

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY 17 APRIL , 2020

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC FORCES CANCELLATION OF LA BOITE'S 2020 MAINSTAGE SEASON

La Boite is deeply disappointed to announce all remaining productions in its 2020 mainstage season have been cancelled in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The cancellation affects all scheduled performances of *St Joan of the Stockyards* (23 May – 13 June), *Grug* (23 June – 4 July), *The Happy Prince* (18 July – 8 August) and *Brothers Book Club* (29 August – 19 September).

**La Boite Artistic Director and CEO Todd MacDonald** said the nation's longest continuously running theatre company investigated every possible option to postpone or reschedule the programmed work but the unpredictability of the situation prevented it from doing so.

"To have to cancel our season is gut wrenching. It's the first time in our 95-year history and it is a profoundly sad and sobering experience. My heart goes out to the artists whose work will not be seen and to our audiences who will miss world premieres of some of the city's most exciting new Australian works," Mr MacDonald said.

"While our mainstage productions will not proceed, La Boite will continue to develop work with our Artists In Residence, provide a platform for open conversation and explore creative solutions and digital approaches so we can continue contributing to our state, both economically and culturally, during this crisis.

"The artists, audiences and program partners involved in 2020's season remain part of La Boite's family and we will investigate all opportunities to work with them on creative development, project partnerships and repurposing skills and talent.

"Social distancing will have an impact on artists' and audiences' mental health and wellbeing, so connection is vital at this time - even if it's not in person."

**La Boite Executive Director Zohar Spatz** said while it was deeply upsetting to cancel the remainder of the season, it was crucial to make the call now to provide a definitive outcome for everyone involved and to ensure La Boite remained strong for 2021 and beyond.

Ms Spatz said the decision gave La Boite increased ability and financial security to operate with purpose during this turbulent and uncertain time.

"The arts is an essential industry in Queensland, providing thousands of jobs, championing internationally-renowned artists and works, and epitomising the breadth and diversity of this state," she said.

"La Boite supports all government action that provides relief for individuals, small businesses and organisations affected by the ongoing crisis.

"The arts industry is based on innovation and creativity and we believe that creative problem solving and storytelling will provide the inspiration needed for La Boite to recover and ultimately thrive."

#### FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT ARUGA

**Claire Bonney**

*Account Manager*

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

**P:** 0432 713 421

**E:** [claire@aruga.com](mailto:claire@aruga.com) [www.aruga.com.au](http://www.aruga.com.au)

**Adam Brunes**

*Co-Founder*

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

**P:** 0421 233 609

**E:** [adam@aruga.com](mailto:adam@aruga.com) [www.aruga.com.au](http://www.aruga.com.au)

**BOOKINGS:**

Tel: 07 3007 8600 | [www.laboite.com.au](http://www.laboite.com.au)

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.laboite.com.au](http://www.laboite.com.au)



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



La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

Proudly supported by



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY 17 APRIL , 2020

### IT WAS CRUCIAL TO MAKE THE CALL NOW TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE OUTCOME FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED

La Boite remains determined to again program a powerful and diverse season in 2021 and is currently investigating several productions, formats and programming options.

“Our priority is to develop and present vital new Australian work that seeks to represent and engage the rich diversity of form, ideas, ethnicity, gender and identity,” Mr MacDonald said.

“As we prepare to mark our 100th year in 2025, we understand how important and vital La Boite’s role is to tell stories and provide platforms and opportunities for artists and audiences to connect, to engage and to be entertained,” Ms Spatz added.

Box office staff will contact all ticketholders and season pass holders over the coming weeks to discuss options including a full refund, credit, or donating the cost of the ticket back to La Boite to help the company nurture emerging artists and support the creation of world-class theatre.

All ticketholders and season pass holders are asked to be patient while staff navigate this process as quickly and smoothly as possible.

“Your support will enable us to continue exploring new arts practice, engage with our community through our youth and education programs and invest in the next generation of theatre makers and audiences,” Mr MacDonald said.

La Boite champions charitable giving during this time and encourages its extended La Boite family to show compassion and generosity by supporting the work of The Actors’ and Entertainers’ Benevolent Fund of Queensland, who have provided emergency financial assistance to creatives in need for more than 45 years.

All La Boite staff, including box office staff, are working remotely and continuing core business operations, including creative development, programming and administration without disruption.

While social distancing guidelines and restrictions limiting mass gatherings remain in place, La Boite is unable to open, or hire its performance spaces and rehearsal studios.

La Boite is closely monitoring the advice of government and health authorities and industry bodies, and will be guided by them when it is safe to reopen.

All updates, including an expected reopening date, will be posted to La Boite’s website and social media channels when available.

La Boite’s office hours remain from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday and team members can be contacted via email on [info@laboite.com](mailto:info@laboite.com).au or phone (07) 3007 8600.

To support La Boite, please visit: [laboite.com.au/support](http://laboite.com.au/support)

To donate to The Actors’ and Entertainers’ Benevolent Fund of Queensland, please visit: [abfqlld.com.au/](http://abfqlld.com.au/)

ENDS

#### FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT ARUGA

##### Claire Bonney

*Account Manager*

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

**P:** 0432 713 421

**E:** [claire@aruga.com](mailto:claire@aruga.com) [www.aruga.com.au](http://www.aruga.com.au)

##### Adam Brunes

*Co-Founder*

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

**P:** 0421 233 609

**E:** [adam@aruga.com](mailto:adam@aruga.com) [www.aruga.com.au](http://www.aruga.com.au)

##### BOOKINGS:

Tel: 07 3007 8600 | [www.laboite.com.au](http://www.laboite.com.au)

##### MORE INFORMATION

[www.laboite.com.au](http://www.laboite.com.au)



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



La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

Proudly supported by



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

## MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY 17 APRIL , 2020

### A STORY OF PEOPLE, PASSION, PURPOSE AND PLACE

#### 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.

Under Artistic Director Todd MacDonald, La Boite Theatre Company is driven to develop and present vital new Australian work. 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, shake & stir theatre co, Circa, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Griffin Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, Dead Puppet Society, The Farm, Playlab and QUT Creative Industries.

#### FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT ARUGA

##### Claire Bonney

*Account Manager*

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

**P:** 0432 713 421

**E:** [claire@aruga.com](mailto:claire@aruga.com) [www.aruga.com.au](http://www.aruga.com.au)

##### Adam Brunes

*Co-Founder*

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

**P:** 0421 233 609

**E:** [adam@aruga.com](mailto:adam@aruga.com) [www.aruga.com.au](http://www.aruga.com.au)

#### BOOKINGS:

Tel: 07 3007 8600 | [www.laboite.com.au](http://www.laboite.com.au)

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.laboite.com.au](http://www.laboite.com.au)



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



La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

Proudly supported by



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*