

LA BOITE
ANNUAL
REPORT
2018



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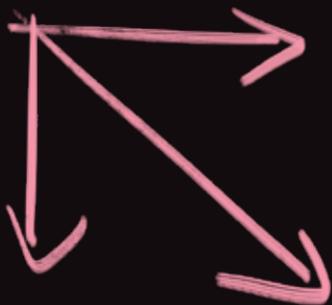
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**LA BOITE'S MISSION
IS TO CREATE
EXHILARATING
THEATRE THAT
EMBRACES
AUDIENCES
AND ELEVATES
ARTISTS THROUGH
ENGAGEMENT WITH
ITS COMMUNITY.
WE ARE DARING,
DEEP AND DIVERSE.**

COMPANY PROFILE



La Boite is a story of people, passion, purpose and place. Representation, diversity and respect are our values. In 2018 La Boite Theatre Company continued to develop and present vital new Australian work.

The stories, ideas and voices of our city and country are many and varied, and as such La Boite seeks to represent and engage in this beautiful and rich diversity; the diversity of form, of ideas, ethnicity, gender—of identity.

In an increasingly uncertain world, which is overflowing with toxic masculinity, dubious leadership and fake news, we seek to provide a salve to these ails. Or reflect them, shout at them, embrace them – at the very least, we always seek to talk about them.

It is no surprise that our 2018 season had a vital and strong group of female artists leading the charge. La Boite has been heavily influenced through its 90+ year history by formidable and talented women, from Barbara Sisley and Babette Stephens to Jennifer Blocksidge and Sue Rider. In 2018, our season tackled global issues, personal narratives, innovative forms, and witnessed a host of exciting new collaborations.

PRODUCTION SEASON

In 2018 we delivered a season of new works in the Roundhouse Theatre: *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* by Kathryn Marquet, *The Mathematics of Longing* by Suzie Miller, *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* by Claire Christian, and *Neon Tiger* by Julia-Rose Lewis and Gillian Cosgriff. We also saw the return of two beautiful and successful works that originated from La Boite—*The Village* and *Future D. Fidel's Prize Fighter*. Clearly demonstrating a hunger for diverse stories and human connection, audiences returned to these works, and new audiences connected with their power and beauty.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

These Programs are designed to extend the depth and rigor of our Production Season. Long term development seeks to lift quality, depth of engagement, and the relevance of our programs. In 2018 we engaged with four Artists in Residence who worked on our production season or in development of new work, and Digi Youth Arts as Associate Artists. In March we presented the third annual HWY festival of new work, featuring conversations, workshops and presentations of exciting new ideas we are developing for future seasons, as well as a host of local artists who presented new work at various stages of development.

YOUTH AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS

Young artists and the youth based audiences, for which La Boite is famous, are nurtured and developed through our Youth & Participation programs. In 2017 we continued our successful programs including the Ambassadors Program and Young Artists' Company, School Holiday Workshop and popular Acting Masterclasses for adults. Professional development workshops for teachers, curriculum-based workshops for school students, and internships for tertiary students and recent graduates again proved popular, and we continued our partnership with Yeronga State High School.

TOURING

2018 was another successful year for our touring program. In March, *Single Asian Female* had a sell-out season at Belvoir in Sydney, and in the second half of the year *Prize Fighter* went on an eight week, seven venue tour of Australia including a return season at Logan Entertainment Centre. *The Village* was also presented as part of Festival 2018, in the Commonwealth Games cultural program, and was presented in a special pop-up season in Toowoomba.

2018 STRATEGIC GOALS & PERFORM —ANCE MEASURES



PRODUCE & PRESENT COMPELLING THEATRE

- 6 productions produced or presented
- 87% of audiences surveyed rate their overall satisfaction as good or excellent
- Successful collaborations on productions with Playlab, QUT Creative Industries, MDA Ltd, Digi Youth Arts, The Farm, The Uncertainty Principle and Brisbane Powerhouse.
- 4 new Australian works produced
- 14 new Australian works developed through HWY and Artists in Residence Program
- "Fast-paced, thought provoking theatre—never a dull moment."
Kiesten McCauley, Stage Whispers

DEVELOP ARTISTS & NEW WORK

- 4 Artists in Residence developed new work
- 12 new projects developed or showcased through HWY Program
- 2017 Artist in Residence Suzie Miller's *The Mathematics of Longing* was developed into a full production in the 2018 season, in partnership with The Farm and The Uncertainty Principle.



CONNECT & COLLABORATE WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES & ARTISTS

- 55% of all artistic engagements went to female artists
- 45% of artistic engagements went to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse or Indigenous artists
- A record nine Youth & Participation programs offered, with 620 participants
- Community Partnerships with MDA Ltd, Digi Youth Arts, Mad Dance House and Yeronga State High School
- National tour of *Prize Fighter* visited 7 venues and reached audience of 5,135
- Sell-out season of *Single Asian Female* at Belvoir in Sydney with audiences of 12,362 and record new audiences for Belvoir



BUILD & RETAIN DIVERSE AUDIENCES

- Total production and participation program attendance of 46,829, representing 50% growth since 2015
- 53% of our audience was aged 30 or under
- 21% of audiences identify as Culturally or Linguistically diverse, 23% of audiences were not born in Australia
- Subscribers to e-news almost doubled to 27,197
- 3,026 first-time visitors to La Boite
- 3,313 students attended La Boite productions with their school



BUILD LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

- Award-winning Wall of Light donor recognition program commenced renewal
- 66% of total income was earned income (non-grant income)
- 23% increase in total sponsorship, donations and philanthropic income
- Alternate income streams of bar and café, and venue hire contributed above budget income to the organisation

CHAIR'S REPORT



JULIAN MYERS
CHAIR
APRIL 2019

2018 was a huge year for La Boite as we made four new works, embarked on a national tour, transferred one of our much loved favourites to Sydney, and returned two others to Brisbane. All this and a two-week creative development festival.

