICD. Board Member since Oct 2022.

Professor Duncan Maskell

Former 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; Honorary Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge; MA, PhD, FMedSci, HonAssocRCVS. Retired from Board in Dec 2024.

Sally Noonan

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

Chris Oliver-Taylor

Global Director for Totem Network and Chair, Screen Careers. Former 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, Screen Producers Australia; Former Board Director and Deputy Chair, Screenrights; Former Global Director, Fremantle Global Operating Board. Board Member since 2023.

Tiriki Onus

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Head of the Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, Co-Director of Research Unit for Indigenous Arts and Cultures, University of Melbourne. Yorta Yorta/Dja Dja Wurrung practising artist, performer and filmmaker. Board Member, VicScreen; Cultural advisor, Victorian Opera; Artistic and cultural advisor, Shepparton Art Museum. 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. 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 (Chair until Aug 2024)

Board Member, Melbourne International Jazz Festival; Independent Chair, Risk & Compliance Committee, Wingate Group; Non Executive Director, Wingate Investment Partners 3 Pty Ltd; Non Executive Director, ORDE Capital Management Ltd; 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. Retired from Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board in Aug 2024.

Jane Grover

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

Charles Gillies

Managing Director and Chair, Investment Committees, RCF Innovation; Chair, Railveyor; Director, Vriify; former Director of Monash Health, Ambulance Victoria, SciAps, SmartCap, Newtrax, Humanware. Board Member since Jan 2024.

Sally Lansbury

Head of Client Listening at PwC Australia; previously Director of Memberships and Engagement at The Faculty and Business Development Manager at CPA Australia. Melbourne Theatre Company Foundation Board Member since Dec 2023.

Sally Noonan

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

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

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Executive Director & Co-CEO
Sally Noonan

Executive Producer

& Deputy CEO

Martina Murray

Artistic Administrator

Olivia Brewer

Executive Administrator

Kathleen Ashby

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Associate Artists

Tasnim Hossain

Jean Tong

Mark Wilson

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Jennifer Medway

New Work Associate

Zoey Dawson

Playwriting Fellow

Anchuli Felicia King

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Janine Snape

Casting Administrator

Daphne Quah

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Stephen Moore

Producer – Industry

& Audience Initiatives

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Julia Smith

Deputy Company Manager

Lachlan Steel (to Sep)

Acting Deputy

Company Manager

Elise Glass (Sep–Dec)

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Sophie Boardley

Senior Philanthropy Manager

(leave cover)

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(From Oct)

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Acting Partnerships Manager

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& Families

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Learning Manager

Nick Tranter

Education Content Producer

Emily Doyle

Education Coordinator

Brodi Purtill (to Nov)

Deadly Creatives Project

Officer

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Isabella Recca (from Aug)

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Sean Jameson (to Nov)

People & Culture

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Michele Preshaw

Production Manager

(leave cover)

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Production Administrator

Alyson Brown

Production Coordinator

Zoe Rabb

Acting Technical Manager –

Light & Sound

Allan Hirons

Acting Senior Production

Technician Coordinator

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Acting Production

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Production Technician

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Acknowledging a lifetime of extraordinary support.

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

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Anonymous (27)

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Acknowledging supporters who have made the visionary gesture of including a gift to Melbourne Theatre Company in their will.

John and Lorraine Bates	Jane Kunstler
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For more information, please contact Director of Development Rupert Sherwood on 03 8688 0954



Key Performance Indicators

	2024	2023
ARTISTIC VIBRANCY		
Subscription Season		
Productions	8	8
Co-productions	1	2
Buy-ins	2	1
Total	11	11
New productions	8	10
Other Plays		
Touring/Sold Off	2	1
Self-presented	–	–
Co-productions	1	–
Buy-ins	–	–
Total	3	1
New productions	2	–
Profile of Plays ^{1, 2}		
New Australian	5	5
Existing Australian	4	1
New International	–	5
Existing International	5	–
Education & Families Program		
Productions	1	1
Tours	2	1
Workshops/Forums/Talks	8	35
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

