

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

At La Boite, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work – the Turrbal and Jagera people. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging. We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and their ancient and enduring cultures.

This country was home to storytelling long before La Boite and we are grateful for the privilege of sharing our stories today. This always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land. We engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, supporting their right to self-determine artistic identity, while promoting artists and emerging talent, audience development and community engagement.





SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE BY MICHELLE LAW 16 FEB - 9 MAR



FROM DARKNESS BY STEVEN OLIVER 7 - 28 SEP



HWY FESTIVAL OF NEW WORK



OPEN HOMES BY JEFFERY TAN 25 OCT - 10 NOV



ROMEO AND JULIET BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE 25 MAY - 15 JUN



CHRISTMAS ACTUALLY BY ADAM BRUNES & NAOMI PRICE 27 NOV - 7 DEC



REVOLTING RHYMES & DIRTY BEASTS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY SHAKE & STIR THEATRE CO 24 - 28 JUL

STRATEGIC GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

PRODUCE & PRESENT COMPELLING THEATRE

- 5 mainstage productions produced or presented
- 2 new Australian works presented
- Successful collaborations on productions with QUT Creative Industries, Brisbane Festival, shake & stir theatre co, The Little Red Company, Digi Youth Arts, Backbone Youth Arts and Singaporean artist Jeffrey Tan

DEVELOP ARTISTS & NEW WORK

- Engaged two individual artists and three partnerships/collectives
- 12 new Australian works developed through HWY Festival of New Work and the annual Artists Development Program
- Produced and presented From Darkness by Steven Oliver with Brisbane Festival. The play was originally developed as part of our 2017 HWY Festival of New Work

CONNECT AND COLLABORATE WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND ARTISTS

- 55% of all artistic engagements went to female or non-binary artists
- 40% of artistic engagements went to culturally and linguistically diverse or Indigenous artists
- Community partnerships with Digi Youth Arts, Backbone Youth Arts, Mad Dance House and Multicultural Australia
- A return season of Single Asian Female by Michelle Law at the Roundhouse Theatre and a sell-out season at Arts Centre Melbourne with total audiences of 11,735
- A new production of Open Homes by Singaporean artist Jeffrey Tan featuring 15 diverse Brisbane homes and brand new audiences for La Boite

BUILD & RETAIN DIVERSE AUDIENCES

- Total production and participation program attendance of 67,358, a 30% increase from 2018
- Over 60% of audiences for our production season were 35 and under
- Subscribers to e-news increased to 28,052
- 4,186 first-time ticket bookers at La Boite
- Toured 4 shows nationally and 1 show internationally
- 5026 students attended La Boite productions with their school

BUILD LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

- Maintained earned income (non-grant) at 63% of total income
- Increased income streams of bar and café and venue hire above budget income
- Award-winning Wall of Light donor program continued
- Rebuilt financial reserves and posted a surplus of \$61,737

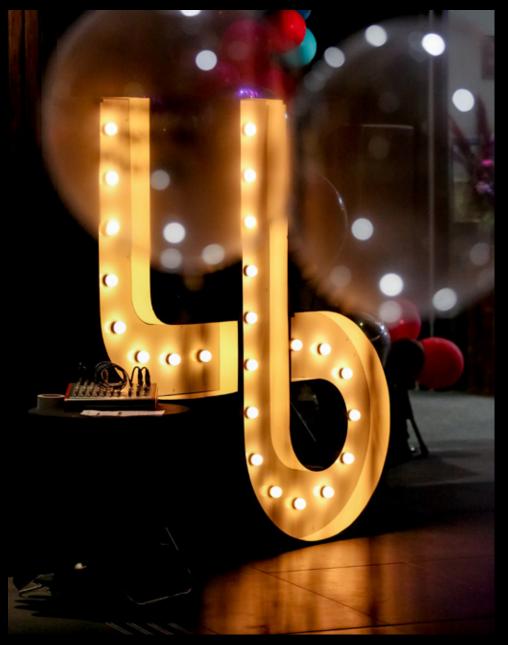
COMPARY PROFILE

Nearly a century of operation requires resilience and ingenuity. Much has changed since its inception in 1925 but La Boite's appetite for development, transformation and renewal remains the same.

La Boite continues to develop artists and audiences who seek to represent and engage in our rich and diverse culture. We exist to push the boundaries of theatre and its form by collaborating with extraordinary people who enrich and diversify the narratives, practices and voices on Australia's main stages.

We recognise the role of theatre in shaping and changing the lives of artists and our audiences. The art we create radiates throughout the Brisbane arts sector and the communities we share it with. Our artistic responsibility is to stage incredible stories by incredible people and to give a platform to the voices we rarely hear.

In 2019 we created art that was political, emotionally moving, collaborative, personal and deeply entertaining. We challenged what the traditional Australian family looks like, revealed the humour and tragedy at the heart of domestic struggle, staged literary giants like Dahl and Shakespeare, and ended the year with a warm and moving Christmas cabaret.



COMPANY PROFILE



PRODUCTION SEASON

In 2019 we delivered two new Australian works in the Roundhouse Theatre: a contemporary re-imagining of Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet and Steven Oliver's hilarious From Darkness in partnership with Brisbane Festival. We also saw the return of three highly successful works, which originally premiered at La Boite: Single Asian Female by Michelle Law, Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts in a version by shake & stir and The Little Red Company's festive romp Christmas Actually. In a La Boite first, we partnered with Backbone Youth Arts to deliver the Australian premiere of Singaporean artist Jeffrey Tan's Open Homes—a site-specific theatre work that saw 60 stories, within 15 homes, presented across three weekends in October and November 2019.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Designed to extend the depth and rigour of La Boite's engagement and work with artists, we offered a suite of programs to ensure quality, depth of engagement and relevance of work for future programming. In 2019 we engaged two individual artists and three partnerships/collectives as Artists in Residence, all of whom took this opportunity to develop new work for the stage. In addition, we continued our relationship with Digi Youth Arts as Associate Artists.

