

MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA BOITE'S HWY FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR A FIFTH YEAR WITH DIVERSITY AT FOREFRONT OF LINE-UP

La Boite's annual HWY Festival is returning for its fifth consecutive year, with a brand new line-up of performances, workshops and masterclasses aplenty for local artists, producers, and practitioners across Queensland, from March 4-18.

In partnership with Screen Queensland, Brisbane Airport Corporation and QPAC, this year's festival invites audiences to discover the tremendous breath of artistic talent in Brisbane highlighting the city's dynamic theatre sector.

In celebration of HWY's fifth year, La Boite has launched a bursary program to support Australian artists of diverse backgrounds, genders and abilities, by covering the cost of one full and half-day workshop for 12 successful applicants.

Those who identify as Culturally and/or Linguistically Diverse (CALD), Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), Deaf and disabled or Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTIQ+) have been given the opportunity to apply.

La Boite Creative Producer, Sanja Simic, said this was established with tLa Boite's core values in mind; to support emerging to mid-career artists in the sector.

"Supporting emerging and mid-career artists is fundamental in our role at La Boite, and inclusivity is at the heart of what we do. With this new bursary program, we're able to directly support artists that identify as diverse through their backgrounds, identities or abilities," said Ms Simic.

"In essence, HWY provides a platform for theatre-lovers and practitioners of all stripes, from all walks of life, to engage with professional development opportunities and road-test new work and ideas in real time."

Along with a strong line-up of workshops curated and delivered by a host of industry powerhouses, HWY's performance program will showcase seven new works in development, an evening of stage-to-screen pitches by local playwrights and theatre-makers, a party to mark International Women's Day, and a bevy of other events.

For the first time, La Boite is partnering with Playlab Theatre's Playwright Development Program SPARKS in partnership with Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), to co-present HWY x SPARKS: Shadow in a Dress as part of the HWY performance program line-up.

"We're immensely excited to collaborate with QPAC and Playlab Theatre, to present a reading of Hannah Belanszky's latest work, which has had an early stage development through the SPARKS program at QPAC's Clancestry," continued Ms Simic.



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Tel: 07 3007 8600 | www.laboite.com.au

MORE INFORMATION

www.laboite.com.au



La Boite Theatre Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body



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"This powerful, thought-provoking play is about connection, belonging, and the nurturing of young women, and is just one of many showings this year that gives artists a safe and supported place to shape their work and invite feedback from an engaged audience who've been invited to contribute to the ongoing development of the piece."

Artists' part of this year's festival include Katrina Irawati Graham, Margi Brown-Ash, Grace Lucas-Pennington, Alethea Beetson, Natano Fa'anana, and many more.

La Boite Theatre Company's HWY Festival will run from March 4 to March 18, with performances, workshops and masterclasses available throughout the duration of the festival.

END.



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HWY FESTIVAL PROGRAM	
PERFORMANCE PROGRAM	<p><i>What's Love Got To Do With It?</i> Wednesday, March 4 – 6-8pm Co-curated by Grace Lucas-Pennington (Editor, black&write) & Alethea Beetson (Artistic Director, Digi Youth Arts) Artists include Raelee Lancaster, Jhindu-Pedro Lawrie</p> <p><i>Amataga</i> Thursday, March 5 – 6-8pm By Casus Directed by Natano Fa'anana</p> <p><i>Anarchy in the Archives</i> Friday, March 6 – 6-8pm Curated and directed by Alethea Beetson</p> <p><i>The Parable People</i> Saturday, March 7 – 6-8pm By Maddie Nixon Directed by Sanja Simi</p> <p><i>HoldUp</i> Sunday, March 8 – 6-10pm Curated by Ayesha Ash (Artistic Director, Black Birds) with Conscious Mic Performers include District Studios & Jaelyn Biumaiwai</p> <p><i>HWY Pitch Sessions: Stage To Screen Edition</i> Tuesday, March 10 – 6-8pm</p> <p><i>The First 10 Pages 2.0</i> Wednesday, March 11 Directed by Todd MacDonald</p> <p><i>HWY x SPARKS: Shadow in a Dress</i> Thursday, March 12 – 6-pm By Hannah Belansky</p> <p><i>Siti Rubiyah</i> Friday, March 13 – 6-8pm By Katrina Irawati Graham Directed by Courtney Stewart</p> <p><i>Love Letters to the Future of Theatre:</i> Saturday, March 14 – 6-8pm Directed by Margi Brown-Ash Performers include Paula Nazarski, Barbara Lowing, Kaye Stevenson, Penny Everingham, and Lucinda Shaw</p>

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PERFORMANCE PROGRAM CONTINUED	<p><i>This Ain't No Pussy Show</i> Tuesday, March 17 – 6-8pm By Kate Harman Created and performed by Kate Harman & Toby Angus Words and co-direction by Gavin Webber Dramaturgy by Min Collie-Holmes</p>
WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Perspectives in Contemporary Practice • Scenography and the Body: Responding to space with Helena Bystrom and Anna Kallblad • Intimacy on Stage: An introduction to practice, process and protocols • Sharpen your Toolkit: A masterclass for teachers and teaching artists • Embodiment, Performance and Feeding your Creative Spirit with Emma Maye Gibson AKA Betty Grumble • Teasing out the Political: Writing for performance with Anisa Nandaula • Harnessing the Image: A visual theatre workshop with David Morton • Fresh Eyes and Compromise • Found In Translation: An inclusive approach to contemporary performance making
CONVERSATION PROGRAMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Relationship is the Project: Working with Communities • Stepping Aside: Letting go of ego and embracing authentic allyship in the arts • Let me entertain you: Probing the possibilities of form and the ongoing question of relevance • The Medium's the Thing: Unpacking stage-to-screen adaptations
SEASON DATES	Wednesday 4 - Wednesday 18 March, 2020
VENUE	La Boite Theatre Company, Musk Avenue Kelvin Grove
TICKETS	\$12pp - \$250pp* *Booking fees apply
BOOKINGS	laboite.com.au or + 61 7 32007 8600

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ABOUT LA BOITE

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 2020, under Artistic Director Todd MacDonald, 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.



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