Crucial to our work were our partnerships with the small to medium and independent arts sectors. With Playlab we brought Kathryn Marquet's *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* to the stage; The Farm and The Uncertainty Principal brought their multidisciplinary skills to Susie Miller's *The Mathematics of Longing*; our ongoing partnership with QUT Creative Industries produced *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* by Claire Christian; and we were delighted to work in association with Brisbane Powerhouse to bring *Neon Tiger*, by the creative team of Julia-Rose Lewis, Gillian Cosgriff and Kat Henry to our audiences.

Our partnership with MDA continued through our presentation of three seasons of *The Village* and a pilot in-schools program at Yeronga State High School. We have many more creative partners who work with us in our Artistic Development and Youth & Participation Programs.

Single Asian Female, Michelle Law's brilliant comedy that has returned to La Boite in 2019, delivered full houses and record new audiences for Belvoir in a six week season in March. And *Prize Fighter* wowed audiences across four states on a seven venue tour. These two touring productions helped us achieve attendance figures in 2018 of 46,829.

We were delighted to be part of the consultation process with Queensland

University of Technology as they unveiled a new Masterplan and are working closely with QUT on activation and place-making activities on our patch of the Kelvin Grove campus. The La Boite café and bar continue to thrive as a hub for audiences, artists, students, QUT staff and others living and working in Kelvin Grove.

We've kicked off 2019 with a new website, and new bold branding and imagery, and in 2018 our e-news followers nearly doubled to 27,197.

Our award-winning Wall of Light, that recognises the generosity of La Boite donors, entered its second cycle, and we are delighted that so many of our original Wall of Light donors have renewed their generous commitment to La Boite for another three years.

We thank all those who support us—those who have sponsored or donated to La Boite over many years, or those who have joined as in 2018. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a big impact on La Boite's capacity to support artists, provide access to the theatre for young people, and to create exhilarating theatre for our audiences.

La Boite's successes, endeavours and progress would not be possible without the amazing and selfless efforts of the La Boite team of staff, management, Board, volunteers and the inspirational artists and arts workers that form the backbone of our company. I thank each and every one of these people sincerely and look forward to seeing what we can all create together in 2019.

**AT LA BOITE 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 WORK—**

**AS WELL AS
PARTICIPATION IN
OUR ANNUAL HWY
PROGRAM, THESE
PROGRAMS ARE LED
BY COLLABORATIVE
PRACTICE, CREATIVE
DEVELOPMENT, SKILLS
EXCHANGE'**

**AND ONGOING
CONVERSATION
ABOUT THEATRE IN
THIS COUNTRY, AND
AN UNABASHED
DESIRE TO EXPAND
OUR REACH AND
DIVERSIFY VOICES ON
AUSTRALIAN STAGES.**

—LA BOITE 2018 SEASON BROCHURE

EXEC —UTIVES' REPORT

2018 was a year of national critical acclaim and artistic excellence for La Boite. A significant year of new work that was led by a cohort of strong and talented women. In 2018 we explored vital subjects of feminism, climate change, and seeking asylum, through dance/physical theatre, science and art whilst playfully entertaining audiences with music and comedy.

We opened the year with an historic first-time collaboration with Playlab, co-producing the world premiere of *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* by Kathryn Marquet. The black comedy eco-feminist work received excellent reviews and was beautifully realised in the space by designer Vilma Mattila. We were proud to partner with Playlab as it made its second foray into play producing, a significant evolution for this important Brisbane company.

Our second work of 2018 was another world premiere *The Mathematics of Longing* by Suzie Miller, a co-production with Gold Coast based Helpmann Award winning dance and physical theatre company The Farm and Suzie Miller's company

The Uncertainty Principle. This highly ambitious work fused physical and dance theatre, science and visual art. Working with acclaimed visual artist Ross Manning and Regurgitator's Ben Ely, the work was devised/directed by the performers with Suzie Miller using her text as a base. It was an exciting and beautiful work that challenged theatrical form but divided audiences.

In April we returned the vital work *The Village*, developed with MDA Ltd. *The Village* again sold out a two week season at La Boite, and made enormous impact on both these high school audiences, and adult audiences who saw the work at a special Festival 2018 season on the QPAC forecourt (as a part of the Commonwealth Games artistic program). This work resonates profoundly for young audiences providing a rare opportunity for our community to empathetically engage with the real stories of refugees and asylum seekers.

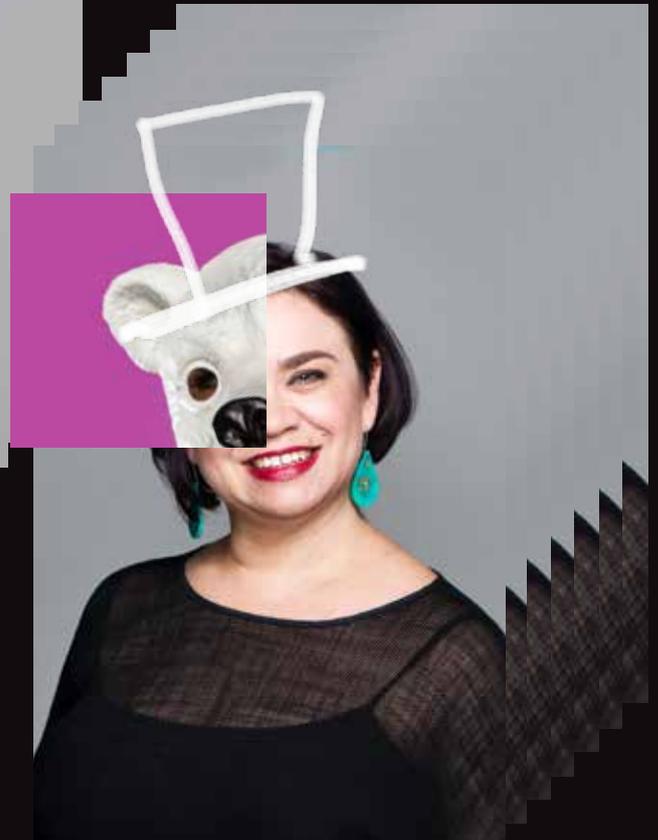
Lysa and the Freeborn Dames by Claire Christian was commissioned by La Boite

