



LA BOITE

LA BOITE THEATRE LTD | ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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COMPANY PROFILE

La Boite is Australia's longest continuously running theatre company, celebrating its 100th year of operation in 2025. Its mission is to create **powerful connections between artist and audiences** through stories that entertain, move, empower, surprise and transfix.

As Brisbane's second tier theatre company, La Boite plays a crucial role in the local, state and national arts sector, as an **incubator and producer of new work**. La Boite is committed to ensuring the sustainability of Brisbane-based arts practice, from emerging to established practitioners, producers, and arts managers.

La Boite has a rich history of excellence, integrity, resilience and ingenuity. Much has changed over that time but **La Boite's appetite for development, transformation and renewal remains the same**. La Boite has a proud reputation for developing artists and audiences with a clear purpose to push boundaries of theatre and create pathways for local and national artists on mainstream stages in Brisbane and beyond.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

At La Boite Theatre, 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.



CHAIR'S REPORT

If 2020 was the year we all held our collective breaths, 2021 was the year we exhaled - and in the process breathed life back into our theatre, our precinct and our industry. 2021 was still a difficult year, but the strength and resolve that is built into the La Boite DNA, again pushed us to new levels.

I have spoken in previous annual reports about longevity being the product of reinvention existing alongside continuity. In 2021, La Boite necessarily had to reinvent, to be agile and to reimagine ways to recover from the restrictions of mainstage productions.

So we took the party outside and into the forecourt, enlivening the space outside the theatre with art, energy, music and community with the now famous La Boite Block Parties. We also took our show on the road, continuing to expand the reach of La Boite into regional Queensland and further afield. And of course, in between the interruptions of COVID, we staged some breathtaking theatre, divided into three Acts and including the raw emotion of *Naked & Screaming*, the genius of Steven Oliver in *Bigger & Blacker*, the power of youth in *The Time is Now*, an unfortunately truncated *Caesar* and a triumphant new production of Michael Gow's classic *Away*.

The production of *Away* was a milestone in more ways than one. After two years of cutbacks and setbacks, *Away* saw a cast of 11 actors on stage swirling around the Roundhouse and, importantly, showcased the members of the landmark La Boite Artist Company.

In one of the boldest moves in its 96 year history, La Boite established the La Boite Artists Company, a diverse collective of 22 actors and theatre-makers supported by the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program RISE fund investment of almost \$1million over 18 months. The La Boite Artists Company arose from the largest single grant ever received by the company and it has allowed La Boite to provide direct support to artists and theatre-makers in a time when that support is more critical than ever.

As well as being overwhelmingly grateful for the support of the RISE fund, I am so proud of the La Boite team, and in particular Executive Director Zohar Spatz, for showing the vision and foresight to turn this dream into a reality.

When looking back on 2021, I do think it will be characterised as the year that our supporters stood even taller behind La Boite and pushed us forward, again. Thanks to Arts Queensland, the Australia Council and the Brisbane City Council who were instrumental in our achievements. There was also a record amount of donations received during 2021 and this was truly a humbling show of support. Thank you as well to all of our sponsors and presenting partners who continued to stand by La Boite during another year of uncertainty.

And finally, thank you for the support provided by our management, our staff, our volunteers, our artists and theatre-makers, our Board and our audiences. You have all given to La Boite so much more than you think and are so much more important than you will ever know. But the one thing you can count on is that La Boite will continue to create breathtaking theatre for many years to come.

JULIAN MYERS
CHAIR



CEO/ED REPORT

An incredible year of change and challenges.

We entered 2021 with hope and optimism that we would overcome the pandemic however, we continued to wrestle with the impacts of COVID-19 and its new strain Omicron as well as a delayed vaccine roll out, border closures, masks, social distancing, capacity guidelines and business interruption.

In a year with global, national and local obstacles, I am proud that La Boite Theatre put collaboration, community and relationships first. After twelve months with no mainstage productions, we welcomed audiences and artists into the Roundhouse Theatre with emotional, adventurous, and vital Australian stories. Mindful risk-taking and creativity has helped us establish ongoing programs and partnerships that will propel us into the future.

Building on La Boite's long history of resilience and ingenuity, La Boite prioritised innovation, sector sustainability, and growth through the establishment of the *La Boite Artist Company*, centering artists at the core of the company.

While much of the year was disrupted, sliding in and out of lockdowns, each time we gathered with our audiences, we celebrated our ability to commune. 2021 was launched in Acts, supporting the company to be responsive and adjust to disruptions. Each Act included our newly visioned HWY (Artist Development program) which became a rolling program of activities including play readings, showings, events and artist talks bringing audiences into the precinct.

Our forecourt came alive with artworks, performance and spoken word through *dhagun*, Blaklash Creative's curated program of some of Australia's finest contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists responses to Country and Belonging.

We end 2021 knowing the future of storytelling is safe with a strong pipeline of 18 works ending the year in development. A national partnership established with Australia Play Transforms, La Boite will continue to develop and present critical stories that champion diversity and celebrate stories from across Australia.