	2024	2023
ACCESS		
Number of Performances		
Self-presented		
Home City	320	330
Buy-ins		
Home City	94	53
Co-productions		
Home City	60	90
Touring/Sold Off		
Home City	–	–
Regional	–	–
Other Capital City	52	19
International	–	–
Education	42	25
Development	3	3
Total Performances	571	520
Regional		
Number of Productions	2	1
Number of Towns	17	4

	2024	2023
NUMBER OF PAID ATTENDANCES		
Self-presented		
Home City	109,707	128,823
Buy-ins		
Home City	35,368	18,578
Co-productions		
Home City	13,769	29,899
Touring/Sold Off		
Home City	–	–
Regional	–	–
Other Capital City	18,414	6,169
International	–	–
Education	3,537	2,601
Development	291	303
Total Paid Attendances	181,086	186,373

¹ Productions have been categorised using Creative Australia's current definitions at the time of writing (April 2025).

² For the purposes of reporting, *Blak in the Room* activity has been counted as three new Australian plays, although presented in repertory as part of the one initiative with shared resources and design.

Key Performance Indicators

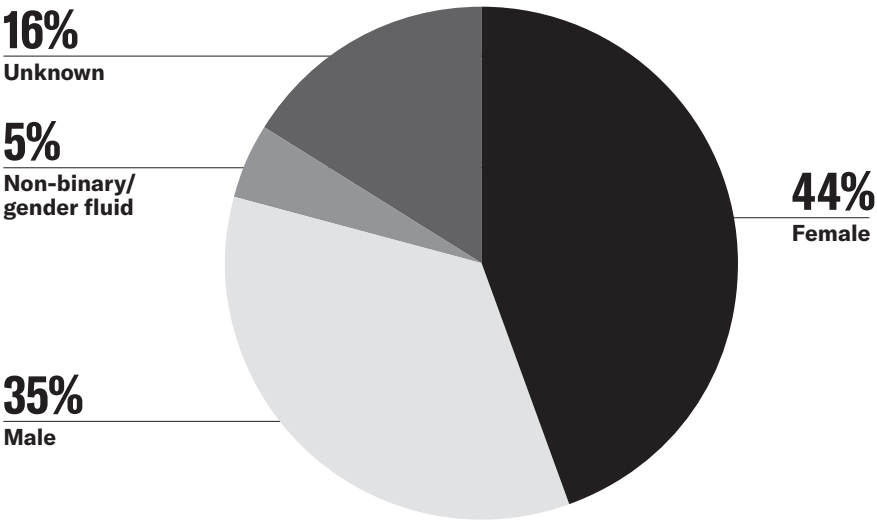
In 2022, we published a Cultural Pledge committing to report annually on diversity markers across our workforce, artists and productions. This reflects our paid workforce – encompassing both production and administration – as well as all employed artists across the 2024 season.

Please note that while certain information is collected during employment onboarding, other diversity markers are provided voluntarily by employees.

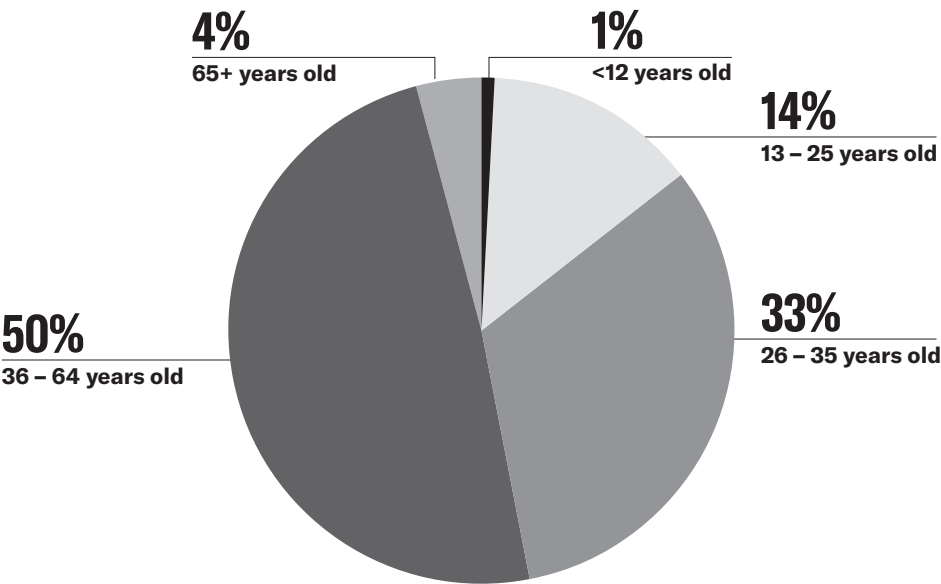
As a result, there is a significant portion where information is not known.