and co-produced with QUT Creative Industries. This new Australian play saw six final year acting students working with four of Brisbane's most established and respected actors Barbara Lowing, Roxanne McDonald, Hugh Parker and Hsiao-Ling Tang. Directed by La Boite's Creative Producer Sanja Šimić (La Boite directorial debut) the work was powerful, political and entertaining and took the audience on a fierce feminist protest journey of a young woman from regional Australia—inspired by *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes. Performed in the round, the production resonated deeply with young audiences and launched the careers of some excellent QUT actors.

In September, as a part of its national tour, La Boite teamed up with Logan Entertainment Centre to present our acclaimed production of *Future D. Fidel's Prize Fighter*. It was a great success and important endeavour to take this work to the hugely receptive audiences in Logan. The production then continued on to astonish audiences on a national tour that spanned Northern Territory, Queensland,



TODD MACDONALD
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO



KATHERINE HOEPPER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
APRIL 2019

New South Wales and Victoria playing to over 5000 people and achieving critical acclaim in the Darwin and Melbourne Festivals. *Prize Fighter* was then nominated for multiple Matilda Awards in Brisbane (co-winning best Production) and Greenroom Awards in Melbourne (winner best performer for Pacharo Mzembe).

The company continued an extensive year of touring, taking the smash hit 2017 production of *Single Asian Female* by Michelle Law to Belvoir in January—selling out to more than 12,000 people and setting a record at Belvoir for new audiences.

Neon Tiger by Julia-Rose Lewis and Gillian Cosgriff saw its world premiere production in November in the Roundhouse. This is the second work of Julia-Rose's that premiered at La Boite after *Samson* in 2015 and was originally developed with Brisbane Powerhouse. A romantic musical play composed by Gillian Cosgriff and directed by Kat Henry, it charmed audiences and critics alike.

Our Artists in Residence program saw us work closely with Ngoc Phan, Krissy

Kneen, Steven Oliver and Jodee Mundy. We attained additional development funding for Steven Oliver's play *From Darkness* and in 2019 have programmed it as a co-production with Brisbane Festival. Digi Youth Arts continued to work alongside us as Associate Artists in 2018 developing and showcasing young First Nations artists.

We also launched a significant partnership with Mad Dance House offering a \$10,000 grant and three month residency to a dance theatre artist or group to develop a new work for the stage. The 2018 recipient was Samantha Williams presenting her new work *One Way*. This grant represents an important commitment to new forms and expanding theatrical languages of our audiences in Brisbane.

In 2018 we continued to grow and strengthen our artist development platforms and extended our youth engagements and proudly continued to support FAST (Festival of Student Theatre). Curated by Sanja Simić our new work festival HWY increased in size and output and was more successful

than ever. The Production Department coped incredibly well with the extensive demands of touring and transfer of works whilst maintaining a balance in running our theatre and maintaining and delivering our productions.

Jackie Maxwell and Kaytelyn Mitchell have continued to grow our Philanthropy & Development department with increased functions and donor events, and have worked closely with Roxane Eden in her new role as Finance & Venue Manager, after we bid farewell to Jessica Ralph.

It has been a year of transition with Claire Christian finishing at La Boite after leading the Youth & Participation Department to record numbers of youth engagement. We welcomed Sofie Ham to the company Marketing & Audience Development Manager as we restructured this department and are very excited about the new look and energy as we move forward.

In 2018 La Boite continued to develop new voices, champion stories rarely seen and create the audiences of the future.

2018 SEASON SUMMARY

THE DEAD DEVILS OF COCKLE CREEK

By Kathryn Marquet
10 February – 3 March



HWY FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK

12–24 March

THE VILLAGE

Festival 2018 Season: 11–15 April
La Boite Season: 24 April – 5 May

THE MATHEMATICS OF LONGING

By Suzie Miller
1-23 June

LYSA AND THE FREEBORN DAMES

By Claire Christian
21 July - 11 August

PRIZE FIGHTER

By Future D Fidel
Logan Entertainment Centre:
11-12 September

NEON TIGER

Written by Julia-Rose Lewis,
Composed by Gillian Cosgriff
Co-created by Julia-Rose Lewis,
Gillian Cosgriff, and Kat Henry
27 October - 17 November



FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN STUDENT THEATRE

23-25 November



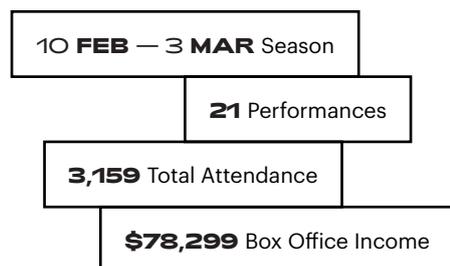
THE DEAD DEVILS OF COCKLE CREEK

by Kathryn Marquet

A La Boite and Playlab co-production
World Premiere

"A PERFECT ENCAPSULATION OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE."
— SCENESTR