ZOHAR SPATZ
CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



COVID INTERRUPTIONS

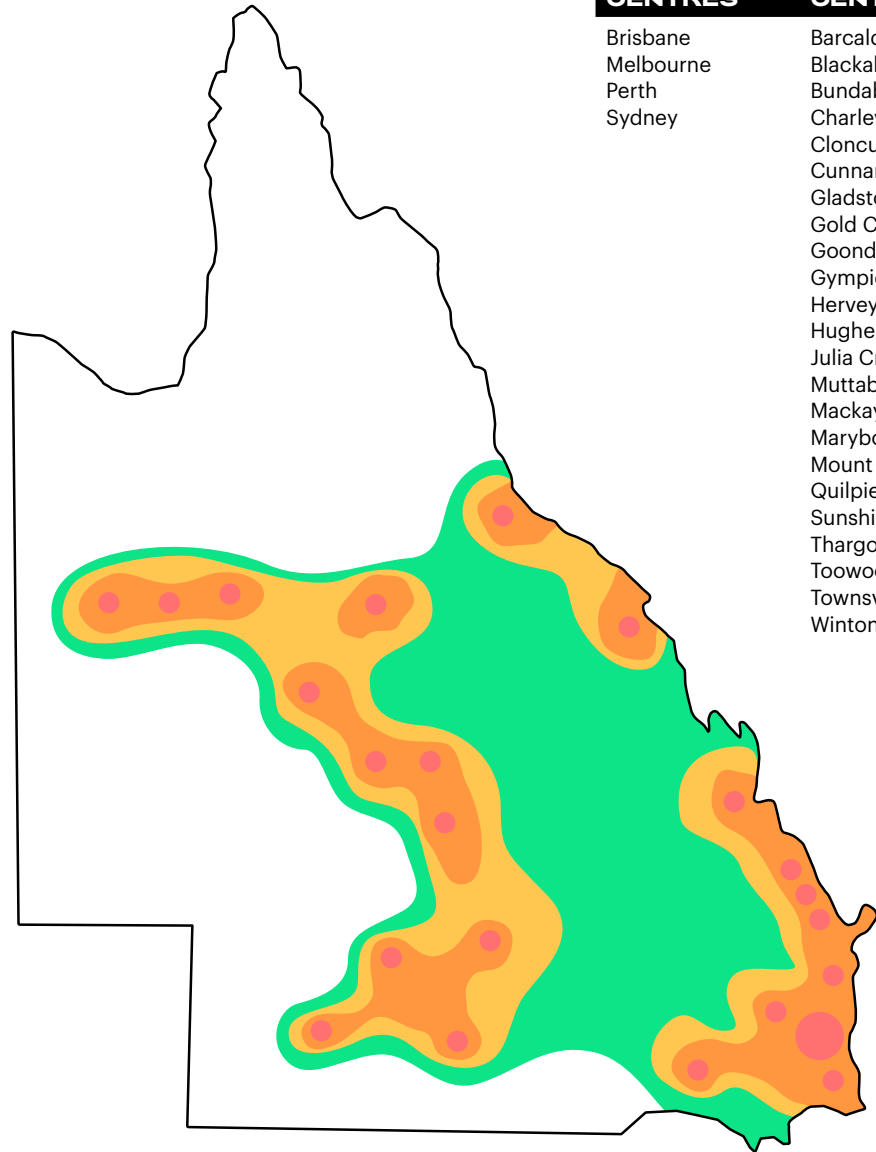
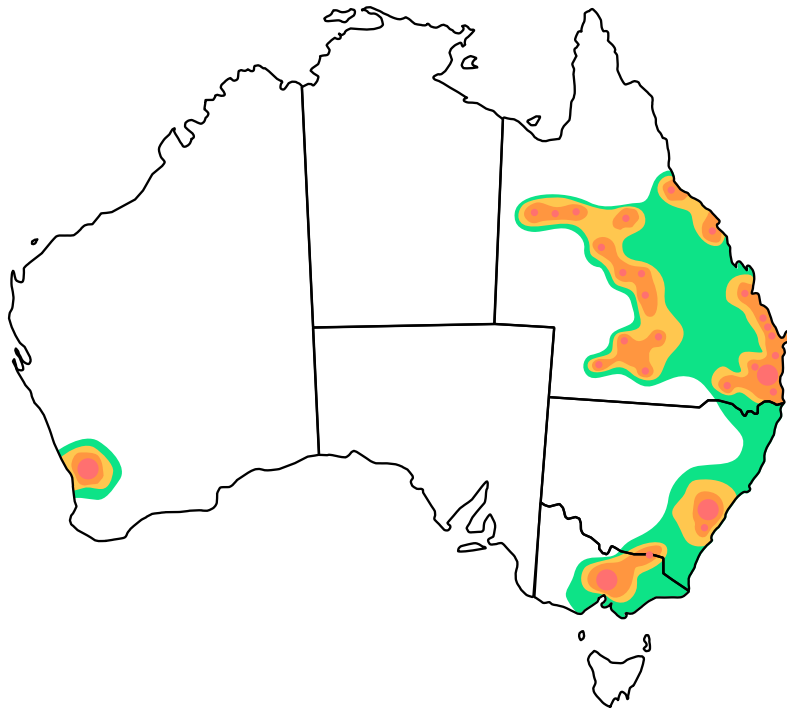
Since March 2020, La Boite has been responding to the evolving situation of the COVID-19 outbreak. 2021 was no different with ongoing business interruption.

The below is an outline of the activities that were interrupted in 2021.

DATE	TYPE	NAME	DETAILS
MAR	Venue Hire/Partnership	Once on This Island	Rehearsals cancelled
APR	Venue Hire	APAC	Cancelled
APR	Venue Hire/Partnership	Drama Qld Conference	Moved online
MAY / JUN	Mainstage Production	The Time is Now	Reduced Season
JUN	Mainstage Production	Caesar	Rehearsals cancelled
JUN	Mainstage Production	Caesar	Cancelled 9 of 16 performances
AUG	HWY	Thin Threads (Play reading)	Rescheduled 2022
AUG	Venue Hire/Partnership	Multicultural Australia	Rescheduled
AUG	Venue Hire/Partnership	Wear the Shiny Pants	Rescheduled
AUG	HWY	You're Beautiful and Perfect (Play reading)	Rescheduled
AUG	HWY	Radically Flexible Practitioner (Workshop)	Rescheduled
AUG	HWY	Blaklash Artist Talk	Rescheduled
AUG	HWY	Conscious Mic (Event)	Cancelled
SEP	Brisbane Festival Partnership	Plenty Serious Talk Talk	Cancelled
SEP	Brisbane Festival Partnership	Considerable Sexual License	Cancelled
OCT	HWY	Falling Up (Play reading)	Rescheduled 2022
OCT	HWY	Stage to Screen	Rescheduled 2022
NOV	HWY	Intermission	Cancelled
NOV	HWY	Let's Break Up by Anisa Nandaula	Rescheduled 2022
SEP / DEC	HWY	MURRI-OKE with Steph Tisdale & Kylan Ambrum	Rescheduled and then subsequently cancelled

ACTIVITY HEAT MAP

Through our Touring, Youth & Education programs and digital offerings La Boite saw significant impact successfully engaging communities and audiences across Queensland and Australia.