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

GENDER



AGE

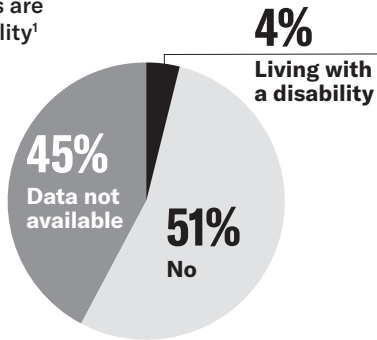


¹ Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria (2022) 'People with a disability in Victoria'

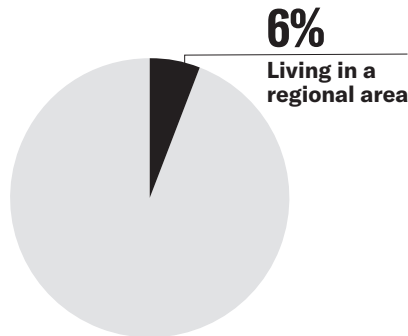
² Australian Bureau of Statistics (2021) 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons'

LIVING WITH A DISABILITY

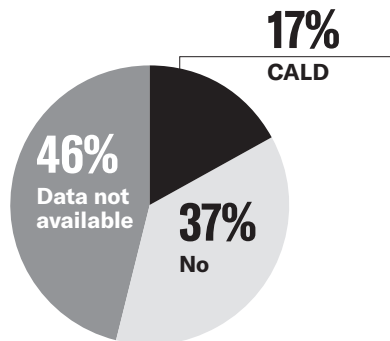
18.4% of Victorians are living with a disability¹