DIRECTOR Ian Lawson
DESIGNER Vilma Mattila
LX DESIGNER Christine Felmingham
SOUND DESIGNER Wil Hughes
STAGE MANAGER Maddie Nixon
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Rebecca Minuti
CAST John Batchelor, Julian Curtis, Kimie Tsukakoshi and Emily Weir



This play was developed through Playlab's Beta Testing and Playwright-in-Residence programs





THE VILLAGE

A La Boite and MDA Ltd co-production
Return Season

"...THIS IS THE KIND OF PERFORMANCE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD ATTEND."
— CONCRETE PLAYGROUND

DIRECTOR Todd MacDonald
ASSISTANT CREATIVE Aleea Monsour
DESIGNER Moe Assad
SOUND DESIGNER Wil Hughes
STAGE MANAGER Peter Sutherland
STORYTELLERS Cieavash Arean, Arwin Arwin, Silva A Sal, Ngoc Phan, Lili Sanchez, Joyce Taylor

FESTIVAL 2018

11 — 15 APR Season

6 Performances

265 Total Attendance

LA BOITE Season

24 APR — 5 MAY Season

21 Performances

1,974 Total Attendance

\$45,225 Box Office Income



THE MATHEMATICS OF LONGING

by Suzie Miller

A La Boite, The Farm and
The Uncertainty Principle co-production
World Premiere



★★★★★ "THOUGH THE IDEA OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS MAY SEEM TEDIOUS IN THEORY FOR SOME, THE SHOW PROVED BEYOND MEASURE THAT IT CAN BE TRANSFORMED INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL, MAGICAL AND—MOST IMPORTANTLY—GENUINELY COMPREHENSIBLE."

— JESSE CHAFFEY, SCENSTR

1 — 23 JUN Season

19 Performances

1,974 Total Attendance

\$57,421 Box Office Income

CO-CREATORS / PERFORMERS Kate Harman,
Todd MacDonald, Gavin Webber

SET DESIGNER Ross Manning

COSTUME DESIGNER Anthony Spinaze

LX DESIGNER Ben Hughes

SOUND DESIGNER Ben Ely

STAGE MANAGER Yanni Dubler

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Peter Sutherland

CAST Kate Harman, Todd MacDonald, Ngoc Phan,
Merlynn Tong and Gavin Webber

Production Partner





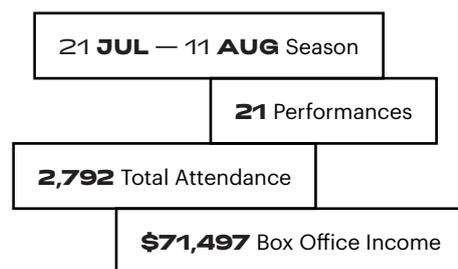
LYSA AND THE FREEBORN DAMES

by Claire Christian

A La Boite and QUT Creative Industries
co-production
World Premiere

★★★★ **"AS FUNNY AS
IT IS FEROCIOUS."**
— LIMELIGHT

DIRECTOR Sanja Simić
**ASSISTANT CREATIVE/DANCE
 CHOREOGRAPHER** Maddie Nixon
DRAMATURG Saffron Benner
DESIGNER Anthony Spinaze
LX DESIGNER Katie Sfetkidis
SOUND DESIGNER Guy Webster
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER NJ Price
STAGE MANAGER Peter Sutherland
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Erin Handford
CAST Jackson Bannister, Morgan Francis, Barbara
 Lowing, Samantha Lush, Roxanne McDonald, Tatum Mottin,
 Hugh Parker, Hsiao-Ling Tang and Tania Vukicevic



PRIZE FIGHTER

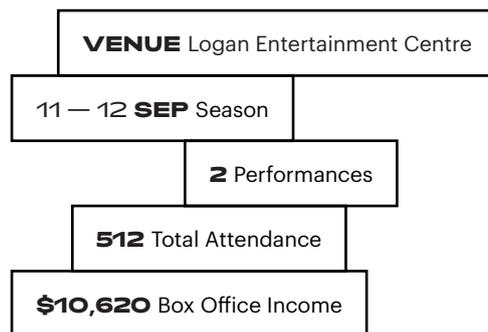
by Future D. Fidel

La Boite and Logan Entertainment Centre present a La Boite and Brisbane Festival co-production



"70 MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY THEATRE. A PLAY THAT EVERYONE SHOULD SEE."
— ARTSHUB

DIRECTOR Todd MacDonald
DRAMATURG Chris Kohn
DESIGNER Bill Haycock
LIGHTING DESIGNER David Walters
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER Felix Cross
SOUND DESIGN REMIX Busty Beatz
MOVEMENT & FIGHT DIRECTOR Nigel Poulton
STAGE MANAGER Daniel Sinclair
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Peter Rhoades
TOURING TECHNICIAN Jake Cook
CAST Margi Brown Ash, Marcus Johnson, Mandela Mathia, Ratidzo Mambo, Gideon Mzembe and Pacharo Mzembe



This project is supported by arTour, an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



ARTOUR

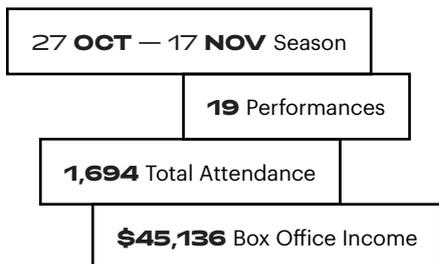




NEON TIGER

Written by Julia-Rose Lewis
 Composed by Gillian Cosgriff
 Co-Created by Julia-Rose Lewis,
 Gillian Cosgriff and Kat Henry

A La Boite production in association
 with Brisbane Powerhouse



“ONE OF THOSE RARE PRODUCTIONS THAT CAN BE ENJOYED BY ANY AGE GROUP ON MANY DIFFERENT LEVELS.”
 — ERIC SCOTT,
 ABSOLUTE THEATRE

DIRECTOR Kat Henry
SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER Sarah Winter
LIGHTING DESIGNER Andrew Meadows
SOUND DESIGNER Guy Webster
ASSISTANT CREATIVE (SOUND DESIGN) Anna Whitaker
CULTURAL CONSULTANT Nana Dakin
STAGE MANAGER Nicole Neil
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Mikayla Bishop
CAST Lisa Hanley and Courtney Stewart

Commissioned and developed by
 Brisbane Powerhouse through the support
 of the Australia Council for the Arts.