MAJOR CITY CENTRES	REGIONAL CENTRES
Brisbane	Barcaldine
Melbourne	Blackall
Perth	Bundaberg
Sydney	Charleville
	Cloncurry
	Cunnamulla
	Gladstone
	Gold Coast
	Goondawindi
	Gympie
	Hervey Bay
	Hughenden
	Julia Creek
	Mttaburra
	Mackay
	Maryborough
	Mount Isa
	Quilpie
	Sunshine Coast
	Thargomindah
	Toowoomba
	Townsville
	Winton

PRODUCTION #1

NAKED & SCREAMING

BY MARK ROGERS

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director	Sanja Simić**
Set & Costume Designer	Chloe Greaves**
Lighting Designer	Ben Hughes**
Composer & Sound Designer	Guy Webster
Fight Director	Niki-J Price
Stage Manager	Nicole Neil
Lighting Operator	Ben Mills
Assistant Stage Manager	Sophie Watkins
Cast	Emily Burton** Jackson McGovern

“

**This is the sort of fare
La Boite is renowned
for and we hope they
keep on doing it.**

- THE COURIER-MAIL

”

SEASON STATISTICS

Date	6 – 28 Feb
# of performances	20
Paid Attendance	1830
Total Attendance	2798
Box Office Income	\$72,978



**Artist Company

PRODUCTION #2

**BIGGER &
BLACKER**

BY STEVEN OLIVER

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE &
W LANCE REYNOLDS PRODUCTIONS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**CAST AND CREATIVES**

Writer & Performer	Steven Oliver
Director	Isaac Drandic
Musical Director	Michael Griffiths
Set Designer	Kevin O'Brien
Lighting Designer	Chloe Ogilvie
Sound Designer	Brady Watkins**
Sound Operator	Sophie Watkins
Stage Manager	Pip Loth
Cast	Steven Oliver Michael Griffiths

SEASON STATISTICS

Date	8 – 27 Mar
# of performances	18
Paid Attendance	2746
Total Attendance	3635
Box Office Income	\$114,268

**Artist Company

“

**It's old school
entertainment
of the best sort.**– PHIL BROWN, THE
COURIER-MAIL

”



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



La Boite is a recipient of the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.



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



PRODUCTION #3

THE TIME IS NOW

PRESENTED BY LA BOITE

CO-CREATED BY ARI PALANI, ALEEA MONSOUR AND DAVID BURTON, WITH LA BOITE'S YOUNG ARTIST COMPANY. DEVELOPED WITH ALL THE QUEENS MEN

CAST AND CREATIVES

Co-Creators

Ari Palani
Aleea Monsour

Assistant Co-Creator

David Burton

Set Design Consultant

Jordon Riley

Lighting Designer

Anthony Spinaze

Sound Designer & Composer

Ben Hughes**

Video Designer

Tony Brumpton

Stage Manager

Brooklyn Pace

Cast

Makayla Purdy

Omalkire Akil Ahmed

Huda Akhlaki

Jessica Boyd

Joe Cranitch

Sophia Ferreira da Luz

Diali Kemp

Rachel Kennedy

Zander Pynenburg

Carys Walsh

Fujia Sarah Xu

SEASON STATISTICS

Date	25 May – 5 June
# of performances	9
Paid Attendance	623
Total Attendance	1115
Box Office Income	\$23,799

**Artist Company

LA BOITE THEATRE LTD – ANNUAL REPORT 2021

“

★★★★★

***The Time Is Now* is equal parts charming harrowing and just darn honest.**

– SCENESTR

”



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PRODUCTION #4

CAESAR

AFTER SHAKESPEARE

BY CLAIRE CHRISTIAN, JEAN TONG, MEGAN WILDING, MERLYNN TONG AND ZOEY DAWSON

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writers	Claire Christian Jean Tong Megan Wilding Merlynn Tong** Zoey Dawson
Director	Sanja Simić**
Set & Costume Designer	Chloe Greaves**
Lighting Designer	Christine Felmingham
Sound Designer & Composer	Anna Whitaker
Video Designer	Justin Harrison**
Fight & Intimacy Director	Nigel Poulton **
Fight & Intimacy Assistant	Sam Valentine
Dramaturgical Consultant	Mark Rogers
Dramaturgical Consultant	Saffron Benner **
Assistant Director	Jessica Bunz
Stage Manager	Kat O'Halloran
Lighting Operator	Elizabeth Seuss
Assistant Stage Manager	Sophie Watkins
Cast	Billy Fogarty** Bryan Probets** Chenoa Deemal** Giema Contini** Will Carseldine**

SEASON STATISTICS

Date	23 July – 7 August (Closed early due to COVID)
# of performances	10
Paid Attendance	438
Total Attendance	971
Box Office Income	\$14,564.50

**Artist Company

“

This show moved in the spirit of the Bard but put modern, funny, and touching spins to his name.

– BLUE CURTAINS

”



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PRODUCTION #5

AWAY

BY MICHAEL GOW

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director	Daniel Evans
Set & Costume Designer	Sarah Winter
Lighting Designer	Ben Hughes**
Sound Designer & Composer	Brady Watkins**
Assistant Sound Designer	James Gatling
Choreographer	Liesel Zink
Dialect Coach	Dr Melissa Agnew
Stage Manager	Anika Vilée**
Assistant Stage Manager	Sophie Watkins
Head of Wardrobe/Dresser	Jane Jericho
Cast	Billy Fogarty**
	Bryan Probets**
	Christen O'Leary**
	Emily Burton**
	Giema Contini**
	Kevin Spink**
	Ngoc Phan**
	Reagan Mannix
	Roxanne McDonald**
	Sean Dow**
	Will Carseldine**

SEASON STATISTICS

Date	25 Oct – 13 Nov
# of performances	20
Paid Attendance	3385
Total Attendance	4326
Box Office Income	\$135,896.00

**Artist Company

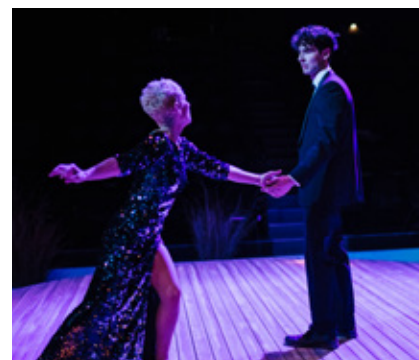
“

★★★★★

**...Filled with joy,
heartbreak and
above all, hope
and connection.**

– BROADWAY WORLD

”



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THE WELCOME

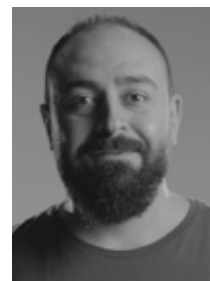
With the support of the Queensland Government's Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs and the Commonwealth Bank, La Boite developed *The Neighbourhood* into a digital project. La Boite engaged KIOSK, a local digital media company who with the support of Screen Queensland, re-envisioned a stage play for the silver screen.

