

THE VILLAGE

PRESENTER PACK



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ABOUT

LA BOITE

Theatre That Matters

La Boite is a story of people, passion, purpose and place. La Boite holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of artists and audiences in Australia. As Australia's longest-running professional theatre company, La Boite has represented the adventurous and alternative for more than 90 years.

In 2018, under Artistic Director Todd MacDonald and General Manager Katherine Hoepper, La Boite Theatre Company continues to develop and present vital new Australian work in our home venue, Australia's only purpose-built theatre-in-the-round the Roundhouse Theatre, and throughout Australia through our touring and partnership programs. We work with a diverse cross section of artists and audiences to passionately represent and connect with the community we live in.

We are committed to collaboration, which starts and ends with our artists. Our Artist Development Programs span from commissions and workshops through to dedicated developments of new works, as well as participation in our annual HWY Festival. Our Youth & Participation programs cultivate the next generation of performers in the Queensland Arts Industry.

We actively seek out collaborations with exciting partners to create new work and expand the possibilities of form. In the past, La Boite has presented work with Brisbane Festival, Circa, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Griffin Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, Dead Puppet Society, The Farm, Playlab and QUT Creative Industries.

MDA LTD

MDA is committed to delivering a welcoming Queensland where all new arrivals have the opportunity to fully contribute to and participate in a multicultural society. Queensland's diversity is our strength.

We are an independent organisation committed to achieving the best settlement outcomes for our clients. As one of Queensland's largest multicultural agencies, we work with refugees, international students, people seeking asylum and migrants, as well as their local communities.

In metropolitan and regional Queensland, MDA works in partnership with our clients, other service providers, government agencies and the private sector, to achieve quality service delivery through advocacy, client service delivery, community development and multicultural sector development.

We know the pathways to full participation we provide for new arrivals are vital to a successful multicultural society.

Making this happen is a two-way street for both the new arrivals, in the effort they make to settle into the community, and for the rest of us in the positive and supportive welcome we give them in their new home.



THE VILLAGE

SYNOPSIS

The Village was produced with La Boite's community partner MDA Ltd. The work is focused on engaging high school students and the wider La Boite community as a means of providing informed and authentic stories by refugees and asylum seekers. These are real, lived experiences – verbatim story-telling at its purest.

The Village is a contemporary theatre work that speaks to a range of immigrant experiences in this country. *The Village* showcases the cultural diversity of Australia and honours the courage, strength and determination of the women, men and children who have made this country their new home.

An interactive performance experience, this work allows audiences to witness first-hand the verbatim stories of ordinary people who have found themselves in extraordinary situations and persevered to tell their life-changing stories.

CREDITS

The Village by **La Boite Theatre Company & MDA Ltd**

Director Todd MacDonald

Designer Moe Assaad

Composer/Sound Designer Will Hughes

Stage Manager Peter Sutherland

Story-tellers Arwin Arwin, Joyce Taylor, Ngoc Phan, Lili Sanchez, Cieavash Arean, Silva A Sal

BIOGRAPHIES

TODD MACDONALD

Artistic Director and CEO of La Boite Theatre Company, Todd completed acting training at NIDA in 1994 and has worked extensively across the theatre, film, television and voice-over industries. Todd was the Artistic Associate at QTC from 2011-2014 and has worked as associate producer and company member with David Pledgers' company NYID, touring internationally. In 1999 he co-founded the award winning venue and production company The Store Room Theatre in Melbourne. He maintains a performance practice as a director, deviser and performer.