In March we presented the fourth annual HWY Festival of New Work, featuring readings, workshops, masterclasses, conversations, gatherings and presentations of new ideas, as a means of critical engagement with the local and national arts sector. As with previous years, HWY Festival of New Work played a critical role in employing a host of local theatre-makers who presented new works in various stages of development for an engaged and theatre-literate audience.



YOUTH & EDUCATION PROGRAM

The La Boite Youth & Education Program continues to engage school-aged students and emerging artists in professional and skills development opportunities, as well as delivering a comprehensive program of activities for schools and teachers throughout the year. In 2019 we continued the highly successful Young Artists' Company for 12–17 and 18–26-year-olds respectively. Professional development workshops for teachers (particularly the introduction of our Teacher Bootcamp weekend), curriculum-based workshops for school students (including the ongoing LB RIOT Program) and internships for tertiary students and recent graduates proved more popular than ever. 2019 deepened La Boite's vital relationship with schools and teachers.



TOURING

In 2019 Michelle Law's Single Asian Female had a sell-out season at Arts Centre Melbourne and, in the latter half of the year, Lady Beatle took to the road for a 30-city tour, which saw The Little Red Company play to audiences in Rockhampton (regional Qld), Penrith (NSW) and Frankston (Vic), among others. Following a return season at the Roundhouse Theatre in Brisbane, shake & stir's Revolting Rhymes & Dirty Beasts played at 22 venues around the country, as well as a short season in New Zealand at the Bruce Mason Centre in Auckland. Dead Puppet Society also took Laser Beak Man to Cairns and Melbourne, following a lauded return season at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane. The second leg of the tour includes seasons at the Sydney Opera House and HOTA on the Gold Coast in 2020.

CHAIR'S REPORT

2019 now feels like the calm before the storm – it was the world in which we lived before the year 2020. In a world that, today, is realising the extent of its vulnerability and its strength, it is with pride that I reflect on the achievements of La Boite in 2019 and with confidence that I look to the challenges ahead, knowing that there is nothing that embodies La Boite's spirit more than the word 'resilient.'

In 2019 La Boite continued to take artistic and logistical challenges head on. We presented five mainstage productions, including new work and old favourites, toured four incredibly successful shows across the country, ran a two-week creative Festival of New Work and brought an immersive theatre experience into fifteen unique living rooms across Brisbane.

La Boite continued successful partnerships with the major, small-to-medium and independent arts sectors. These partnerships are essential to La Boite as a form of cross-sector collaboration and leadership. Our production of Romeo and Juliet boasted a cast of seasoned Brisbane artists and third year QUT Acting students, continuing our partnership with QUT Creative Industries; with the dynamic team at shake & stir we presented Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts; with Brisbane Festival we co-produced From Darkness by Steven Oliver; with our friends at The Little Red Company we presented Christmas Actually; and with youth arts organisation Backbone Youth Arts and independent artist Jeffrey Tan we presented Open Homes.

In 2019 La Boite's impact was again felt nationally. We more than doubled our touring audiences from 2018. We toured Single Asian Female to Arts Centre Melbourne for another sell-out run. Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts, a brilliant and compelling staging of Dahl's writing, toured Australia and New Zealand from June to December. In August. Lady Beatle brought nostalgia and joy to audiences across the country. In September, Laser Beak Man delighted audiences from Cairns to Melbourne with its visual. musical and creative ingenuity. 2019 was an incredible touring year, bringing annual attendance figures to 67,358. This is more than a 30% increase from 2018.

It is no accident that, through vision, commitment and passion, La Boite has delighted and entertained audiences on such a diverse scale – creating powerful connections between artists and audience is central to our mission. **The work we make is risky, bold and essential. These are stories that need to be heard**.

As a not-for-profit company, La Boite relies on the generosity of our supporters and our community. Now, more than ever, this support is essential. It enables La Boite to continue to create, and provides opportunities for both accomplished and emerging artists, young people and those with diverse stories to have a voice on our stage. Every donation, no matter its size, contributes to the future of theatre in Brisbane. There is no 'thank you' great enough to acknowledge this. Reflecting on 2019, and as we start to appreciate the challenges of 2020 and beyond, I'm proud to work alongside a company of outstanding artists, arts administrators, volunteers and fellow board members. Our team are the essence of La Boite. The work they do is tireless and passionate. It requires creativity, resourcefulness and human spirit. La Boite is fortunate to work with each and every one of them and I thank them for everything they do.

JULIAN MYERS CHAIR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"A beautiful collision of incredible history and future vision. A place where our diehard supporters mingle with first time theatre goers, young and old, to share drinks and tell each other what they think." - 2019 Season Brochure

2019 was genre defying, celebratory and deeply connected to our local audiences and story tellers. Whilst still taking risks and exploring incredible new artists, we were able to ensure a surplus for the company by leaning into our hugely talented local works and returning a number of successful productions to our stage.

Once again, we stretched boundaries and took risks artistically, but most importantly we engaged deeper than ever with our community. We refreshed our brand and marketing approaches and focused on our local audiences with targeted marketing campaigns and local engagements.

Our artist development programs excelled in 2019, delivering more offerings than ever to the sector – including development partnerships with Bleach Festival, Mad Dance House and Screen QLD. As well as our own 'Artists in Residence', Associate Artists, and Assistant Creatives Programs, and the continued popularity of our HWY Festival of New Work. We kicked off our year with our unstoppable production of *Single Asian Female* by Michelle Law, which once again played to incredible houses in Brisbane and went on to a hugely successful season at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, **playing to sold out audiences and receiving rave reviews**.