The Welcome is a life-affirming collection of short films, celebrating honest and authentic stories about migrant and refugee experiences and what it means to belong in Australia. It has been screening since 18 January 2021 across multiple digital platforms and has been distributed to International film festivals. It was screened as part of the official selection at the 28th San Diego Latino Film Festival as well inside the Australian Pavilion at the Dubai Expo 2021.

The Welcome's 10 short films with a total of 23 minutes of content across Jan – April '21 reached 15,037 viewers and 221 viewing hours on YouTube. As per the brief from Multicultural Affairs Queensland, 75% of its audiences have been based in regional Australia, with the highest viewers from Queensland.

CAST AND CREATIVES

Co-Creators	Ari Palani Aleea Monsour Todd MacDonald
Director	Ryan Renshaw
Storytellers	Amer Thabet Aurora Liddle-Christie Matt Hsu Naavikaran Anisa Nandaula Cieavash Arean Colleen Wall Liliana Sanchez Nima Doostkhah



**AMER
THABET**



**AURORA
LIDDLE-CHRISTIE**



**MATT
HSU**



NAAVIKARAN



**ANISA
NANDAULA**



**CIEAVASH
AREAN**



**COLLEEN
WALL**



**LILIANA
SANCHEZ**



**NIMA
DOOSTKHAH**



ARTIST COMPANY



Diversity is the magic. It is the first manifestation, the first beginning of the differentiation of a thing and of simple identity. The greater the diversity, the greater the perfection. – THOMAS BERRY



As we respond to the COVID-19 crisis, we are first and foremost responsible for the welfare of arts workers. Independent artists and creatives are the most vulnerable within the arts sector and La Boite recognises that we have a responsibility to champion, support, and engage Brisbane's freelance artists and theatre-makers by providing opportunities for employment in 2021 and beyond.

Artists, including actors, a range of creatives (directors, designers, writers etc.) and crew (stage managers, technicians etc), are at the forefront of La Boite's thinking and day to day operations as a theatre company. The theatre-makers that we employ are fundamental to our vision, mission, and ongoing strategy as producers of new work and culturally informed practice.

The La Boite Artist Company ensures that artists, representation, relevance, and innovation remain at the forefront of our creative output in a future when the world urgently needs deeply engaged, passionate, and vital storytelling.

Funded by an investment of almost \$1M through the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) fund, across an 18 month (2021 – 2022) period we are proud to have the following artists integrated across mainstage productions, youth and education program, artist developments and a series of critical sector development conversations.

ACTORS

Emily Burton
Will Carseldine
Giema Contini
Chenoa Deemal
Sean Dow
Billy Fogarty
Patrick Jhanur
Roxanne McDonald
Christen O'Leary
Ngoc Phan
Bryan Probeta
Kevin Spink

DIRECTORS

Nadine McDonald-Dowd
Nigel Poulton
Sanja Simić
Darren Yap

CREATIVES

Saffron Benner (Dramaturg)
David Burton (Writer)
Chloe Greaves (Set/Costume Design)
Justin Harrison (Video Design)
Ben Hughes (Lighting Design)
Ellen van Neerven (Writer)
Merlynn Tong (Writer)
Anika Vilée (Company Manager)
Brady Watkins (Sound Design/Composer)

DIVERSITY SITS AT THE CORE OF THE ARTIST COMPANY



25-STRONG
COMPANY OF
ARTISTS



5 FIRST
NATIONS
ARTISTS



6 CULTURALLY AND
LINGUISTICALLY
DIVERSE ARTISTS



3 NON-BINARY
IDENTIFYING
ARTISTS



12 FEMALE
IDENTIFYING
ARTISTS



10 MALE
IDENTIFYING
ARTISTS



La Boite is a recipient of the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

La Boite Theatre's Artists in Residence Program is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council



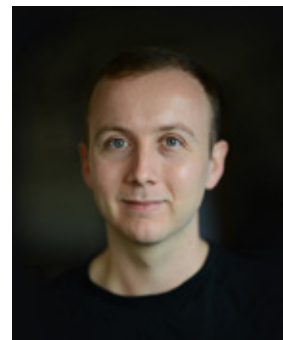
RIOT by Michelle Law and Paul Hodge in partnership with Opera Queensland. This new musical theatre work remains in development with Director Darren Yap and Musical Director James Dobinson. In October 2021 four songs from the updated libretto were recorded to be circulated to the Hong Kong Opera and Seattle Opera.



Tiddas by Anita Heiss in partnership with QPAC. This page-to-stage adaption is undergoing a final phase of development with Director Nadine McDonald-Dowd and Dramaturg Jane Harrison. This work will premiere in La Boite's 2022 mainstage season in partnership with QPAC and Brisbane Festival.



Arthur by David Morton (Dead Puppet Society) will continue as a work in development through our HWY pipeline in 2021-22. In 2021, La Boite brought DPS together with QUT acting students to bolster the development of the work through experimentation and play.



IRL by Lewis Treston will continue as a work in development through our HWY pipeline in 2021-22. *IRL* had its final creative development in October/November 2021, culminating with a public play reading.



YOKE, by Aha Ensemble and Danielle Constance, is a disability-led project exploring the nature of relationships. Aha Ensemble completed their first development phase in June 2021 with two public showings and *YOKE* remains in development for 2022.



Let's Break Up by Anisa Nandaula in partnership with BEMAC. This multidisciplinary work combining stand-up comedy, spoken word, theatre and movement remains in development with Director Ari Palani and Dramaturg Sanja Simić. The work had a public showing scheduled for November 2021 which has been postponed until March 2022.

HWY

As part of La Boite's overarching Artist Development programs, which provides an important pipeline for new work and ideas, HWY Live showcases a suite of live performances, workshops and masterclasses, and conversations. HWY is led by a commitment to collaborative practice, an exchange of creativity and skills, an ongoing conversation about theatre in Australia, and a drive to expand our reach and diversify voices on the La Boite stage.