LIVING IN A REGIONAL AREA



CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE



EMPLOYED ARTISTS

FIRST NATIONS

1.2% Victorians identify as First Nations²



56

First Nations artists employed



1

First Nations production in the annual season



3

Partnerships with First Nations organisations

FEMALE / NON-BINARY



83%

Female / non-binary writers commissioned

BIPOC



2

BIPOC newly commissioned writers



60%

Female / non-binary creative representation



3

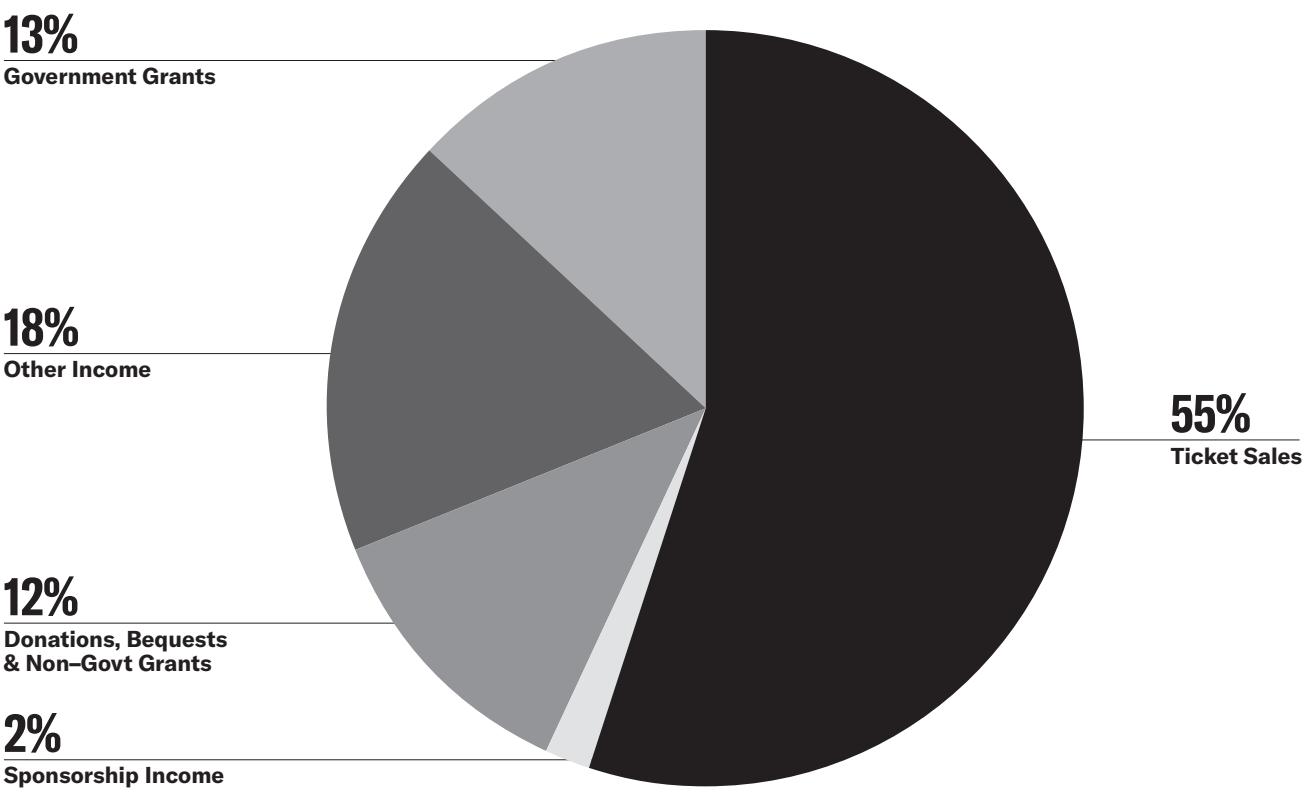
BIPOC-led productions in annual season

Key Performance Indicators

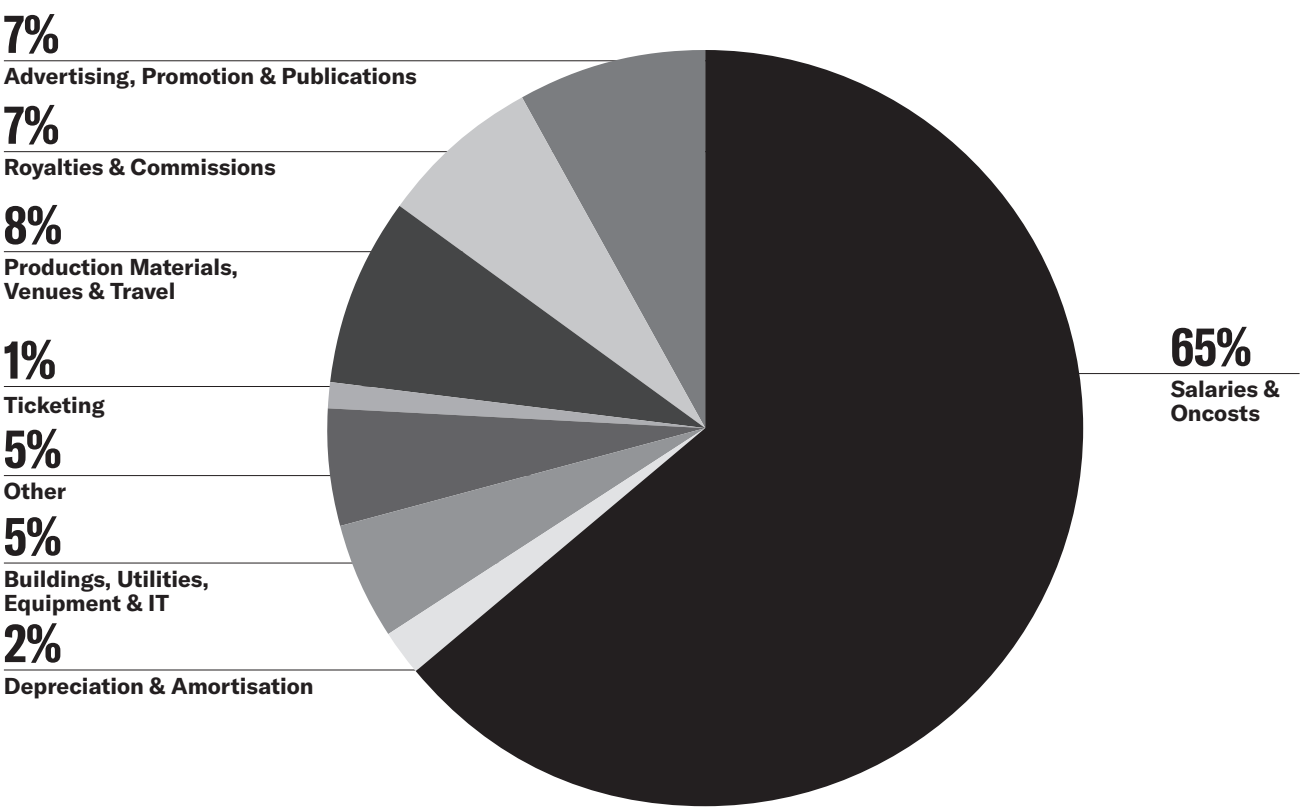
	2024	2023
FINANCIAL INDICATORS		
Financial Viability		
Strength of Reserves (% of Revenue) * revenue calculated on 5-year rolling average	74.6%	68.4%
Surplus/(Deficit) by Accounting Entity		
Core Operations	(1,738,211)	(252,964)
Foundation	–	(1,229,003)
General Endowment Fund	1,932,002	1,917,183
TOTAL	193,790	435,216
Sources of Income as % of Total		
Ticket Sales	55%	61%
Sponsorship Income	2%	2%
Donations, Bequests and Non-Govt Grants	12%	8%
Other Income	18%	17%
Government Grants	13%	12%
TOTAL	100%	100%

	2024 \$	2023 \$
GRANTS		
Commonwealth – Base Grants		
Quadrennial Grant	2,536,823	2,436,910
TOTAL COMMONWEALTH BASE GRANTS	2,536,823	2,436,910
State – Base Grants		
Quadrennial Grant	802,342	790,246
TOTAL STATE BASE GRANTS	802,342	790,246
State – Project Grants		
Department of Education – Strategic Partnerships Program Funding	72,538	74,506
Department of Education – Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series	–	15,960
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions – Sustaining Creative Organisations	58,556	–
TOTAL STATE PROJECT GRANTS	131,093	90,466
OTHER GRANTS		
Cybec Foundation	83,000	80,000
The Ian Potter Foundation	238,869	156,085
The John & Myriam Wylie Foundation	–	100,000
TOTAL OTHER GRANTS	321,869	336,085