Theatre credits include: *The Village* (Dir-La Boite 2017), *The Tragedy of King Richard III* by Marcel Dorney & Daniel Evans (Performer-La Boite 2016), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Dir-La Boite 2016), *Prize Fighter* by Future Fidel (Dir- La Boite/Brisbane Festival 2015), *Medea Adapted* by Suzie Miller (Dir-La Boite 2015), *Kelly* by Matthew Ryan (Dir-QTC 2012/15), *Vanya at Avoca* by Chekhov devised by Bagryana Popov (Performer-Castlemaine Festival/La Mamma 2015), *The Mountaintop* (Dir-QTC 2014), *The C Word* by David Burton and Claire Christian (Dir-Metro Arts 2014), *The Button Event* devised with Bagryana Popov (Performer-QTC 2014), *Venus in Fur* (Performer-QTC 2013), *Bare Witness* (Performer-La Mama National Tour 2012), *Progress and Melancholy* (Performer-fortyfivedownsatirs 2009), *Blowback*, *Training Squad* and *Strangeland* by David Pledger (Performer-NYID 2006, 1996, 2008).

CIEAVASH AREAN

Cieavash has dedicated his life to music for more than forty years. The instruments that he performs include - Barbat (Oud), Kamanche, Nay, Tar, Divan, Flute, Accordion, Daff, Zorna... Born in Tehran, Iran he plays traditional Middle Eastern music. These include - Turkish, Persian, Arabic and Armenian. He is self-taught and plays by ear. Cieavash's most recent performances have been in Woodford Folk Festival, QPAC, Customs and Government house (playing with James Morrison), Brisbane Multicultural Festival, Brisbane Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse, and Bundaberg Multicultural Festival.

He did the music for theatrical plays *Vikram and The Vampire* and *A Beautiful Life* - composed and played music for a short film called *Fearless* - and also played music for *1001 Nights* by Queensland Theatre Company and Queensland Music Festival.

ARWIN ARWIN

Arwin enjoys creative writing, filmmaking and storytelling. He is currently finishing a degree in Creative Writing and Screen studies.

At seventeen-years-old, Arwin made a journey from Afghanistan to Australia where days shackled by chains of persecution and fear were laid on his shoulders. Arwin fled his home country of Afghanistan; running with a swiftness not just of despair but also hope for a new life.

After arriving in Australia, he began year 10 at Yeronga State High school where he improved his English and found himself exploring his creative side. With the support of Mercy Family, The Edge and Queensland University of Technology, Arwin navigated the intricacies of filmmaking; *My Dawning* was born.

Photographs lyrical in their beauty and impact, interwoven with poetry inspired by his journey; Arwin entered *My Dawning* in the Queensland Multicultural Film Festival. He was nominated for Best Up and Coming, the People's Choice award and Best Short Film. *My Dawning* won all three. That was one of his best moments, a start to his career.

Following on from this success, Arwin made a second film *Seeking Freedom*; also about his personal experience and longing for his motherland. Now, his third short film *Hello*, completed by Faraway Production, Griffith Film School, and with the co-operation of Jill Bilcock, the Australian Film editor and a member of ASE. *Hello* will be launched soon together with his first ever poetry book. Arwin writes his poems in Farsi-Dari and translates them into English.

Arwin has explored and developed his creative skills through filmmaking, poetry, acting and photography. He has performed at the Queensland Theatre company, Queensland University of Technology, Queensland Museum, social organisations and a few educational places. He has learnt from his experiences to believe in himself and push himself to the limits.

Arwin wishes that every Australian will allow him to call Australia home and appreciate what we have in this beautiful country because what we have here, thousands and millions of others dream of.

SILVA A SAL

Silva A Sal is an emerging director, writer and performer. He has worked across the middle east on multiple productions prior to relocating in Australia, starting his university theatre education. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Contemporary and Applied Theatre (2015), Silva began his quest to create his own theatre company, through which he has produced and directed shows of numerous thematic varieties. Silva's work and educational experience includes physical, oriental and contemporary theatre.

His theatre credits include *Wonders of a Godless World* (2012), *The Vagina Monologues* (2014), *Shout the Legend of Johnny O'Keefe* (2016) and many more.

Silva's life experiences of travel, war and continuous uncertainty has moulded his unique understanding of infinite risk taking. Over the next year Silva wishes to use western pop-culture to discourse of his middle eastern cultural background through verbatim theatre. The theatre world has given Silva a forum for expression and freedom of speech, which in itself was never possible prior to living in arriving to Australia. This is Silva's first experience with La Boite theatre and he looks forward to many more.