The 2019 HWY festival saw us partner with Screen QLD for the first time and continue our partnership with Brisbane Airport Corporation, whose funding and support for this engine room of creative development allows La Boite to deep-dive and explore new voices, whilst developing our audience and community's interest in the ideas, conversations and works we are making. Engaging over 120 local artists and offering a wonderful array of professional development opportunities for local independent artists, students and teachers, this program is vital to the vision of the company and was once again beautifully curated and produced by La Boite Creative Producer, Sania Simić.

Our next production continued our exciting annual collaboration with QUT Creative Industries in our staging of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet - using six of the QUT final year actors who excelled in a variety of roles (including the titular) in the production. This ongoing project has been profoundly impactful in the learning and preparation for young artists entering our sector as professionals. They were able to work in a completely professional setting and learn first-hand from the incredible talents of our brilliant creative team and most importantly, create deep connections with local stage legends, professional actors Eugene Gilfedder, Kerith Atkinson, Colin Smith and Bridget Boyle. The production was bold, youthful and unapologetically contemporary in its design and delivery.

In July our friends from shake & stir delivered our co-production of Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts,* which returned to La Boite for the second time since its original premiere with the company in 2014; delighting our young punters and family audiences, before embarking on an extensive national tour, as well as a stopover in New Zealand.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

From Darkness by renowned local First Nations writer and comedian. Steven Oliver, had its world premiere as part of Brisbane Festival in September. This was a significant work for La Boite, after two and a half years of development, this work was a collaboration with Steven that embraced an entirely First Nation's led process, driven by exceptionally skillful director Isaac Drandic. This powerful process was a great learning curve for La Boite and allowed us to build enormous trust with our collaborators. - working with Cultural Consultant and respected elder, Aunty Collen Wall; this process has created a new normal in culturally appropriate practice at La Boite and deepened our capacity for creating safe spaces for artists and audiences. We were able to secure funds, through Brisbane City Councils' Black Diamonds program to engage First Nation's producer, Emily Coleman, to deliver a community outreach program that ensured a substantial increase in community attendance to the work. As part of this engagement, Emily, with the support of Aunty Colleen, also facilitated an elders table and cultural support for community members who were affected by the themes of the work.

Open Homes by Jeffrey Tan was presented with our friends at Backbone, throwing La Boite into a new world of site-specific presentation, building on our ever-growing connection with real stories by real people. This intimate and heart-filled work was truly beautiful (and epic) in its conception and delivery by Singaporean artist Jeffrey Tan. It created a deep connection with all 15 homes spread across Brisbane, which saw their occupants open their hearts, minds and homes to share their stories with small audiences about big issues and ideas. Twelve months in the making, each home and story was unique and our team did an extraordinary job adapting to this new form of presentation.

After a successful trial season in 2018, we were delighted to have local favorites The Little Red Company back in the La Boite Roundhouse with *Christmas Actually*. A wonderful celebration of the talents of Naomi Price, with extraordinary musicians and the soundtrack of a perennial favorite: *Love Actually* – this work received huge love from audiences, uplifting and entertaining them in the lead-up to Christmas. In 2019, we bid farewell to Sophie Hamm as our Marketing and Audience Development Manager and welcomed Joeli Gribben to the team in July. Maddie Nixon joined us as Youth and Education Producer, and Daniel Sinclair stayed on as full time Production Manager.

2019 saw the departure of Katherine Hoepper after four years of extraordinary work for the organisation as Executive Director. Katherine guided the company through extensive venue renovations, successful state and federal four-year funding rounds and was deeply loved and respected in our team and across the sector. After an extensive search we were thrilled to engage Zohar Spatz in the role, who came to us with vast experience and deeply respected leadership roles in our sector – hailing a new era for the organisation driving the re-development of our new strategic plan, which will come into action in 2021.

I'm incredibly proud of the La Boite team for their endless and optimistic adaptability and passion. We are continuing to pave the way toward deep diversity on our stages and in our company, and I am excited by what the future holds as we fast approach 100 years of nonstop theatre making in Australia.

TODD MACDONALD ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO

PRODUCTION #1 SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE BY MICHELLE LAW

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE

Season	16 Feb – 9 Mar
Number of Performances	19
Paid Attendance	4769
Total Attendance	5502
Box Office Income	\$179, 273.75

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director	Claire Christian
Set & Costume Designer	Moe Assaad
LX Designer	Keith Clarke
Associate LX Designer	Glenn Hughes
Composer & Sound Designer	Wil Hughes
Fight Director	NJ Price
Stage Manager	Peter Sutherland
Assistant Stage Manager	Peter Rhoades
Assistant Creative	Emma Black

Cast

**** **CRAFTED** WITH A **GENIUS BLEND OF HUMOUR AND HEART**"

SCENESTR

"A CULTURAL LANDMARK" MEREDITH WAI KER











HIRE REPUBLIC.