In partnership with Brisbane Airport Corporation and Screen QLD, HWY transitioned into a rolling program of activities, including for 2021:

- 2 specialist workshops and masterclasses
- 18 showings & play readings
- 6 conversations
- 3 dhagun exhibitions including 10 visual artists in the forecourt area

HWY is proudly supported by Brisbane Airport Corporation and Screen Queensland



ASSISTANT CREATIVES

Our Assistant Creatives Program provides individuals the opportunity to assist on one of five mainstage productions in La Boite's 2021-22 season, under the mentorship of industry professionals / the creatives who form La Boite's Artist Company.

This program is open to Brisbane-based creatives interested in set & costume design, lighting design, sound design & composition, video design, and directing.

These positions are paid, commensurate with working part-time over a four week rehearsal period. During each project, participants will shadow their chosen creatives in rehearsal, production week, and (if appropriate) throughout the season.

2021-2022 ASSISTANT CREATIVES

Lara Croydon	Directing
Aidan Rowlingson	Directing
Egan Sun-Bin	Directing
Jessica Bunz	Directing
Alicia Melonie Jones	Set and Costume Design
James Gatling	Sound Design and Composition
Nevin Howell	Video Design

2021-2022 PROGRAM MENTORS

Sanja Simić	Director
Nadine McDonald Dowd	Director
Darren Yap	Director
Chloe Greaves	Set and Costume Design
Brady Watkins	Sound Design and Composition
Justin Harrison	Video Design



**JESSICA
BUNZ**



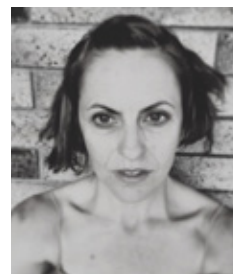
**LARA
CORYDON**



**JAMES
GATLING**



**NEVIN
HOWELL**



**ALICIA
MELONIE JONES**



**AIDAN
ROWLINGSON**



**EGAN
SUN-BIN**

MYAP

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM

2021 marked the pilot program of The Multicultural Youth Arts Program (MYAP). Designed to provide a space for young people, aged 11-19 years, to engage in educational, recreational, and social activities that are multilingual, multicultural and multimodal.

Facilitated by La Boite's Teaching Artists and supported by Multicultural Australia and the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT), the aim of the program is to deliver theatre workshops for young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds to foster leadership, self-expression, confidence, communication and build upon their senses of cultural identity and belonging.

The program will be delivered over the next three years, developing the next generation of diverse storytellers for our stages.

MYAP 2021 WAS DELIVERED AT THE BELOW LOCATIONS:

- Redbank Plains Community Centre
- Woodridge State High School
- Milpera State High School
- Yeronga State High School
- Toowoomba State High School



“

We get to do teamwork and we get to do activities with our team and also helps to develop more confidence and courage...

– Z. AGED 15, YERONGA SHS PARTICIPANT.

”

“

The value of our students attending these sessions can't be undersold – those lucky enough to come along, even for one session, have grown so much in just the one hour of experiencing drama and the arts and they have LOVED IT! I'm so excited for what this program could be as we head into 2022 and beyond – our students' stories need to be heard.

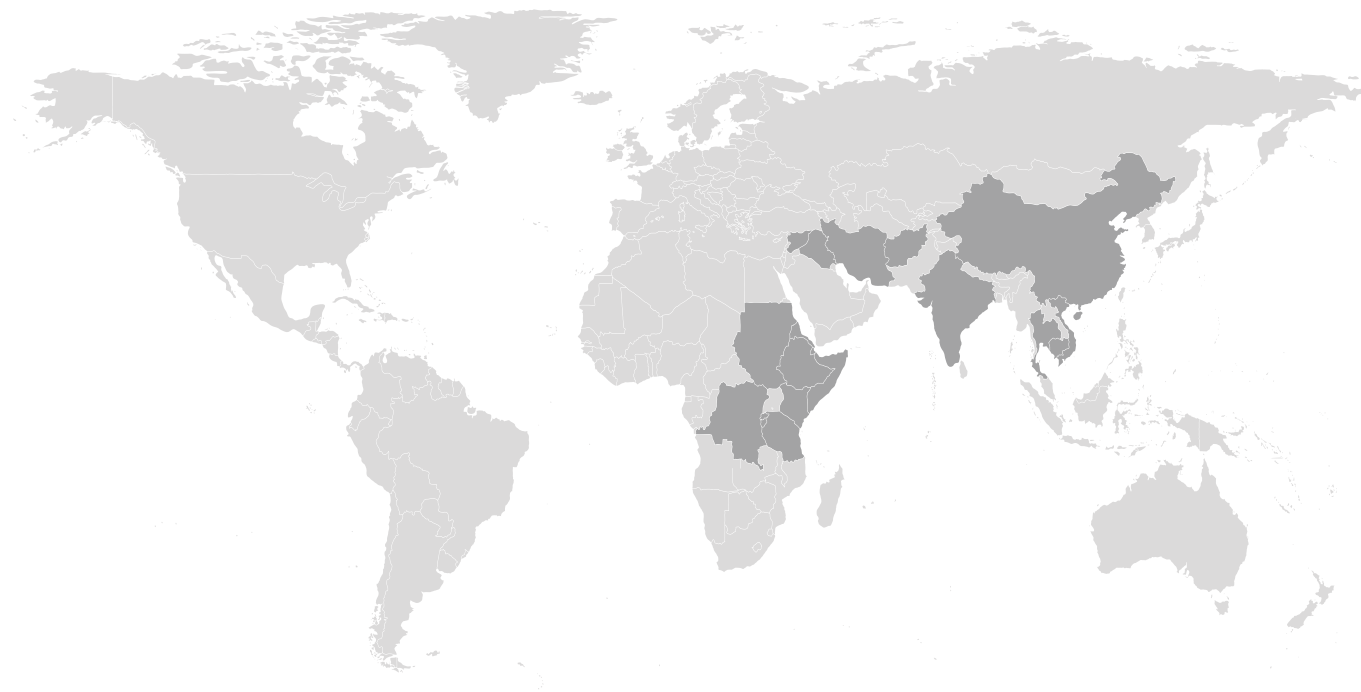
– JOEY DIXON, TOOWOOMBA SHS TEACHER.