NGOC PHAN

Ngoc is a performer and playwright based in Brisbane. Her theatre credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire* (La Boite Theatre Company); *Splendour* (Now Look Here) *The Motion of Light in Water* and *After all this* (Elbow Room); *Hedonism's Second Album* (La Boite Indie); *Speaking in Tongues* (Antix productions) and *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (Canute productions).

Her screen credits include *Australia Day* (Hoodlum/Foxtel); QLD Government Road Safety Speeding Commercial (Two little Indians); *Pawno* (Toothless pictures); *Schapelle* (Fremantle Media); *At World's End* (New Holland Pictures); *Sea Patrol* (Nine Network); *Terra Nova* and *Secrets and Lies* (Network Ten) and the AFI award winning film *The Black Balloon*.

She was an Artist-in Residence at La Boite Theatre Company (2016) and was an Associate Artist at Queensland Theatre Company (2014). Currently Ngoc is one of the participants in the Lotus First Draft Program supported by Playwriting Australia and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP).

Ngoc Phan graduated from the WAAPA Acting program in 2004 and studied at the Atlantic Acting School in New York 2007 doing the Practical Aesthetics Summer Intensive. Ngoc is currently a tutor for the NIDA Open Program and has also taught in the Directing and Acting Department at Griffith Film School.

LILI SANCHEZ

Lili usually prefers the comfort of being behind the scenes as she enjoys creative writing and writes professionally for a blog. Lili is also currently finishing a degree in Anthropology and Philosophy, she enjoys reading the greats in her down time but is also largely passionate about studying and understanding different cultures. Lili is also a proud mother of a beautiful half Jamaican, half Chilean 11 year old boy. It is important for Lili to tell her family's story but most important to her is that her son is able to learn from this story.

Lili and her family have been in Australia for 26 years in total, and arrived here on a Humanitarian Visa. She has lived 17 of these here in Brisbane. Her favourite place to sit down and write is at the top of a hill close to home, where she gets a beautiful view of the city. Lili has experience telling her story since she was young commonly showcased in Latin American events in Melbourne.

More recently Lili has been telling her story as a community educator for MDA (Multicultural Development Australia), Lili has been with MDA since November 2015, she has stood in front of a variety of audiences who have come from diverse backgrounds and experiences, some of these education sessions have included speaking at ISQ Early Childhood Forum and at an ECA (Executive Challenge Academy) leadership and development session. Her current roles with MDA include working as a Skill up facilitator for young refugees and also working for one of MDAs newest programs, Welcome Residential.

JOYCE TAYLOR

Joyce Jattu Taylor was born in Monrovia, Liberia and is the mother of two wonderful, half aboriginal boys. Due to the civil War, left for Guinea in 1992 where she lived until 2002. Joyce arrived in Brisbane, Australia in 2002 on the 'women at risk Visa'. Since arriving in Australia Joyce has worked as a Community Development worker for MDA (Multicultural Development Australia) from 2005 to present. In this role she has played an active part in supporting newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers through their resettlement process as they call Australia home.

Joyce has also volunteered as the Women's Leader for LUWQ – Liberian United Women of Qld from 2004 – 2013, where this group created a safe space for the Liberian women to connect, share their knowledge, support each other, celebrate, learn from one another and have fun. Today, we have great women who are contributing immensely to the Australian community. Joyce has also worked alongside LAQ (Liberian Association of Qld), supporting the Liberian Community in Australia. Joyce has been amazed and humbled by the opportunity to share her story through a creative process, and with this hopefully making a difference in our community.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

COSTS

Weekly Fee	\$13,500 + GST
Remount	\$15,000 + GST

* Maximum 8 performances per week.

Not included in this budget/to be covered by venues:

- Accommodation
- Flights
- Freight
- Marketing (TVC, sample press release, artwork, images provided)

DURATION

1 hours and 30 minutes including Q&A component. No interval.