Jing-Xuan Chan (understudy)

Michelle Law

Emily Burton Tatum Mottin

Courtney Stewart Hsiao-Ling Tang PJ Jhanur

PRODUCTION #2 ROMEO AND JULIET

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE & QUT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Season	25 May - 15 Jun
Number of Performances	20
Paid Attendance	3672
Total Attendance	4472
Box Office Income	\$130,399.75

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director
Fight & Intimacy Director
Set & Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Composer & Sound Designer
Additional Dramaturgy
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

Cast

Todd MacDonald Nigel Poulton Anthony Spinaze Katie Sfetkidis Anna Whittaker Lucas Stibbard Peter Sutherland Brittany McVicar

Kerith Atkinson Jack Bannister Bridget Boyle Grady Ferricks-Rosevear Eugene Gilfedder Darcy Gooda Nicole Hoskins Nikhil Singh Colin Smith Wei Lan Zhong

**** "STARTLING, EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCES."

"IMPACTFUL, MEMORABLE"

"RIVETING"

ELISE LAWRENCE LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE

"SUPREMELY INNOVATIVE"

"GO YOU GOOD THING"

RENDERS THE LANGUAGE, LIGHTING AND STAGING WITH CLARITY, AND LEAVES YOU MOVED AT THE END."

MARTIN BUZACOTT THE AUSTRALIAN









ดบา creative industries

ROALD DAHL'S REVOLTING RHYMES & DIRTY BEASTS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY SHAKE $\overleftarrow{\sim}$ STIR THEATRE CO

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE AND SHAKE $\&\, {\rm STIR}\,$

"A FABULOUSLY

FUN ROMP BY SHAKE & STIR"

COURIER MAIL

Season	24 – 28 Jul
Number of Performances	13
Paid Attendance	3061
Total Attendance	3432
Box Office Income	\$93,753.25

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director
Set & Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Composer & Sound Designer
Illustralion
Stage Manager

Cast

Ross Balbuziente Josh McIntosh Jason Glenwright Guy Webster Quentin Blake

> Leon Cain Judy Hainsworth Nelle Lee Nick Skubij











PRODUCTION #4 FROM DARKNESS

BY STEVEN OLIVER

A LA BOITE & BRISBANE FESTIVAL CO-PRODUCTION

Season	7 – 28 Sep
Number of Performances	19
Paid Attendance	1792
Total Attendance	2716
Box Office Income	\$68,645.90

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director	Isaac Drandic
Cultural Consultant	Colleen Wall
Set Designer	Kevin O'Brien
Costume Designer	Nathalie Ryner
Lighting Designer	Ben Hughes
Associate Lighting Designer	Christine Felmingham
Visual Designer	Keith Deverell
Composer & Sound Designer	Guy Webster
Assistant Creative	Emily Wells
Community Engagement Coord	linator Emily Coleman
Stage Manager	Pip Loth
Assistant Stage Manager	Ebony Webb
_	

Cast

Ebony Webb Roxanne McDonald Colin Smith Lisa Maza Benjin Maza Ebony McGuire "FROM DARKNESS IS PERFECTLY CRAFTED AND BEAUTIFULLY SELF-CONTAINED. WITHOUT LOOSE ENDS, UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, OR EXTRANEOUS CHARACTERS, THE AUDIENCE IS LEFT TO SIT WITH THE FULL FORCE OF THE EMOTION IN THIS WORK."

LIMELIGHT









playwriting australia









PRODUCTION #5 OPEN HOMES

BY JEFFERY TAN

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE AND BACKBONE

Amanda & Troy Case

Season	25 Oct – 10 Nov
Number of Performances	58
Paid Attendance	573
Total Attendance	681
Box Office Income	\$13,392.00

CAST AND CREATIVES

Lead Artist	Jeffrey Tan
Creative Producer	Sanja Simic
Production Manager	Daniel Sinclair
Assistant Production Manager	Jaime Ng

Storyteller

Virginia & Bob Dyer Valerie Ferdinands Léonie Flood Lauren & Simon Fung Angela Chaplin & David Gerrand Abdul Ibrahimi Michael Jeh & family Anshula & Michael Jones Gerald Keaney Sam McGeown Leon Miller MJ O'Neill Dee, Renny & Oscar Rennie Colin Young

Theatre-facilitators Ayeesha Ash, Grace Edward Katrina Graham, Todd MacDonald Nadine McDonald-Dowd, Sean Mee, Lucinda Shaw, Katherine Quigley **"STEPPING INTO** THE HOUSE OF A STRANGER, WITH A BUNCH **OF OTHER** STRANGERS, COULD BE MANY THINGS... VOYEURISTIC, FUN, WEIRD, **CRAMPED - WHO KNOWS! I'M GLAD** TO REPORT THAT MY EXPERIENCE **OF OPEN HOMES** WAS FABULOUS!"

EMILY PHILLIP, IMHO

















PRODUCTION #6 CHRISTMAS ACTUALLY

BY ADAM BRUNES & NAOMI PRICE

LA BOITE PRESENTS THE LITTLE RED COMPANY PRODUCTION

Season	27 Nov – 7 Dec
Number of Performances	12
Paid Attendance	3144
Total Attendance	3678
Box Office Income	\$163,494.75

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writers	Adam Brunes & Naomi Price
Lighting Designer	Sam Gibb
Sound Designer	Geoff McGahan

Cast

Naomi Price Stefanie Caccamo Mik Easterman Scott French Michael Manikus Oj Newcomb Tom Oliver Alex Rathgeber "IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR, AND THE LITTLE RED COMPANY'S CHRISTMAS ACTUALLY PRODUCTION IS THE PERFECT WAY TO CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON"

SCENESTR











019 TOURING

NATIONAL AND NZ TOUR **ROALD DAHL'S REVOLTING** RHYMES & DIRTY BEASTS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY SHAKE & STIR THEATRE CO

Season

24 Jun – 23 December

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director Set & Costume Designer Lighting Designer Composer & Sound Designer Illustralion Stage Manager Cast