”

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH ARTS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

In total 113 young people aged between 11 and 19 participated in the program that have origins in the following 22 countries and spoke the following 21 languages

COUNTRIES	
CENTRAL AFRICA	DRC/Congo-Kinshasa Rwanda Burundi
NORTH AFRICA	Sudan
EASTERN AFRICA	Ethiopia Eritrea Djibouti Tanzania Kenya Somalia
WEST-CENTRAL ASIA & GREATER MIDDLE EAST	Afghanistan Syria Iraq Iran
EAST ASIA	China Hong Kong
SOUTH ASIA	India
SOUTH-EAST ASIA	Vietnam Thailand Cambodia



LANGUAGES							
BANTU	AFRO-ASIATIC/SEMETIC	INDO-EUROPEAN	DRAVIDIAN	SINO-TIBETAN/SINITIC	JAPONIC	TAI	AUSTRO-ASIATIC
Chichewa Swahili Kirundi Kinyamulenge Kinyarwanda	Afar Arabic / Arabic Amharic Somali Tigrinya	Dari / Farsi Kurdish Kurmanji Pashto	Malayam	Mandarin Chinese Karen	Japanese	Thai	Khmer Vietnamese

DHAGUN

YUGGERA WORD MEANING EARTH, PLACE OR COUNTRY

La Boite partnered with Blaklash Creative, to deliver *dhagun* is a yearlong outdoor exhibition integrating First Nations voices and creative responses to Country, demonstrated through digital design, installation, video projection, lightboxes and live performance. *dhagun* is a Yuggera language word meaning earth, place or country.

ACT 1 ITERATION FEATURES ARTWORK BY

- Brook Andrew
- Robert Andrew
- Hannah Bronte
- Casey Coolwell;
- performances by Digi Youth Arts and DJ Dameeela

ACT 2 ITERATION FEATURES ARTWORK BY;

- Brook Andrew
- Aurora Liddle-Christie
- Rachael Sarra
- Sam Harrison
- performances by Sachem & Band, Alinta McGrady and DJ Luke Brazier

ACT 3 ITERATION FEATURES ARTWORK BY

- Brook Andrew
- Karla Dickens
- Keemon Williams
- Libby Harward
- performances by Alinta McGrady, Zayah and Tjaka

La Boite is committed to extend our forecourt area and build a more supportive space for free public art, performances and community activities. *dhagun* and La Boite's outdoor activities in 2021 were funded by Arts Queensland's COVID-19 recovery Open Air Fund.

In 2021, La Boite additionally initiated partnerships with:

- Vermillion Records, a not-for-profit, student-run record label based out of QUT for live music performance;
- QUIVR, Brisbane's own independent DJ platform for DJ sets across the year;
- BEMAC, delivered new culturally diverse musical and performance acts;
- APSA and Screen Queensland presenting screenings of documentaries and short films.



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

BLAKLASH
creative



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



TOURING BIGGER & BLACKER

BY STEVEN OLIVER

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

19 - 21 May 2021

WESTERN QUEENSLAND

30 October - 27 November 2021

Performances and workshops in Aramac, Blackall, Bundaberg, Charleville, Cloncurry, Cunnamulla, Hughenden, Innisfail, Julia Creek, Longreach, Mackay, Mount Isa, Muttaborra, Quilpie, Tambo, Thargomindah, Townsville, and Winton.

Western Qld tour was supported by the Touring Queensland Fund and arTour, initiatives of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

TOURING ARTISTS

Performer	Steven Oliver
Musicians	Michael Griffiths Bradley McCaw
Tour Manager	Peter Rosas
Touring Technician	Sam Gibb



CROSSROADS ARTS X LA BOITE

Continuing our ongoing partnership with Crossroads Arts in Mackay, La Boite facilitated 3 days of workshops in contemporary movement, performance and theatre making to nurture a new crop of fresh and crushingly sweet talent! C.R.U.S.H is suitable for all ages, bodies, minds and levels of artistic experience - from raw beginner to highly accomplished performers, and/or dancers.



VENUE ACTIVITIES

In addition to our own program, La Boite continued to welcome commercial and community venue hirers into the Roundhouse Theatre, La Boite Studio and La Boite Forecourt. In 2021 we were thrilled to host a wide variety of companies and art forms.



ROUNDHOUSE THEATRE

- Finesse Burlesque
- *100 Years Of The History Of Dance As Told By One Man In 60 Minutes With An Energetic Group Finale* and *Once on This Island* : Altitude Theatre
- Bend The Air Circus Evolved
- Digi Youth Arts
- Drama Queensland
- *Scattered People* : Multicultural Australia
- *Wear The Shiny Pants* : BigFish
- TheatreSports Queensland
- *ShakeFest* : Shake and Stir Theatre Co
- *Christmas Actually* : The Little Red Theatre Company

LA BOITE THEATRE LTD – ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Across the year, La Boite hosted a total of 47 performances and events through venue hire activities which were attended by over 9000 patrons. La Boite engaged with 28 individual technicians and front of house staff who were supported by a team of over 50 volunteers.



LA BOITE STUDIO

- Belloo Creative
- Woodward Productions
- Brainstorm Productions
- The Naughty Corner Collective

In addition to commercial venue hires, La Boite provided over \$105k of in-kind venue access support to the Brisbane arts Community.

In 2021 La Boite joined the Tessitura Network, enabling us to in-house our ticketing function. This change will ensure La Boite can be flexible and responsive to patron requests, and external users of the venue.



LA BOITE FORECOURT

Funded by Arts Queensland's COVID-19 recovery Open Air Fund, 2021 saw the activation of the La Boite Forecourt with regular music performances by Vermillion Records and Quivr and takeovers by Shandy Party, Queensland Poetry Festival, Voices of Colour and more. La Boite is committed to further developing our Placemaking strategy to provide free and low cost site activations.

La Boite's placemaking activities was proudly supported by Brisbane City Council.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

- *I liked it, BUT...* Brisbane Festival

YOUTH & EDUCATION

La Boite is committed to providing educational and training experiences for school students, teachers and young and emerging artists. Through our dedicated Youth & Education arm, the company aims to connect program participants with professional artists who are at the forefront of contemporary theatre practice.