SUITABLE VENUES

The Village is a promenade style work that utilises one performance space (room, tent, marquee etc) approx. 12m x 10x with a 3m wide opening, and a number of other spaces (inside or outside) where performance stations are established with set items, tents etc. We can work with potential presenters to identify the best space for this work.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

8 performances per week

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

120 minutes

APRA OBLIGATIONS

None

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 9 people.

ROLE	NAME
Production Manager	Canada White
Head Technician	Nick Toll
Stage Manager	Peter Sutherland
Cast x 6	TBC

ADAPTABLE TOURING MODEL

A version of *The Village* that employs local story-tellers from your community is also possible, pending the availability of the Director and key creatives. Please contact La Boite in order to discuss the specifics of this alternative touring package in more detail.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

YEAR	VENUE	NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES
2017	La Boite Theatre Company	24
2018	Festival 2018 – South Brisbane	6
2018	La Boite Theatre Company	16

PRODUCTION SHOTS BY DYLAN EVANS







MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

ONE LINE

La Boite and MDA's critically acclaimed production, *The Village* invites audiences to experience the compelling real stories of refugees and people seeking asylum through a unique interactive performance experience.

EXTENDED

Ordinary people in extraordinary situations.

La Boite and MDA's critically acclaimed production, *The Village*, invites audiences to experience the compelling real stories of refugees and people seeking asylum.

The Village showcases the cultural diversity of Australia and honours the courage, strength and determination of the women, men and children who have made Australia their new home.

This interactive performance experience allows audiences to witness first-hand the verbatim stories of ordinary people who have found themselves in extraordinary situations and persevered to tell their life-changing stories.

AUDIENCE

The Village is a deeply personal story-telling experience that will appeal to a very broad audience. The form, as interactive verbatim theatre, is highly accessible. Initially created with secondary students in mind, everyone is welcome to enjoy this collaborative theatre project. *The Village* played to over 1,500 schools students in both 2017 and 2018.

Venues with access to outdoor sites and a focus on growing and retaining culturally diverse audiences, would be the ideal touring partners. The work can be adapted to most outdoor spaces, but will require a weather-proof space for the beginning and end of the production.

Community engagement activities with culturally specified groups, refugee and asylum seeker organisations, and schools are all possible. La Boite staff will work with presenters to identify potential community engagement activities.

MARKETING SUMMARY

There is an extensive range of marketing materials available for the production, which have been developed by La Boite and its media partners. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Trailer (30 Sec cinema and online-ready trailer)
- Exceptional print-quality free Production and Rehearsal photography
- Poster, flyer and print advertisements
- Social media posts and campaign material
- Media release with existing review quotes.

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

- *The show was heart-warming and eye opening. It helps to understand humanity and how we see each other. It just helps to communicate the stories of the many who are silenced.* – Audience Testimonial, 2017
- *This was such a beautiful show. Thank you so much for sharing your stories with me. This show is so inspiring and need to be told. It really reveals that people are just people with their own story – it teaches others so much! Stories like these make reality feel real – this actually happens in real life. It's hard to know what is going on around the world and these stories let us see. Thank you.* – Audience Testimonial, 2017
- *It felt really real, authentic. Being immersed into it, you can appreciate the stories more and actually feel part of that journey.* - Brisbane Teacher, 2017

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

There are no specific content warnings.

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The production was supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts Queensland and both of these funders should be acknowledged on all collateral associated with the production. Specific logo and text acknowledgements will be provided as part of the full marketing pack.

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

Supplied upon request.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

TOURING WITH PRODUCTION

SET TRANSPORT: 3.5T Truck.

SET/DRESSING/SEATING: The set consists of 6 installation pieces that will be placed inside the theatre/rehearsal room/gathering space.

COSTUME & PROPS: The show tours with all costume prop items required for the performance.

SPECIAL EFFECTS: Nil.

VENUE TO SUPPLY

LIGHTING: Ambient site light is required for the overall vibe of the production. Each installation will require a couple of profiles focused onto each performance area. Inside the theatre, internal lighting is required for patrons to move safely around and showcase each installation.