LA BOITE Theatre Company

Ross Balbuziente Josh McIntosh Jason Glenwright Guy Webster Quentin Blake



Leon Cain Judy Hainsworth Nelle Lee Nick Skubij

NATIONAL TOUR

9 1

LA BOITE, DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY AND BRISBANE FESTIVAL, IN ASSOCIATION WITH POWERARTS PRESENTS LASER BEAK MAN

BY DAVID MORTON, NICHOLAS PAINE AND TIM SHARP, WITH MUSIC BY SAM CROMACK

Season	13 Sep – 5 Oct
Number of Performances	19
Paid Attendance	4199
Total Attendance	5232

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writer/Director/Desig	ner	David Morton
Writer/Creative Produ	icer	Nicholas Paine
Writer/Original Artwo	rk	Tim Sharp
Composer		Sam Cromack
Set & Costume Desig	ner	Jonathon Oxlade
Projection Designer		Justin Harrison
Sound Designer		Tony Brumpton
Lighting Designer		Jason Glenwright
Puppet Fabrication/Pro	ps Master & Maker	Jennifer Livingston
		Matt Seery
Dramaturgs	Louise Gough an	d Todd MacDonald
Associate Producer		Judy Sharp
Associate Sound Des	igner	Imogen Millhouse
Technical Manager		Wes Bluff
Stage Manager		Nicole Neil
Puppet Fabrication/Assistant Stage Manager		
Sound Engineer		Benn Saragood
Cast	Nathaniel P. Cla	aridad, Ellen Bailey,
Matt S	Seery, Drew Wilson	, Jon Riddleberger,
Betsy Rosen, Maren Searle		
with special guest voice appearance by Leigh Sales		
Band	Sam Croma	ock Daniel Hanson

Band

Sam Cromack, Daniel Hanson, Dean Hanson, Luke Moseley

DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY











shake&stir

15



S TOURING

Peter Rhoades

Courtney Stewart

Hsiao-Ling Tang PJ Jhanur

Jing-Xuan Chan **Emily Burton** Tatum Mottin

ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE AND ASIA TOPA TOUR SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

BY MICHELLE LAW

56
62

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director	
Set & Costume Designer	
LX Designer	
Associate LX Designer	
Composer & Sound Designer	
Fight Director	
Stage Manager	P
Assistant Stage Manager	

Cast



NATIONAL TOUR LADY BEATLE

BY ADAM BRUNES AND NAOMI PRICE

Season	13 Aug – 9 Nov
Number of Performances	38
Paid Attendance	6223
Total Attendance	7418

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writers	Adam Brunes & Naomi Price
Lighting Designer	Sam Gibb
Sound Designer	Geoff McGahan
Cast	Naomi Price
	Stefanie Caccamo













Mik Easterman

Michael Manikus

Scott French

Oj Newcomb Tom Oliver

Alex Rathgeber

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS 2019 ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

The La Boite 2019 Artists in Residence Program included two individual artists and three partnerships / collectives from Brisbane and beyond, all ofwhom participated in our HWY Festival of New Work and the bespoke development of new work and key projects.

As a company we recognise that making high calibre work requires time and resources. It is for this reason that La Boite Artists in Residence are supported in the development of their practice and/or a new work through consultation with the La Boite artistic team, access to space and a range of resources, commissions, comprehensive producing support, delivery of creative developments, presentation opportunities for road-testing new work and more.

- Luka Lesson was commissioned in partnership with Bleach Festival to deliver the first draft of *Agapi & Other Kinds of Love* with dedicated creative development from Bleach and La Boite and dramaturgical support throughout the year.
- **Krissy Kneen** continued her time in residence to finish the first draft of her work *The Body in a Body* based on her award-winning memoir *Affection*. The work received ongoing creative development and dramaturgical support, culminating in Krissy delivering the first full draft of the play (now a trilogy of works).
- Michelle Law and Paul Hodge were engaged, in partnership with Opera Queensland, to develop a treatment for a new sung-through music theatre work, *RIOT*, over a 12-month period. Funded by the Australia Council for the Arts, the first part of the residency culminated in a creative development showing, with an invited industry audience at Opera Queensland in November 2019.
- **Steve Pirie** and **Emily Burton** were commissioned to deliver *MOTIVE*, a work that blurred the line between podcast, documentary and live theatre forms. Steve and Emily presented work-in-development showings of the work in March, as part of HWY, and November 2019, before delivering a first draft of the play at the end of the year.
- The Mamas Boys Collective joined La Boite as Artists in Residence to continue work on their
 play, *Brothers Book Club*, with a view to presenting a full-scale version of the work in 2020.
 La Boite received funding through Arts Queensland's QASP funding initiative to deliver a
 12-month training program for the collective, which involved a schedule of workshops,
 masterclasses, creative developments, a work-in-progress showing of *Brothers Book Club* in
 partnership with QUT, access to shows and performances in Brisbane and surrounds, and more.

In 2019 La Boite continued to work with the local youth arts organisation, Digi Youth Arts (DYA), as **Associate Artists**. DYA performed their new work, where we stand, as part of HWY. La Boite also engaged DYA's Artistic Director, Alethea Beetson, to deliver a story-telling workshop as part of the wider HWY program and an afternoon of cultural competency training for La Boite staff in the latter half of the year.



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS LA BOITE X MAD DANCE HOUSE RESIDENCY

In 2019 we continued our partnership with Meg Cooper at Mad Dance House, offering a unique, funded opportunity for a Brisbane-based artist to develop a dance-theatre work as part of our suite of Artist Development Programs.

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 in the Roundhouse Theatre, with a financial contribution of \$10,000 towards fees and expenses. While developing the work, the artist received administrative, artistic and production support from La Boite.

The 2019 recipient of the La Boite x MDH residency was choreographer, Liesel Zink, who developed and presented a showing of the new work Awesome: a state of wonder and fear.







ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS Hwy festival of New Work

La Boite's HWY Festival of New Work, is an annual event 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 and works in front of an audience of peers and patrons.

In 2019 HWY was presented over two weeks in March and consisted of a series of curated showings, readings, workshops, forums, community gatherings, curated conversations and masterclasses. Programmed artists were invited to showcase and test new work in various stages of development, through formats ranging from a 30-minute pitch to a 2-hour reading.

The festival, made up of 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, skill, critical voices and potential.

In 2019 we received applications from local and interstate artists for participation in HWY's Performance Program through our nation-wide open call.

HWY PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- Looking Outside Ourselves: Valuing the Arts from a Different Ange curated by Sanja Simić, facilitated by Louise Bezzina
- Backbone Double Bill: Absolute Objectivity
 & Ride
- MOTIVE by Emily Burton & Steve Pirie
- Bi Empat by Katrina Graham
- HWY Up Late: Stories of Systematic Racism
 by Voices of Colour
- Thread by Emma Workman
- Legacy by Julian Curtis
- Twenty One: A series of monologues by emerging artists
- The Girl by Anisa Vylet
- The First Ten Pages curated by Screen QLD
- where we stand by Digi Youth Arts

HWY COFFEE MORNING

Hosted by Screen QLD in the La Boite foyer bar on the first day of the festival, as an opportunity for the theatre and screen communities to intersect and network.

HWY YOUNG ARTIST SALONS

Hosted by La Boite's Assistant Creatives (Emily Wells, Emma Black and Jaime Ng) in the La Boite Studio, on both Saturday mornings of the festival, as an invitation to young and emerging artists to gather and engage in conversation, reflection and action with their peers and like-minded individuals in the sector.

HWY WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

- HWY Skills Lab: Market the Sh*t Out of Yourself
 - Panel: Brand Yo' Self with Sofie Ham
 - Cultivating a Digital Presence with BigFish
 - The Public Voice with Aruga
 - Campaigns for Beginners with Cathy de Silva
- HWY Skills Lab: Stage
 - Making Things from Nothing with Lucas Stibbard
 - Finding the Funny with Emily Burton
 - Stage to Screen Acting with Christen O'Leary
 - They Gather Masterclass with Bridget
 Fiske (in partnership with Supercell
 Dance Festival)
- HWY Skills Lab: Page
 - Feminist Horror Workshop with Katrina Irawati Graham
 - Look at Me with Darren Paul Fisher
 - So You Want to Write a Webseries? with Loani Arman
 - From the Group Up & Onto the Page with Alethea Beetson
- Responding to Live Theatre: Masterclass
 for Teachers & Teaching Artists
- What's Your Deal: Finding your dramatic voice with Steve Pirie
- Healthy He(arts): A practical guide to self-care with Rebecca Alexander

HWY CONVERSATIONS

- HWY Coffee Morning hosted by Screen
 QLD
- HWY Performance Lecture: Creating intimate theatre in the family home with Jeffrey Tan
- HWY Young Artist Salons Weeks 1 and 2
- Let's Get Loud: A closed conversation for women hosted by Sophia Hall
- Artist Talks and Feedback

2019 HWY HIGHLIGHTS

- Total participants at 15 HWY workshops was 219
- Total audience for the HWY Performance Program was 830
- 63% of artists involved in HWY 2019 were
 women or non-binary
- 15% of artists involved in HWY 2019 identify as ATSI
- 30% of artists involved in HWY 2019 identify as CALD
- 127 artists were involved in HWY 2019 across four program areas



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS **CHATTERBOX** ASSISTANT CREATIVES Curated by La Boite's Creative Producer, the La Boite Chatterbox events took the form of panel discussions with the core creatives, facilitated by La Boite's artistic team and/or invited guests, in PROGRAM

In its third 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 mainstage season.

These paid positions enable emerging artists to shadow and upskill through engagement with senior practitioners, gaining insight into the process of developing shows for established companies. Each Assistant Creative is given an opportunity to shadow the director or creative throughout the rehearsal period, attend weekly production meetings, and observe the production week of the show through to opening night.

The 2019 La Boite Assistant Creatives were:

- Emma Black (Assistant Director, Single Asian Female) •
- Emily Wells (Assistant Director, From Darkness)
- Jaime Ng (Assistant Production Manager, Open Homes)

front of a live audience in the Roundhouse Theatre, post-show.

In 2019 we hosted the following Chatterbox events:

- La Boite Chatterbox #1: Single Asian Female facilitated by Yen Rong Wong
- La Boite Chatterbox #2: Romeo & Juliet facilitated by Sue Rider
- La Boite Chatterbox #3: From Darkness facilitated by Nadine McDonald-Dowd







YOUTH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

La Boite delivers a broad suite of programs for school-aged students through to emerging artists aged 12 to 26. These dedicated Youth & Education programs are inclusive and offer a number of scholarships and integrated engagements with diverse communities and schools.

YOUTH

YOUNG ARTIST COMPANY (YAC)

The Young Artist Company is an exciting training opportunity for young and emerging performers aged 12-17 and 18-26 respectively to engage in a professional development opportunity with La Boite and work towards a public outcome at the culmination of the program. In 2019 we were delighted to have 23 young artists participate across both of our junior and senior ensembles. The 12-17yo YAC ensemble, comprised of 11 high school-aged students, worked with Maddie Nixon to present David Burton's Final Davs of Bedlam (commissioned by La Boite for YAC) in August and the 18-26yo ensemble worked with Matt Seery to present Sam Steiner's Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons in November 2019.