Our education programs align with the Queensland and National Drama Curriculums, striving to make our youth and education offerings as relevant to the classroom as possible.

Through passionate dedication to diversity and access, we are committed to creating programs and scholarship pathways available to those that may experience barriers to inclusion, including but not limited to:

- Long distance travel (More than 40km from La Boite)
- Low Income household and/or Low ICSEA School (score below 1000)
- Students who identify as culturally and/or linguistically diverse (CALD)
- Students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI)

YOUNG ARTIST COMPANY

La Boite's Young Artist Company trains, showcases and connects local emerging talent within a professional theatre context. In 2021, our Young Artist Company worked for eight weeks to develop and present *The Time is Now* for nine performances in The Roundhouse Theatre.

\$5 ADD ON PROGRAM

Aiming to maximise students' in-theatre experience, our \$5 add-on program includes an entertaining and exclusive Q&A with cast and creatives post-show

STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Offered either in-theatre or in-school, our student workshops are delivered by industry professionals aligning with Style, Form & Conventions.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Designed for young performers aged 13-17, to develop their passion for storytelling over 4 days during school holidays.

ASSEMBLY

La Boite's Assembly is a six-week skills development and showcase program, designed for twenty-one emerging artists.

Throughout the program, participants will collaborate with like-minded peers, create and develop a new work, and learn from La Boite artists through creative development workshops.

Seven directors, seven writers and seven actors are selected to participate, and work towards a public outcome. This will include 6 x masterclasses, 1 x intensive full day rehearsal culminating in a public outcome.



DIGITAL

Throughout 2021 the company engaged Optikal Bloc to record and package together our syllabus-aligned productions and skills development workshops for teachers and students alike. These Digital Education Packages were distributed nationally, enabling La Boite to reach regional and national education markets.

Recorded education resources for students and teachers, available for streaming/purchase online allows for increased access for Regional/Remote schools, as well as the expansion to a national market.

La Boite's Digital program was distributed to 36 schools across metropolitan, regional and remote Queensland.



“

This is amazing. This is the type of supplemental material we need for when we can't see live theatre.

- BE (SENIOR DRAMA AND CI TEACHER, HELENSVALE)

”

“

This shows that [La Boite] is doing exciting things to send the Arts out into the world, and I am a full supporter of initiatives like this.

- MA (DIRECTOR OF DRAMA, JOHN CURTAIN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS FREEMANTLE)

”

“

La Boite Digital will be a refreshing addition to what I can offer the students out here, since we don't have a Drama or Drama in Practice class anymore it will be useful for my Media students and even English classes. It will also help regional students being able to pursue the Arts after school by seeing what they could do... supporting what we as regional Teachers are trying to do.

- ZGW (MEDIA TEACHER, ROMA STATE COLLEGE)

”

PARTNERSHIPS

The La Boite Theatre sponsors are crucial to the continued success of the Company. The generous financial contributions and in-kind services provided by our corporate partners enable the Company to invest in delivering quality performances to a growing audience.



Accommodation Partner



Community Partner

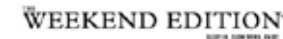
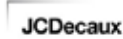


La Boite HWY Partner

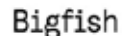
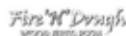


Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Media Partners



Season Partners



Presenting & Development Partners



PHILANTHROPY

PHILANTHROPY

2021 saw us continue to be tested by the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our industry. In 2021 La Boite was grateful to our donors and their incredible support and generosity.

Their commitment to La Boite during these testing times has allowed artists to work, stories to be told on our stage, and assisted in leaving a legacy for generations to come.

GENERAL DONATIONS

La Boite's *General Fund* is supported by generous individuals who give through direct means as well as Box Office Giving. La Boite's *General Fund* helps us to work with passionate artists, investing in new and significant theatre, support a program of free events, and invest in renewable technologies.

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY & SPONSORSHIP

La Boite's directed giving program provides our partners with the opportunity to build meaningful relationships in our venue and connect with La Boite's vibrant audiences and artists. We work closely with our partners to create a partnership that aligns the purpose of and showcases both organisations.

In addition to corporate cash Sponsorship, we received over \$421,000 of in-kind support in 2021.

We pride ourselves on our ability to create and sustain long-term partnerships; 76% of our partners have been on the journey with us for 6 years and 32% of them have been with us between 10 and 14 years. Our unique and tailor-made partnerships ensure we can offer increased opportunities for partners to grow their networks.

LA BOITE BURSARIES

La Boite is committed to creating outstanding experiences and opportunities for young artists and creatives, while building access and inclusion. Diversity is central to innovation, and equity is the key to unlocking its potential.

In 2021 La Boite introduced individual bursaries, allowing donors to deepen their engagement with the company through bursaries that are made available across our ASSEMBLY and Young Artist Company programs. This is a directional gift-giving program that channels their support to the area they care about most: people.

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 2021, we welcomed several new donors to our *Wall of Light* and saw many of our original donors continue their pledge for another three years. 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.

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 2021 La Boite was able to provide over \$8,735 in discounted and complimentary tickets to school students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

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 97-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. A single tax deductible donation of \$500 secures a seat and dedication in the Roundhouse for the life of the theatre.

DONORS

THE LA BOITE CIRCLE

On behalf of the Board and Staff of La Boite, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations in 2021.