2024 Income



2024 Expenditure



Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
REVENUE		
Ticket Sales	14,547,538	16,363,874
Commonwealth Government Grants	2,536,823	2,436,910
Victorian Government Grants	933,435	880,713
Other Grants	321,869	336,085
Donations and Bequests	2,967,467	1,738,473
Sponsorship Income	552,571	555,668
Investment Income	988,344	1,128,527
Realised Investment Capital Gains	–	505,613
Contribution from University of Melbourne	1,015,909	1,142,959
Other Income	2,702,153	2,111,262
TOTAL REVENUE	26,566,109	27,200,082
LESS EXPENSE		
Salaries and Oncosts	17,262,832	16,821,079
Utilities	361,696	285,845
Building and Equipment Maintenance and Repairs	591,002	750,943
Computer Software and Services	213,941	222,976
Equipment and IT Consumables	89,354	100,414
Stage Materials and Supplies	578,673	526,645
Depreciation and Amortisation	545,930	468,877
Finance Costs	5,434	7,426
Production related Travel, Accommodation and Tour Costs	572,590	422,238
Advertising, Promotion and Publications	1,862,728	2,132,184
Theatre Venue Rental and Hire Charges	993,687	1,242,092
Royalties and Commissions	1,801,410	1,916,536
Ticketing	314,406	472,203
Other Expenses	1,178,636	1,395,410
TOTAL EXPENSE	26,372,319	26,764,867
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	193,790	435,216
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		
Available-for-sale Financial Assets:		
Unrealised Capital Gain/(Loss) on Investments	1,009,185	468,493
	1,009,185	468,493
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	1,202,975	903,708

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	7,033,354	12,577,309
Receivables	931,984	185,843
Other Assets	1,173,672	1,576,291
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	9,139,010	14,339,444
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	6,321,921	6,111,489
Other Assets	90,000	150,000
Investments	13,623,278	9,027,234
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	20,035,199	15,288,724
TOTAL ASSETS	29,174,209	29,628,167
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	2,034,977	2,996,754
Provisions	1,874,338	1,901,726
Other Liabilities	8,011,341	8,507,668
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	11,920,656	13,406,149
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	59,980	135,663
Provisions	146,587	242,345
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	206,567	378,008
TOTAL LIABILITIES	12,127,223	13,784,156
NET ASSETS	17,046,986	15,844,011
EQUITY		
Reserves	15,425,527	12,484,340
Retained Surplus	1,621,459	3,359,671
TOTAL EQUITY	17,046,986	15,844,011

Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 AND 2024

		Core Operations \$	Foundation \$	Endowment \$	Total \$
2023	Retained Surplus	2,252,977	–	–	2,252,977
	Reserve Funds	3,323,469	3,635,208	–	6,958,676
	Endowed Funds	–	–	5,728,650	5,728,650
	Equity Balance at 1 January 2023	5,576,445	3,635,208	5,728,650	14,940,303
	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
	Transfer of realised prior year investment gains from Reserve Funds to Retained Surplus	1,359,657	–	–	1,359,657
	Equity Balance at 31 December 2023	5,323,482	2,551,930	7,968,600	15,844,011
2024	Net Surplus/(Deficit) for 2024	(1,738,211)	–	1,932,002	193,790
	Other comprehensive income for 2024	–	257,663	751,522	1,009,185
	Equity Balance at 31 December 2024	3,585,270	2,809,593	10,652,124	17,046,986
	Retained Surplus	1,621,459	–	–	1,621,459
	Reserve Funds	1,963,811	2,809,593	–	4,773,403
	Endowed Funds	–	–	10,652,124	10,652,124
	Equity Balance at 31 December 2024	3,585,270	2,809,593	10,652,124	17,046,986

Cash Flow Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES –		
Inflows:		
Commonwealth Government Grants	2,536,823	2,436,910
Victorian Government Grants	874,880	880,712
Investment Income Receipts	789,754	663,436
Other Operating Receipts	18,034,622	18,545,303
GST and WHT refunded by the ATO	167,110	300,041
Contributions from University of Melbourne (operational)	525,867	342,959
Outflows:		
Payments to Employees	(17,385,977)	(16,714,132)
Payments to Suppliers	(9,204,851)	(9,412,849)
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Operating Activities	(3,661,773)	(2,957,619)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES –		
Inflows:		
Proceeds from Sale of Investments	–	7,998,172
Endowed gifts	1,577,952	38,500
Contributions from University of Melbourne (capital)	500,000	800,000
Outflows:		
Purchase of Investments (excludes reinvested income)	(3,204,452)	–
Purchase of Plant and Equipment	(750,248)	(1,057,809)
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Investing Activities	(1,876,748)	7,778,863
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES –		
Outflows:		
Interest Costs related to Lease of Building	(5,434)	(7,426)
Net Cash Inflow (Outflow) from Financing Activities	(5,434)	(7,426)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held	(5,543,955)	4,813,818
Cash at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	12,577,309	7,763,492
Cash at the End of the Reporting Period	7,033,354	12,577,309
Reconciliation of Cash at the End of the Reporting Period		
Cash in Bank Accounts and Term Deposits	7,027,639	12,526,826
Petty Cash Floats and Debit Cards	5,715	50,483
	7,033,354	12,577,309