MASTERCLASSES FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

La Boite hosted quick-hit and six-week masterclasses for emerging to mid-career artists and practitioners. In 2019 the company engaged Thom Larkin (audition technique and self-tapes), Barb Lowing (acting and scene work) and Emily Burton (comedy and clowning) to run three, three-hour masterclasses for the Brisbane sector. In addition, Belloo Creative's Caroline Dunphy ran a six-week masterclass focused on devising and collaborative theatre-making.

EDUCATION

SCHOOL BOOKINGS

In 2019 La Boite welcomed 5026 school students, from Brisbane and the greater South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales regions. All teachers receive Education Notes, a tailored resource for teachers and teaching artists, responding to the production with pre-and postperformance activities, which include contributions from our Feature Teachers. The Feature Teacher program engages high school teachers to contribute to the education resources for each production, ensuring we provide authentic in-classroom engagement alongside the season.

SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

La Boite coordinated a series of school workshops aligned with the 2019 mainstage season.

\$5 ADD-ON

In 2019 La Boite continued to deliver the highly successful \$5 add-on program, giving schools the opportunity to attend an hour-long post-show workshop, which includes a 30-minute Q&A with the cast and 30 minutes of practical responding tasks aligned with the production.

PRE AND POST-SHOW WORKSHOPS

In 2019, in addition to the \$5 add-on program, schools were given an opportunity to extend their engagement through oneon-one workshops for their cohort with La Boite's Youth & Education Producer, Maddie Nixon. In addition, we offered customised workshops on a case-by-case basis, including specific Shakespeare-focused sessions with local actors, Lucas Stibbard and Christen O'Leary.

LB RIOT

In 2019 La Boite continued to deliver LB RIOT, an in-school program that provides teachers with a unit of work related to one of La Boite's programmed works – in this instance, David Burton's *Final Days* of *Bedlam*, created with the 12-17yo YAC ensemble. The program includes exclusive access to the script before the production, an in-school workshop and an invitation to see a performance of the work in the Roundhouse Theatre. This year, 14 schools engaged with the RIOT program.

TEACHER BOOTCAMP

In 2019 La Boite hosted a weekend of professional development for teachers. including six specialised workshops. This unique opportunity allowed teachers and teaching artists direct access to local practitioners, specialising in areas clearly aligned with the curriculum. including David Burton (Verbatim), Linda Statham (Responding to Live Theatre), Liesel Zink (Movement), Maddie Nixon (LGBTQI Perspectives), Bridget Boyle (Contemporary Comedy), and Sania Simic (Realism in 21st Century Performance). In addition, Lucas Stibbard was engaged to deliver a professional development workshop specifically focused on teaching Shakeseapre to high school students. Alongside the dedicated bootcamp, in a La Boite first, we engaged David Pawsey to film two of the workshops for broadcast later in the year - due for release in 2020.



DIVERSITY AT LA BOITE

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. It is essential to La Boite that we reflect the diversity of human experience at every level of our organisation, including artists, staff and audiences.

In 2019, 40% of La Boite's artistic engagements went to CALD or Indigenous Australian artists. Our return season of *Single Asian Female* brought the all-female Wong family back to the Roundhouse Theatre. Here, playwright, Michelle Law, investigated what it means to grow up Asian in Australia. In September, we presented *From Darkness* by Steven Oliver, which was led by an Indigenous cast and a significant indigenous creative team. La Boite is proud to present work that is about and by culturally and linguistically diverse artists. 55% of our 2019 creative engagements were with female and non-binary artists. Our Assistant Creatives program featured an all-female team who developed their skills through creative and production roles on our mainstage productions. La Boite is unapologetic in its advocacy for the development and promotion of female artists and crew.

Open Homes, led by Singaporean artist Jeffrey Tan, presented an immersive theatrical experience in the homes of 15 diverse, Brisbane-based storytellers. Each storyteller brought audiences into their homes (including Queenslanders, apartments and supported housing). The creative success of *Open Homes* centred around beautiful and essential storytelling by artists of various cultural, linguistic and class backgrounds to new and old La Boite audiences.





VENUE ACTIVITIES

2019 saw La Boite's Roundhouse Theatre and the La Boite Espresso Bar flourish as a destination for work, play and everything in between. *Christmas Actually* was particularly popular for functions and events, and saw audiences dancing in the aisles and singing carols in the foyer — with a little Dutch courage from our bespoke *Archie Rose Actually* Cocktail!

La Boite welcomed community and corporate groups for in-venue hospitality prior to seeing productions in the theatre and as venue hirers. Groups who held functions and events with La Boite included Queensland University of Technology, ARUGA, Multicultural Australia, Brisbane Street Art Festival, ACS Print Group, PwC, Stockyard Beef, Tracy Consulting Services and the QLD Chapter of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association. In total La Boite hosted 38 events for external clients and partners. In addition to these external events, La Boite hosted over 20 internal events, including opening nights, behind the scenes snapshots, the 2020 season launch and our annual partners' and donors' event.

La Boite's iconic Roundhouse Theatre and Studio continued to play host to external commercial or in-kind venue hires, including emerging and established artists, local theatre-makers, universities and schools. In 2019 we welcomed Brisbane Festival's *Theatre Republic*, TheatreSports, St Margaret's School, The Little Red Company, 16th Street Actors Studio, QUT's student theatre company Vena Cava, Australian Performing Arts Market, Brisbane Open House and Brisbane Street Art Festival—to name a few.

Across the year, La Boite hosted a total of 24 performances and events through venue hire activities, which were attended by approx. 6197 patrons. La Boite engaged with 61 individual technicians and front of house staff who were supported by a team of over 50 volunteers.