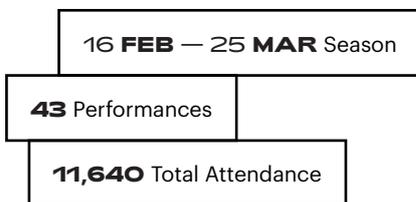


TOURING SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

by Michelle Law

Belvoir presents a La Boite production

★★★★★ **"A SWEET-AND-SOUR BLEND OF COMEDY AND DRAMA."**
— JOHN SHAND, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD



DIRECTOR Claire Christian
DESIGNER Moe Assad
LIGHTING DESIGNER Keith Clark
SOUND DESIGNER Wil Hughes
FIGHT DIRECTOR Scott Witt
STAGE MANAGER Peter Sutherland
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Katie Hurst and Keiran Smith
WITH Emily Burton, Patrick Jhanur, Alex Lee, Courtney Stewart, Hsiao-Ling Tang and Lucy Heffernan

Production Partner



This work was developed with the assistance of the Lotus Playwriting Project, an initiative of Playwriting Australia and Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (formerly Performance 4a)



TOURING PRIZE FIGHTER

by Future D. Fidel

A La Boite and Brisbane Festival
co-production
Toured by ArTour

**“POWERFUL,
EMOTIONALLY
CHARGED AND
BEAUTIFULLY REALISED,
PRIZE FIGHTER IS AN
EARLY CONTENDER
FOR BEST NEW WORK
OF THE YEAR.”**
— POLLY SIMONS,
TIMEOUT MELBOURNE

NATIONAL Tour

16 — 19 **AUG** Darwin Festival, Darwin Entertainment Centre Studio

19 — 22 **SEP** Newcastle Civic TheatreCentre

3 — 6 **OCT** Geelong Performing Arts Centre

9 — 20 **OCT** Melbourne International Arts Festival, Northcote Town Hall

23 **OCT** Studio Theatre, Bunjil Place, Melbourne

31 **OCT** — 3 **NOV** Merrigong Theatre Company, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, Wollongong

36 Performances

5,138 Total Attendance

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body. Tour supported by arTour an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

ARTIST DEVELOP- MENT PROGRAMS

2018 ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

The La Boite 2018 Artists in Residence were a group of established and emerging practitioners from Brisbane and beyond, who were embedded into our 2018 season through participation in our HWY festival and the bespoke development of new work and key projects.

As a company we recognise that making high calibre work requires time and resources. As a result, La Boite Artists in Residence are supported in the development of their practice and/or a new work through consultation with the LB artistic team, access to space and a range of resources, commissions, creative development and presentation opportunities, and more.

In 2018, the La Boite Artists in Residence were:

STEVEN OLIVER continued to develop *From Darkness* in 2018, through dedicated creative developments and dramaturgical support throughout the year. La Boite was successful in securing an Australia Council grant for the development of the play, which was also programmed as part of the 2018 National Play Festival in Sydney, which included a public reading of the work in partnership with Playwriting Australia.

KRISSY KNEEN was

commissioned to write the first draft of her work *The Body in a Body*, based on her award winning memoir, *Affection*. The work received a reading as part of HWY. Krissy also participated in additional events.

JODEE MUNDY engaged in a creative development for a new work with video artist Justin Harrison, as well as facilitating an AUSLAN story-telling workshop as part of HWY.

NGOC PHAN returned to La Boite as an Artist in Residence to continue work on *My Father Who Slept in a Zoo*, which had a reading as part of HWY and additional intensives throughout the year—including a creative development with Melbourne based director, Leticia Caceres. Ngoc also continued her relationship with La Boite as an actor in 2018, participating in readings and main stage works, including *The Mathematics of Longing* and both iterations of *The Village*.

In 2018, La Boite continued to work with local youth arts organisation, Digi Youth Arts, as Associate Artists.

DYA performed their new work, *in-dij-uh-nu-s* as part of HWY. La Boite also extended a scholarship opportunity to one Digi Youth Arts artists for the La Boite Ambassador program, which was awarded to actor and theatre-maker, Aidan Rowlingson.

LA BOITE x MAD DANCE HOUSE RESIDENCY

In 2018, we introduced a unique funded opportunity for a Brisbane-based artist to develop a dance-theatre work as part of our suite of Artist Development Programs, in partnership with Mad Dance House in Brisbane.

This funded residency included a creative development period, with time divided between Mad Dance House studios and La Boite, as well as an opportunity to present a showing of the work, with a financial contribution of \$10,000 towards fees and expenses. While developing the work, the artist received administrative, artistic, and production support from the La Boite artistic team and Mad Dance House's Meg Cooper.

The 2018 recipient of the La Boite x MDH residency was hip-hop artist, Sammie Williams.