AUDIO: Coverage is required at the Holding Area of the site. This is controlled by an iPad (Producer to provide) running Figure53 Go Button. Even coverage inside the theatre/rehearsal room/gathering space is also required for the introduction to the Village. Two of the installations require spot speakers which are UE Booms with iPod shuffle as playback.

VISION: One installation has a TV mounted on the wall which shows a short video. The video file will be supplied by the producing company.

PERFORMANCE Approximate runtime of 1 hour and 30 minutes, inclusive of post-show Q&A with the ensemble (as part of the performance). No interval.

PRE RIG – SUPPLIED BY VENUE

LIGHTING Lighting as per lighting plan, patch notes and focus notes as per documentation supplied for each venue. All lighting units to be rigged coloured and patched as per the lighting plan prior to Company arriving to your venue. Lighting to be focused during Company Bump In.

AUDIO All in-house audio equipment to set up as per the plan for the venue prior to Company arriving at your venue. Set up of touring equipment and tuning of the system to be done during Company bump in. Suitable height access is required during the production period.

PRODUCTION SETUP – SUPPLIED BY VENUE

BUMP IN	3 x LX 3 x Mechanists 1 x Sound All Personnel to assist with unloading the truck. Schedule will be provided closer to date.
BUMP OUT	3 x LX 3 x Mechanists 1 x Sound
DIMENSIONS	We will require a weather-proof space for the beginning and end of the production, and to store the set pieces between performances. A marquee or tent, or other structure with a roof would work approx 12m x 10m, with an opening at least 3m wide for the set pieces to travel through.
GENERAL STORAGE	Additional tour items not in use and road cases may need to be stored in your venue during the season. An area approximately 8 cubic meters in the backstage area will be sufficient. In addition, a secure lockable storage area of 2 cubic metres is required for onsite storage of valuables between performances (eg. Portable speakers etc).
FLY SYSTEM	N/A
MASKING	N/A.
LIGHTING	General Site Lighting to provide a safe space for artists and punters. Please provide detail of general lighting in the space. LED floods or similar for uplighting trees around the whole site. Battery powered LED fixtures (lanterns, floods etc) would be required to have on hand to help light the space and installations if required. Venue to send through list of available options. Each installation area has unique lighting requirements, more information can be provided upon request.
EFFECTS	N/A
AUDIO AND TALK BACK	A PA System that covers the FOH area of the site to provide voice-over and soundscape pre-show. 5 x 2way radio's that have access to the Site Supervisor and Emergency response channels. Site pending, 4 of the storytellers will require microphones and individual speaker in their area - see detail below.
QUICK CHANGE AREAS	N/A
DRESSING ROOMS	Suitable Dressing rooms to accommodate 3 male performer and 3 female performers to be provided. A production office or additional dressing room for use as a production office to be provided. (A minimum of 3 dressing rooms required). All dressing rooms and offices to have access to internet, power outlets, and bathroom facilities.
LAUNDRY / WARDROBE REQUIREMENTS	Exclusive access to a washing machine, a clothes rack/horse, dryer, iron, ironing board, and laundry sink are required. A drying cabinet is highly desirable.
CLOTHES RACK	1 – Male Dressing Room 1 – Female Dressing Room

CONTACTS

LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY GENERAL CONTACTS

Box Office & Administration

Phone: (07) 3007 8600

Roundhouse Theatre, The Works, Level 5, 6-8 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, QLD 4059

Postal: La Boite Theatre Company, PO Box 232, Red Hill LPO QLD 4059

Producing Enquiries

Katherine Hoepper, General Manager, 07 3007 8602 (direct), 07 3007 8600 (switch), katherine@laboite.com.au

Sanja Simic, Creative Producer, 0412 959 177 or 07 3007 8600 (switch), sanja@laboite.com.au

Production Enquiries

Canada White, Head of Production, 07 3007 8606, canada@laboite.com.au

Marketing & Publicity Enquiries

Adam Brunes, ARUGA, 0421 233 609, adam@aruga.com.au