Statement of Comprehensive Income by Accounting Entity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Core Operations \$	Foundation \$	Endowment \$	Total \$
REVENUE				
Ticket Sales	14,547,538	–	–	14,547,538
Commonwealth Government Grants	2,536,823	–	–	2,536,823
Victorian Government Grants	933,435	–	–	933,435
Other Grants	–	321,869	–	321,869
Donations and Bequests	–	1,389,514	1,577,952	2,967,467
Sponsorship Income	552,571	–	–	552,571
Investment Income	465,468	131,882	390,995	988,344
Contribution from University of Melbourne	1,015,909	–	–	1,015,909
Other Income	2,687,008	15,145	–	2,702,153
TOTAL REVENUE	22,738,751	1,858,410	1,968,948	26,566,109
LESS EXPENSE				
Salaries and Oncosts	17,262,832	–	–	17,262,832
Utilities	361,696	–	–	361,696
Building and Equipment Maintenance and Repairs	591,002	–	–	591,002
Computer Software and Services	213,941	–	–	213,941
Equipment and IT Consumables	89,354	–	–	89,354
Stage Materials and Supplies	578,673	–	–	578,673
Depreciation and Amortisation	545,930	–	–	545,930
Finance Costs	(35,864)	4,353	36,946	5,434
Production–related Travel, Accommodation and Tour Costs	572,590	–	–	572,590
Advertising, Promotion and Publications	1,862,728	–	–	1,862,728
Theatre Venue Rental and Hire Charges	993,687	–	–	993,687
Royalties and Commissions	1,801,410	–	–	1,801,410
Ticketing	314,406	–	–	314,406
Other Expenses	1,178,636	–	–	1,178,636
TOTAL EXPENSE	26,331,020	4,353	36,946	26,372,319
Transfer from Foundation	1,854,058	(1,854,058)	–	–
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1,738,211)	–	1,932,002	193,790
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR				
Available–for–sale Financial Assets:				
Unrealised Capital Gain/(Loss) on Investments	–	257,663	751,522	1,009,185
	–	257,663	751,522	1,009,185
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(1,738,211)	257,663	2,683,523	1,202,975

Statement of Financial Position by Accounting Entity

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Core Operations \$	Foundation \$	Endowment \$	Total \$
ASSETS				
Current Assets	9,065,754	77,445	(4,189)	9,139,010
Non–Current Assets	6,411,921	2,966,965	10,656,313	20,035,199
Total Assets	15,477,675	3,044,410	10,652,124	29,174,209
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities	11,685,839	234,817	–	11,920,656
Non–Current Liabilities	206,567	–	–	206,567
Total Liabilities	11,892,405	234,817	–	12,127,223
Net Assets	3,585,270	2,809,593	10,652,124	17,046,986

Photography

- Page 6,48 – Josh Deane
- Page 8 – Benjamin Healley
- Page 10 – Annabel Moeller
- Page 11, 47 – Charlie Kinross
- Page 12, 14, 16, 18, 24, 26, 30, 34, 39, 41, 81 – Pia Johnson
- Page 20, 36, 40 – Tiffany Garvie
- Page 22, 32 – Prudence Upton
- Page 28, 38, 45 – Sarah Walker
- Page 43, 57, 67 – Tim Grey
- Page 46 – Merryn Trescott/Sapphic Flicks
- Page 49 – Heath Warwick
- Page 51 – Brodi Purtill
- Page 53, 55 – Emily Doyle



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