THE WORK WE DO IS A LONG TERM INVESTMENT WHICH IS NOT ONLY A JOURNEY OF ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT BUT ALSO, NECESSARILY, A JOURNEY OF AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT.



ASSISTANT CREATIVES PROGRAM

In its second year, the La Boite Assistant Creatives Program once again provided the opportunity for three emerging artists to work on a La Boite production as part of the main stage season.

These paid positions enable emerging artists to learn from senior practitioners about the process of developing shows for established companies. During each project, an Assistant Creative is given an opportunity to shadow the director or lead artist in rehearsal, attend weekly production meetings, and observe the production week of the show through to opening night. The 2018 La Boite Assistant Creatives were:

- Aleea Monsour (Assistant Director, *The Village*)
- Maddie Nixon (Assistant Director, *Lysa and The Freeborn Dames*)
- Anna Whitaker (Assistant Sound Designer, *Neon Tiger*)

CHATTERBOX

The La Boite Chatterbox events were introduced in 2017 as an opportunity to engage in conversation about each mainstage production in the lead-up to the season. Curated by La Boite's Creative Producer Sanja Simić, these events took the form of panel discussions with the core creatives, facilitated by La Boite's artistic team and/or invited guests, in front of a live audience in the Roundhouse Theatre post-show.

In 2018, we held the following Chatterbox events:

- La Boite Chatterbox #1: *The Dead Devils of Cockle Creek* facilitated by Sanja Simić
- La Boite Chatterbox #2: *The Mathematics of Longing* facilitated by Dr Caroline Heim
- La Boite Chatterbox #3: *Lysa and The Freeborn Dames* facilitated by Krissy Kneen
- La Boite Chatterbox #5: *Neon Tiger* facilitated by Jeremy Neideck

YOUTH AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS



The youth based audiences, for which La Boite is famous, are nurtured and developed through our Youth & Participation programs. We have a broad suite of programs for youth participants aged 12 to 25. Our programs are inclusive and offer a number of scholarships and embedded engagements with diverse communities and schools.

AMBASSADORS

The La Boite Ambassadors program supports passionate young artists to engage with La Boite while simultaneously increasing the company's audience reach. Through being in a community, young artists are able to come together to talk about theatre, meet other like-minded artists, and host several events in the La Boite calendar. The 2018 Ambassadors wrote a blog and hosted open mic nights in alignment with the 2018 season. In 2018, La Boite offered a scholarship ambassador position to a member of Digi Youth Arts.

YOUNG ACTORS COMPANY

The Young Actors Company is an exciting training opportunity for young emerging performers. In 2018 we were delighted to have 25 young artists participate across both of our junior and senior ensemble. Both groups devised and presented a new work in the Roundhouse Theatre, to friends, family and general public. The 14-17 year-old Ensemble, comprised of 10 high school aged women, worked with Claire Christian to present *Ten Letters* and the 18-25 year-old ensemble worked with David Burton to present *define 'adult'*.

ARTIST RESIDENCY: YERONGA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

La Boite continued our partnership with Yeronga in 2018, through the delivery of a pilot in-schools program based on *The Village*, supported by MDA. La Boite's Youth & Participation Producer worked with students across a number of grades on *The Village In-School* and outcomes included a sound installation, a recorded to-camera performance piece, and a script created by the students reflecting on their thoughts about the world. We hope to use this model to roll our residencies in other Queensland schools.



HWY FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK

La Boite's HWY festival is an annual event curated by La Boite Creative Producer Sanja Simić that encourages a dialogue around the development of new Australian work, provides professional and skills development opportunities, and delivers a dedicated platform for local and national artists to showcase and demonstrate new ideas in front of an audience of peers and patrons.

In 2018, HWY was presented over two weeks in March and consisted of a series of curated showings, readings, workshops, forums, podcasts, curated conversations, and masterclasses. Artists were invited to showcase and test new work in their developmental stages through formats ranging from a 30 minute pitch to a two hour reading.

The festival, across three distinct tiers, provides a platform for the industry and wider arts community to engage in a robust dialogue about the future of theatre in Brisbane. HWY artists continue to hail from diverse backgrounds, recognised by La Boite for their relevance, talent and potential.

In 2018, we received 41 applications for participation in HWY's Performance Program through our nation-wide open call. This is a significant increase on the 15 applications we received in 2017.

HWY PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- *No Wave Femmes* curated and hosted by Alethea Beetson
- *My Father Who Slept in a Zoo* by Ngoc Phan
- *RECIPE* by Shari Indriani
- *Cooladdi* by Maddie Nixon
- *Book Club* by Claire Christian
- *Return to the Dirt* by Steve Pirie
- *In-dij-uh-nu-s* by Digi Youth Arts
- *Public Displays of Therapy* by Daniele Constance
- *Body in a Body* by Krissy Kneen
- *Hot Tub* by Lewis Treston

HWY WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

- *Indie Theatre Bootcamp*—A two-day intensive with Brisbane's leading producers, makers, and programmers
- *Auslan Story-telling Workshop*—A theatre making masterclass for the Deaf community and AUSLAN speakers, facilitated by Jodee Mundy
- *HWY Skills Lab: Technical Production*—Sound Design & Composition, Production Management, Video Design, and Lighting Design workshops
- *HWY Skills Lab: Performance*—Audition Techniques, Physical Theatre, Stage Combat, and Dramaturgy workshops
- *Teacher's Masterclass*—contemporising approaches to adaptation, facilitated by Ari Palani
- *Introduction to Playwriting*—A masterclass for emerging playwrights, facilitated by Lewis Treston

HWY CONVERSATIONS

- Let's hear it for the Patrons—hosted by Todd MacDonald
- HWY Podcasts Wk 1 & 2
- *Black Birds Gathering: Mata Matagi*—A gathering of Pasifika, South Sea Islander, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, facilitated by Ayeesha Ash and Emele Ugavule
- *Me, Myself and I*—Personal narratives in contemporary theatre making panel discussion, hosted by Shari Irwin
- Artist Talks and Feedback

2018 HWY HIGHLIGHTS

- Total participants at 13 HWY workshops was 182
- Total audience for the HWY Performance Program was 634
- 58% of artists involved in HWY 2018 were women
- 20% of artists involved in HWY 2018 identify as ATSI
- 30% of artists involved in HWY 2018 identify as CALD
- 98 artists were involved in HWY 2018 across four program areas

HWY OPEN MIC NIGHT

Hosted by the 2018 La Boite Ambassador cohort in the La Boite foyer bar.