DIGITAL ARCHIVE

La Boite's Digital Archive celebrates close to a century of vital and ground-breaking new theatre. Launched in 2015, the Archive continues as 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. The Archive is a labour of love and affection for Australia's oldest, continually running theatre company. The website, created by BigFish.tv, also features a set of articles by content creator and curator Dr Christine Comans that illuminate the company's history, decade by decade. A unique feature of the archive is its interactive capability. 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 memorabilia. The Archive is a testament to the community of theatre-lovers who have been inspired, confronted and moved by the work of La Boite artists, past and present. The Archive can be accessed at http://archive.laboite.com.au







PARTNERSHIPS WITH LA BOITE

La Boite's development team create tailored partnership solutions that align with our partners brand strategy and objectives.

Partnering with La Boite offers a unique opportunity for companies to demonstrate their values, boost employee morale and grow their networks – all while engaging with the arts and creative industries. La Boite's partners gain access to the best our company has to offer and enjoy a range of corporate entertaining opportunities, behind the scenes experiences, venue hire opportunities, increased brand awareness through exclusive advertising spaces and access to artist-led mentoring and coaching sessions

La Boite's partners can choose to align with programs that match their values, interests, corporate and community goals. Our programs give our partners the opportunity to support:

- Mainstage productions
- Youth & Education programs
- Regional engagement programs
- An Artist in Residence
- An emerging creative artist through a scholarship



PHILANTHROPY & GIVING

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

La Boite's partners help to future-proof the creative ecology of our city by investing in the development of our artists and audiences. Thanks to the in-kind and financial support of our partners, La Boite can continue to be an incubator for emerging artists to develop their craft and bring together skilled creative teams to present a rich tapestry of stories that engage with our community.

La Boite's directed giving programs provide our partners with the opportunity to build meaningful interactions in our venue with La Boite's young and vibrant audiences, and many of our partners choose to demonstrate their commitment to the arts through corporate giving. In 2019 several of La Boite's corporate partners made a renewed pledge to support La Boite through our *Wall* of *Light* program.

In addition to cash sponsorship, La Boite received over \$490,000 of in-kind support.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

La Boite is proud to support like-minded not-for-profit, charitable and community organisations whose values, passion and ambition for a strong and connected community shine through their action and advocacy. In 2019 La Boite donated tickets worth \$4,046 to support over 20 different groups, providing complimentary tickets to mainstage productions and several special events such as our Opening Nights and Season Launch.

MAKE LA BOITE SPARKLE

In 2019 *Christmas Actually* audiences made our foyer merry and bright during the *Make La Boite Sparkle* campaign. For a \$10 or \$20 donation, audiences could contribute to our Christmas tree installation and write their wish on a decoration to place on our tree. It was truly uplifting to read the collective hopes of our La Boite family, from wishing for rain and help for struggling farmers, to climate action, to (our personal favourite) less Trump and more gin! We thank everyone who helped to *Make La Boite Sparkle*.

GENERAL DONATIONS

In 2019 La Boite's General Fund was supported by generous individuals who gave through direct means as well as Box Office Giving. La Boite's General Fund helps us to develop daring and passionate artists, invest in new and significant theatre, support a program of free events, invest in renewable technologies and, hopefully, to create theatre for another 94 years. In addition to general giving, donors can deepen their engagement with our company by choosing a directional gift-giving program to channel their support to the area that they care most about.

WALL OF LIGHT

La Boite's Wall of Light is our way to celebrate those who celebrate us, with a highly visible and public acknowledgement in the Roundhouse Theatre Foyer. In 2019 we welcomed several new donors to our Wall of Light and saw many of our original donors renew their pledge for another three years. Our new and renewing Wall of Light donors were celebrated prior to opening night celebrations with a toasting ceremony, where the La Boite Board and Executive Team had the opportunity to acknowledge their contribution and thank them for illuminating the path to 94 more years of fearless and unforgettable storytelling. A \$2,000 tax-deductible donation secures your name or acknowledgement on the Wall of Light for three years, and may be paid in one instalment or via a payment plan.

TAKE A SEAT

Our Take a Seat program celebrates the moments we share in our theatre as a community, representing the broad array of artists, arts workers, companies and impassioned theatre-goers who have supported La Boite through its 95-year legacy. Donors have chosen to give through this campaign to celebrate their love of theatre, as a gift to a loved one or as a memorial tribute to a friend or family member. Our Take a Seat program is also popular with corporate groups, whose names and logos adorn numerous rows throughout the theatre. To date, 141 seats have been dedicated in our iconic Roundhouse Theatre. A single tax-deductible donation of \$500 secures your seat and dedication in the Roundhouse for the life of the theatre.

GIFT A TICKET

Through La Boite's *Gift A Ticket* program, a \$25 tax-deductible donation supports the future of theatre and gives the next generation of theatre-makers and audiences opportunities to experience live performance – in many cases, for the first time. In 2019 La Boite provided over \$28,145 in discounted and complimentary tickets to school students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

BEQUEST PROGRAM

Your generosity can benefit performancemakers and theatre-lovers for generations to come. La Boite's development team can guide you through the process of leaving a gift in your Will and help you to create a legacy in acknowledgement of your deep appreciation of theatre and the joy of live performance.

PHILARTHROPY **5** GIVING

On behalf of the Board and Staff of La Boite please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations in 2019.

BRONZE

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BOARD, STAFF 🗟 VOLUNTEERS

ORGANISATION PROFILE

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

LA BOITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors: Julian Myers (Chair), Vivienne Anthon (Deputy Chair), Graham Bethune (stepped down November 2019), Gina Fairfax, Sarah MacAree (from April 2019), Kevin O'Brien, Lynn Rainbow Reid AM & Jessica Simpson, John Scherer (stepped down April 2019)

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