

MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LA BOITE AND BACKBONE WELCOME GENUINE STORY-TELLERS WITH INSPIRING TALES FROM BRISBANE'S BACKYARD

Pop the kettle on and get to know your neighbours when La Boite rolls out the welcome mat for *Open Homes*, an intimate theatre project starring ordinary people telling personal stories in their own homes from **25 October – 10 November 2019**.

The ground-breaking work from Singaporean artist **Jeffrey Tan** invites audiences into Brisbane homes to hear residents tell meaningful, essential and inspiring stories of their lived experiences.

These 15 everyday storytellers cross not only suburban boundaries but span an array of ages, living arrangements and cultural backgrounds.

The joint production between La Boite and Backbone paired each storyteller participant with a theatre professional to craft an intimate storytelling experience that they will perform four times across the *Open Homes* season – inside their own homes.

“*Open Homes* invites both residents and audiences to connect face-to-face for an hour, getting to know the other in the comfort of a home and hopefully, leaving with a new perspective or an invitation to reflect on one’s own life,” Mr Tan, a QUT outstanding Alumnus, said.

“I first created this work in Singapore in 2015 to discover how people connect with each other given the ever-changing demographics of population and evolving culture of urban cities.”

The development process for *Open Homes* took twelve months with residents and theatre facilitators exploring and identifying what they would share then shaping how to present it across their four allocated performances.

La Boite CEO and Artistic Director **Todd MacDonald** described *Open Homes* as a big, beautiful and generous invitation to meet the neighbours.

“In a society where we often don’t know our neighbours, *Open Homes* is a chance to meet and connect with the people who make up our community,” Mr MacDonald said.

“Brisbane is a brilliantly diverse city and its population is growing and evolving all the time. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience that diversity in all its beauty.”

Storytellers include Indian-born **Valerie Ferdinands** who honours her family’s heritage through food and an unparalleled passion for cooking in LIFE RECIPES; young couple **Anshula and Michael Jones** who chronicle the trials and triumphs of combining their two worlds in one home in IN PURSUIT OF LOVE; and **Léonie Flood** who unpacks the memories of past adventures and life well-lived in KEEPSAKES, BOXES AND TREASURES.

Backbone CEO and Artistic Director **Katherine Quigley**, who along with Mr MacDonald is one of the project’s eight theatre facilitators, welcomed the chance to collaborate with La Boite to bring an experience of this scale and size to life.



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BOOKINGS:

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MORE INFORMATION

www.laboite.com.au

BACKBONE



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE



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



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“Open Homes provides an excuse for us to visit someone else’s house and be transformed by the journey of a stranger,” Ms Quigley said.

“These exceptional storytellers can stand proud in a moment, find the beauty and humour that runs through their lives and share it with pride in their own home.”

Each of the 15 participants will share their stories across four evening or afternoon performances, staged on various dates throughout Open Homes’ 9-day season.

A very limited number of tickets are available to each performance with audience numbers dictated by the size of the house or apartment.

The 15 performances are categorised as “Brisbane North” or “Brisbane South” and ticketholders are asked to assemble at a designated meeting spot nearby where they will be guided to their chosen performance’s venue.

Open Homes is presented by La Boite and Backbone with performances taking place at private residences from 25 October – 10 November 2019.

Tickets available now at laboite.com.au

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 2019, 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, shake & stir theatre co, Circa, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Griffin Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, Dead Puppet Society, The Farm, Playlab and QUT Creative Industries.



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STORYTELLERS

URBANBLAKS	Amanda & Troy Case
THE SECRET OF KISSING FOR 40 YEARS	Virginia & Bob Dyer
LIFE RECIPES	Valerie Ferdinands
KEEP SAKES, BOXES & TREASURES	Léonie Flood
LOVE & FAITH	Lauren & Simon Fung
LOOKING FOR A HOME	Abdul Ibrahim
UBUNTU	Michael Jeh & family
IN PURSUIT OF LOVE	Anshula & Michael Jones
MANCAVE	Gerald Keaney
OPEN CLOSED DOORS	Sam McGeown
AT LAST	Leon Miller
A SUCCESSFUL WOMAN	MJ O'Neill
RENNIE'S MANSION	Dee, Renny & Oscar
AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO BECOMING FABULOUS	Colin Young
THEATRE FACILITATORS	Ayeesha Ash, Grace Edward, Katrina Graham, Todd MacDonald, Nadine McDonald-Dowd, Sean Mee, Lucinda Shaw, Katherine Quigley



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PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

SEASON DATES	Friday 25 October – Sunday 10 November, 2019
VENUE	Homes across Brisbane
TICKETS	One home: \$24 Five homes (+one free): \$100
DURATION	30 minutes per performance
BOOKINGS	laboite.com.au or (07) 3007 8600
AGE SUITABILITY	Some performances contain sensitive themes. Recommended for audiences aged 15 years and over. Please visit laboite.com.au for details
LEAD ARTIST	Jeffrey Tan
CREATIVE PRODUCER	Sanja Simić
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Daniel Sinclair
ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER	Jaime Ng
STAGE MANAGERS	Jaimeson Gilders, Helen Gillespie, Siobhan Martin, Aleea Monsour, Jaime Ng, Steve Pirie, Angela Ponting, Adam Sleeman
PROJECT ASSISTANTS	Stephen Quinn, Sampson Smith
PHOTOGRAPHY	Joeli Gribben
ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHER	Elisabeth Burke
SEASON 2019 GRAPHIC DESIGN	Gangplank

Jeffrey's trip is made possible with support from the National Arts Council, Singapore.



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