HWY PODCASTS

Hosted by the La Boite 2018 Assistant Creatives—Maddie Nixon, Anna Whitaker, and Alea Monsour—across consecutive Saturday mornings during the festival. The podcasts were two-hour sessions where the three Assistant Creatives interview HWY artists and reflected on each week of HWY and the Brisbane sector more broadly.

Proudly supported by



EDUCATION

SCHOOL BOOKINGS

In 2018, La Boite welcomed 3,313 school students, from Brisbane and the greater South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales regions. All teachers received an Education Resource Kit tailored to the production with pre-and post-performance activities, all including contributions from our Feature Teachers. The Feature Teacher program engages high school teachers to contribute to the teachers notes, ensuring we provide authentic in-classroom engagement with the season.



SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

La Boite coordinated a series of schools workshops aligned with the 2018 season. In 2018 La Boite launched the \$5 add-on program, giving schools the opportunity to attend a post-show 60 minute workshop, which includes a 30 minute Q&A with the cast and 30 minutes of practical responding tasks relating to the show. This new program ran very successfully, and will continue in 2019.

LB RIOT

In 2018 La Boite piloted LB RIOT, an in-schools program that provides teachers with a unit of work related to a La Boite season performance. The program includes having exclusive access to the script before the production, an in-school workshop and an invitation to see a performance of the script in the Roundhouse Theatre. In this pilot version of the program, St Hilda's School studied *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames*, and participated in a workshop lead by Maddie Nixon. The program will continue in 2019, with the aim to engage more schools.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2018 we hosted a series of professional development opportunities for artists, presented by industry professionals, with strong links to the Secondary Drama curriculum. These included *Magical Realism* with Dan Evans, *Contemporising Classics* with Claire Christian and Ari Palani, and *Dramaturgy and Critical Analysis* with Saffron Benner.

ARTIST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

La Boite hosted an array of professional development workshops for artists, ranging from acting to playwriting. In 2018 we presented two six-week masterclasses series. Christen O'Leary and Emily Burton presented series one, focusing on acting skill, and Loani Arman presented series two focusing on storytelling and idea development for early career women and female-identifying or non-binary practitioners. Additionally Todd MacDonald and Bryan Proberts presented three-hour masterclasses for acting practitioners.

DIVERSITY

La Boite's strategic plan embeds a focus on working with diverse artists, telling stories that reflect the rich community in which we live and continuing to diversify and reach broader audiences. In 2018, we continued to focus on culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences, as well as inviting the LGBTIQ+ community back to La Boite through works like *Lysa and The Freeborn Dames* and *Neon Tiger*.

In 2018, 80% of the writers on the La Boite main stage were women or female identifying artists. At a critical time of social and political change, particularly in relation to women's rights, La Boite was proud to deliver a season of female led works and stories, with writers including Kathryn Marquet, Suzie Miller, Claire Christian, and Julia-Rose Lewis leading the charge.

In 2018 45% of all artistic engagements went to CALD or Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Artists, and 55% to women or female identifying creatives.

The projects that contributed to these figures include Michelle Law's *Single Asian Female*, which enjoyed a return season in Sydney, the National Tour of *Prize Fighter* by Future D Fidel, and consecutive seasons of *The Village* in Brisbane as part of the La Boite main stage season and Festival 2018 in Southbank, Brisbane. In addition, La Boite's continued commitment to diversity and authentic representation on our stages is evidenced through our 2018 Artists in Residence, all of whom are CALD or Indigenous artists, and the works developed through the 2018 HWY festival of new work.

To increase the accessibility of our productions throughout the community, we again provided Auslan (Australian Sign Language) interpreted performances for all productions in our season, in

partnership with national service provider Auslan Stage Left. An internal access committee is working on strategies to increase the accessibility of all aspects of our work, across operational and artistic departments. La Boite's commitment to improving access to our venue, seasons, and programs, was highlighted through the engagement of Jodee Mundy as an Artist in Residence in 2018. Through the *HWY Auslan Story-telling Workshop* that she facilitated, and a creative development in the latter half of the year, Jodee's work at La Boite was integral to bridging the gap between the company and Brisbane's Deaf community.



VENUE ACTIVITIES

In 2018, La Boite's venues engaged 55 individual technicians and front of house staff who were supported by 1,350 hours from our volunteers.

In addition to our own programming activities, La Boite continued to welcome community and corporate groups into our venue as external commercial or in-kind venue hirers including emerging and established artists, local theatre-makers, universities and schools.

Users of our unique Roundhouse Theatre, La Boite Studio and Foyer Bar included Brisbane Festival, CDP Productions, RTB Holdings, 16th Street Acting Studio, The Little Red Company, Queensland University of Technology, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and Clayfield College.

Performances ranged from Brisbane Festival's *Theatre Republic*, to *The Gruffalo*, Gerry Connolly's *Royal Commission*, *Christmas Actually* and *The Lord of the Flies*.

