

# THE NEIGHBOUR —HOOD

BY LA BOITE & MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH EMPIRE THEATRES



LA BOITE  
THEATRE COMPANY



EMPIRE  
THEATRES  
REGIONAL ARTS



MULTICULTURAL  
AUSTRALIA  
*it's who we are*

V1.0

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## SYNOPSIS

“There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear.”

— Toni Morrison.

A companion piece to La Boite’s critically acclaimed 2017 offering *The Village, The Neighbourhood* is an intimate storytelling experience that transports audiences across countries, borders, and oceans in search of home; all from within the walls of the Roundhouse Theatre.

This revelatory work tracks seven individual, real-life journeys from the experience of fleeing homelands, to seeking refuge and creating, fostering and discovering a new community (or neighbourhood) in Australia.

*The Neighbourhood* promises an evening of honest, authentic, and deeply moving theatre, imbued with a sense of hope, power and recognition.

Written and co-created by the storytellers themselves, *The Neighbourhood* traverses a range of storytelling forms to examine the concept of home and the vital importance of belonging. This work is co-created with Todd MacDonald, Aleea Monsour and Ari Palani with an ensemble of seven local storytellers.

## CAST & CREATIVES

**CO-CREATORS** Todd MacDonald, Aleea Monsour & Ari Palani

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Ben Hughes

**SOUND DESIGN** Brady Watkins

**SET & COSTUME DESIGN** Adam Gardnir

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Suitable for grades 9 to 12

## WARNINGS

- Content used in stories will be verbatim, including details of war, fear, fleeing and persecution for reasons such as politics, faith, culture and sexuality.
- Please be aware of the possible trigger points for students in your classes who may come from refugee or asylum seeker experiences.



# CURRICULUM LINKS

## FORM, STYLE & CONVENTIONS

- Linear and Non-Linear Theatre Forms
- Verbatim and Documentary Drama
- Contemporary Political Theatre
- Collage Drama

## PURPOSE

- Empathise
- Challenge or provoke
- Educate or inform
- Chronicle or document
- Empower

## SENIOR SYLLABUS UNITS

Grade 11 Unit ONE: Share

Grade 12 Unit THREE: Challenge

## CONTEXT

- Dramatic
- Real
- Sociological
- Political
- Personal
- Geographical
- Cultural

## SUBJECT MATTER

- Immigration
- Social Change
- Government and Policy
- Storytelling
- Refugee and asylum seeker policy specific historical and global contexts
- Social Environments
- Human Rights



# ARTIST Q&A

## ALEEA MONSOUR

Co-Creator

*Why should high school students see this show?*

This show provides an important and intimate experience for high school students to engage with refugee, asylum seeker and migrant stories. With a modern day Australian society which is made up of people from all different places and backgrounds, this show starts an imperative conversation with the young people of our communities. It gives space to stories which have seldom been given voice and asks an important question for our future about how we welcome people and how we form our neighbourhood.

*What kind of stories are audiences going to hear?*

This play will tell the often silenced stories of refugee, asylum seeker and migrant communities throughout the personal experiences and memories of seven storytellers. This will be an intimate storytelling experience, about the delicate and deeply connected process of making community in a new place.

*What should audiences expect to see and experience?*

*The Neighbourhood* will be an exciting and moving piece which brings together music, poetry and performance to share these inspiring and important stories. We ask audiences to travel with us on this journey and to walk in the shoes of these seven storytellers.



**CO-CREATOR**  
Aleea Monsour

# CHECK IT OUT

Once you've booked your tickets, closer to the show date, we'll email you the full pre and post show activities. But for now, here's some research and discussion points you and your students can check out!

## MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

What is the difference between a migrant, refugee and an asylum seeker?

TERMINOLOGY	DEFINITION	CHARACTERISTICS/ EXPLANATION
Migrants	A Migrant is someone who chooses to leave their country of origin for personal or economic reasons.	Have chosen and planned their migration. Migrants usually have all their documentation organised, arrive with most of their belongings and usually have funds to sustain them for a few years. Migrants are generally able to say goodbye to family and friends and can return home.
Refugees	A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee their country because of persecution, war or violence. They have sought asylum and after processing have been assessed as having a genuine need for protection.	Protecting refugees is UNHCR's core mandate. Refugees have to move if they are to save their lives or preserve their freedom. They have no protection from their own state - in fact, it is often their own government that is threatening to persecute them.
Asylum Seekers	An asylum seeker is someone seeking protection but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been assessed.	There is confusion as to the difference. Asylum seekers and refugees often have parallel journeys and experiences but their status here in Australia hasn't been assessed or confirmed yet.

# THINGS TO PONDER

## **EXPERIENCES OF REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS**

The experiences of refugees and asylum seekers bare many similarities, however every journey is unique to the individual regarding the country from which they've come, the journey they have taken and the number of places they have stayed along the way, as well as their final steps to protection in Australia.

Many people fleeing violence never get out of their countries and remain Internally Displaced Persons within their country. This means that they cannot return home and have sought refuge in another part of their country.

### Experiences of Refugees & Asylum Seekers:

- Forced to leave home
- Usually fleeing from their country of origin by way of other countries
- Arrive with very little documentation
- Loss of home and possessions
- Loss of family and friends
- Limited sources of social support
- Loss of physical and emotional safety
- Arrive with very little or no funds
- Disrupted schooling
- Poor health
- Cannot return home
- Political harassment
- May have experienced or witnessed torture and rape
- They often leave behind:
  - Important papers
  - Special possessions
  - Household goods
  - Clothing
  - Family and friends

# FURTHER RESEARCH

## REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

Refugee Council of Australia

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/refugees-in-australia/>

Parliament of Australia – Refugee Resettlement Policy & Facts

[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/RefugeeResettlement](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/RefugeeResettlement)

UNHCR – The UN Refugee Agency

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-au/>

Australian Human Rights Commission

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/asylum-seekers-and-refugees>

## RECENT NEWS

'Australia on track for record number of Asylum Seekers' - The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/oct/08/australia-on-track-for-record-number-of-asylum-seekers-arriving-by-plane>

'The new 'boat people'? How Labor's focus on air arrivals only hints at new immigration challenge' - ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-09/labor-concered-at-asylum-seeker-numbers-arriving-by-plane/11581494>

'Manus Island refugee processing is coming to an end — but what happens now?' - ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-11/manus-island-refugee-processing-end-what-next/11486268>

## TICKET PRICES

Each school booking includes one complimentary teacher ticket with every 10 students.

STUDENT TICKETS ..... \$27.50

ADDITIONAL TEACHER TICKET..... \$35.00

## CURRICULUM & WORKSHOP ENQUIRIES

Visit [laboite.com.au/education](http://laboite.com.au/education) or contact Maddie Nixon our Youth & Education Producer at [maddienixon@laboite.com.au](mailto:maddienixon@laboite.com.au) or 3007 8600

## SCHOOL BOOKING ENQUIRIES

Visit [laboite.com.au/education](http://laboite.com.au/education) or contact [schoolbookings@laboite.com.au](mailto:schoolbookings@laboite.com.au) or our Box Office at 3007 8600



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*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

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