La Boite hosted a total of 100 performances and events through venue hire which were attended by approx. 12,584 patrons and offered more than \$75,000 worth of venue hire support (either in-kind or complimentary) to local companies, community groups and emerging artists.

FAST: FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN STUDENT THEATRE

The Festival of Australian Student Theatre presents an annual line-up of adventurous new works from around the country, created by the next wave of contemporary Australian theatre-makers. The festival brings together students, recent graduates and an audience of passionate theatre-lovers for a weekend of back-to-back performances, forums and invigorating artistic conversation.

In 2018 the festival ran from Friday 23 November to Sunday 25 November presenting 40 performances in The Roundhouse and La Boite Studio. La Boite is proud to support this unique festival by providing in-kind venue hire.

The Festival of Australian Student Theatre 2018 was produced by:

- Festival Director: Nick Seery
- Producer: Jess Bunz
- Associate Producer: Louisa Sankey
- Technical Manager: Caitlyn Kidney
- Access Consultant: Madeleine Little

DIGITAL ARCHIVE

Launched in 2015 to celebrate the company's 90th anniversary, La Boite's Digital Archive is an extraordinarily complete collection of 94 years of trailblazing theatrical activity. It includes programs, venues, dates, photographs, lists of creative teams, reviews, newspaper clippings and memorabilia of all sorts. It also features a set of articles by content creator and curator Dr Christine Comans that illuminates the company's history decade by decade.

The archive has not stopped at 2015 but continues to be a dynamic repository for every La Boite season into the future.

A unique feature of the archive is its interactive capability and since its launch Dr Comans has received many contributions from the La Boite community and general public including an array of comments, personal stories, photographs and assorted memorabilia.

The archive is accessed at archive.laboite.com.au

PARTNER —SHIPS

The La Boite Board and Staff pride ourselves on our ability to create and sustain long-term partnerships, and 20% of our partners have been on our journey for over 10 years. Our unique and tailor-made partnerships ensure we are able to offer increased opportunities for partners to grow their networks, access

our market through social media, and to enjoy the wonderful corporate hospitality offerings at our theatre.

We work closely with our partners to create a partnership that aligns the purpose and values of both organisations, we deliver on corporate objectives including employee engagement and community activation.

La Boite delivers a range of options that will allow your company to facilitate corporate entertaining, mentoring, coaching, employee reward programs, special guest presentations and much more.

Where artistic process and practice are La Boite's backbone our Partners & Donors are our heart.



**Queensland
Government**

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



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

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UBER



PHILANTHROPY

In 2018 La Boite once again received an overwhelming level of support from our individual donors. These donors take an active role in their relationship with our great company, and provide philanthropic support through both directional and general gift-giving. We also saw the continued success of our online Box Office Donations Program where hundreds of ticket buyers added a small donation to the price of their ticket.

La Boite continues to support other not-for-profit, charitable organisations and community groups. In 2018, La Boite donated \$4,760.00 worth of tickets to community organisations. Additionally, La Boite contributed a further \$18,194.00 worth of tickets to schools to support students to access live theatre.



GENERAL DONATIONS

In addition to our directional gift-giving programs, donors supported La Boite's productions and programs by donating to our general fund. Donors who share our commitment to the future of theatre in Queensland, Australia and beyond, have enabled us to develop the careers of dozens of theatre artists; tour productions to regional and remote parts of Australia; and invest in our staffing, infrastructure and our unique home, the Roundhouse Theatre.

GIFT-A-TICKET

By donating to our Gift-a-Ticket program you allow us to continue our commitment to the next generation of theatre makers and audiences. La Boite prides its self on creating opportunities, this \$25 donation enables us to support a young person to attend La Boite. Every year free and discounted tickets are provided to young people aged 15–25, helping to instil in a young person a lifelong love of theatre.

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

Our Corporate Partners help us achieve our goals, playing a crucial role in the provision of financial or logistical support throughout the year. We also thank those companies that made a philanthropic donation as part of their commitment to La Boite's success. Actively participating in philanthropy increases brand awareness, raises profile and reputation in the local community and supports the development of the company's reputation as one interested in making our community a better place. In addition to cash support, in 2018 we received over \$460,000 of in-kind support, an increase of 15% from 2017.

TAKE-A-SEAT

To date, over 139 donors have dedicated a seat in the Roundhouse Theatre. Through this program our donors pay tribute to their love of the stage and celebrate moments shared at the Roundhouse Theatre. Many donors have chosen this wonderful campaign to give a unique gift to a loved one, mark a special occasion or create a memorial tribute to a friend. A number of our corporate partners have chosen to support La Boite through this program, with several rows in the theatre boasting the names and slogans of some of La Boite's partners. A one-off tax deductible donation of \$500 will secure your seat and personalised dedication for the life of the Roundhouse Theatre.

BEQUEST PROGRAM

Our bequest program supports those who would like to make a meaningful gift now, to be realised at the end of their life, and to enjoy the special privileges this type of gift generates.

WALL OF LIGHT

La Boite's award-winning Wall of Light is our way of celebrating those who celebrate us. To show our appreciation for your generous support, your name or company name will be etched on the striking installation that welcomes each member of your La Boite family to the foyer. Your wall pledge places your personal acknowledgement in the hearts and minds of artists and audiences as they enter The Roundhouse to share your stories, your voice and your theatre. It's so much more than a name on a wall.

DONORS

LA BOITE CIRCLE

On behalf of the Board and Staff of La Boite please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations in 2018.

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Tim Fairfax AO, Gina Fairfax, Julian Myers, Lynn Rainbow Reid AM, John Reid AO.

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La Boite Theatre Ltd is a Not-for-Profit Company Limited by Guarantee.

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