PLATINUM

Kerrin Benson AM
Gina Fairfax
Tim Fairfax AC
Julian Myers
Lynn Rainbow Reid AM
John Reid AO

DIAMOND

Sheryl Cornack
Lucy Coulson
Boris Krkljes
L & R Foundation
Daniel Tobin

GOLD

Bruce Blocksidge
Michelle Boyd
Sean Dowling
Katherine Hoepper
Wayne Kratzmann AM
Tess Lye
Jackie Maxwell
Sarah McAree
Multicultural Australia
Lois Murray
Marilyn Myers
Collin Myers AM
Jill Nicklin
Fiona Poschel
Kaye Stevenson
The Little Red Company
Anonymous

SILVER

Julianne Alroe
Philip Amery
ARUGA
Naomi Price
Ian Barfoot
Geoffrey Beames
Samuel Boyd
Bill & Margi Brown Ash
Peter Coaldrake AO
Christine Comans
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Lachlan Cross
Anna Davidson
Dendy Cinema
Tony Denholder
Wesley Enoch AM
Epic Hair Design
Ziji Fox
Sophia Hall
Marc James
Annette Kerwitz
Andrea Kriewaldt
Sean Leader
Susan Learmonth
Paul Makeham
Shirley Markie
Karen Mitchell
Jamie Nicol
Prue Pateras
Zohar Spatz
Jessica Simpson
St Lukes Anglican School
BAC

BRONZE

Sheryl Ballesty
Jacob Brewer
Cathy Brown
Adam Brunen
Julian Buckley
Jane Eastwood
Liz Hardie
Zoe Houghton
Lone Keast
Dirk McNicoll
Suzie Miller
Kaytelyn Mitchell
Ken Pattemore
Jacinta Powell
Jake Shavikin
Cheryl Thornely
Margaret Watts
Greg Whitmore

FRIEND

Helen Anderson
Paula Araujo
Cieavash Arean
David Armstrong
Natalie Armstrong
Ashby
Geoff Auckland
Sheryl & Neil Ballesty
Hannah Barr
Leanne Beer
Jacqui Betteridge
Katrina Bills
Kanchana Bishop
Meg Bock
Robin Bradbear
Barbara Brooks
Mackenzie Burn
Jaymie Celesto
Cassandra Chadwick
Ruth Christie
Melissa Cloake
Lee Coaldrake
Sabine Coulson
Tim Courtice
Sharon D'Arcy
Allen Davies
Christopher D Dean
Kathryn Dekker
Virag Dombay
Helen Donovan
Antoinette Drennan
Roslyn Dudley
Jennifer Firn
Michael Fisher
Martha Follent
Roselle Forman
Mark Forster
Winsome Fox
Jennifer Franklin
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Judith Gavranich
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Sue Gowan
Katrina Graham
Teagan Griffey
Clare Guilfoyle
Sharriese Hamilton
Geoffrey Harris
Miriam Hart
Scott Hay-Bartlem
Kate Heffernan
Tracy Herlihy
Leanne Higgins-Bond
Caitlin Hill
Brian Hoeppe
Gregory Hogan
Amy Hollingsworth
Judith Hunt
Kara Hunt
Kim Ibbott
JC Decaux Australia
Elizabeth Jones
Phillip Kavanagh
Heather Knight
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Brenda Ledger
Gavin Lee
Dugald Lowis
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Alicia Martin
Tamsin McGuin
Roslyn McKean
Colleen Monaghan
Janice Monroe
Lynsey Moore

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Emily Shafto
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Wendy Smith
Jacqui Somerville
Valerie Spitzer
Margaret Stevenson
Claire Stimpson
Helen Strube
Antonia Sullivan
Robert Sutton
Sara Taghaode
Hsiao-Ling Tang
Brenden Taylor
Elizabeth Teed

Johanna Tough
Freya Toussaint
Kate Turton
Margaret Tutunoa
Warren Upritchard
Kathy Uzsoki
Sophia Vassie
Simon Vaughan
Kate Veach
Christine Walden
Johanne Walsh
Yonghui Wang
Melinda Warland
Vashti Warren
Joan Watkin
Lex Weddell
Canada White
Gillian White
Kirsty Williams
Sandra Willis
Susan Wisowaty
Marg Woodgate
Colin Woodhouse
E Workman
Rebecca Wright
Petra Wylie
Jenny Wynter
Richard Young

DONORS

THE WALL OF LIGHT

On behalf of the Board and Staff of La Boite, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations in 2021.

Actors and Entertainers Benevolent Fund QLD

Julieanne Alroe
 JC Decaux
 Margi Brown Ash
 Bill Ash
 Philip Bacon AM
 Kerrin Benson AM
 Graham Bethune
 Jessie Bethune
 The Blocksidge Family
 Michelle Boyd
 Samuel Boyd
 Brisbane Airport Corporation
 Jacob Brewer
 Adam Brunes
 Julian Buckley
 BVN
 Peter Coldrake AO
 Christine Comans
 Sheryl Cornack
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth
 Lucy Coulson
 Anna Davidson
 Bruce Davidson
 Dendy Cinemas
 Tony Denholder
 Sean Dowling
 Wesley Enoch AM
 Epic Hair Designs

Tim Fairfax AO
 Gina Fairfax
 Adam Gardnir
 Brenda Gibbons
 Scott Gibson
 Gilbert Guaring
 Katherine Hoepper
 Honouring Our Volunteers
 The Houghton-Russell Family
 Ian Barfoot Corporate Audit and Insurance Services
 Marc James
 Wayne Kratzmann AM
 Martin Kriewaldt
 Andrea Kriewaldt
 Boris Krkljes
 Jasmine Krkljes
 Bec Langdon
 George Leader
 James Lye
 Tess Lye
 The Makeham Family
 Shirley Markie
 Jackie Maxwell
 Sarah McAree
 Darren Mew
 Karen Mitchell FCA
 Multicultural Australia
 The Myers Family
 Colin Myers AM

Marilyn Myers
 The Nicklin Family
 Kevin O'Brien
 Ben Poschelk
 Fiona Poschelk
 POWERARTS
 Naomi Price
 QUT Creative Industries
 Lynn Rainbow Reid AM
 John Reid AO
 Joseph Simons
 Jessica Simpson
 Steve Smith
 Millie Smith
 Eliza Smith
 Zohar Spatz
 Barry Stone
 Daniel Tobin

BOARD, STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

ORGANISATION PROFILE

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

LA BOITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors: Julian Myers (Chair), Vivienne Anthon (Deputy Chair), Gina Fairfax (stepped down March 2021), Sarah McAree, Lynn Rainbow Reid AM, Jessica Simpson, Adam Brunes, Balveen Ajimal (stepped down June 2021), Nadine McDonald Dowd (stepped down September 2021)

STAFF

CEO/ Executive Director	Zohar Spatz
Creative Producer	Sanja Simić (to Oct 2021) Bri Zammit (from Oct 2021)
Youth & Participation Producer	Ari Palani
Program Administrator	Aidan Rowlingson
Artist Company Manager	Anika Vilée
Finance & Venue Manager	Roxane Eden
Assistant Accountant	Emma Wilson
Ticketing & Venue Coordinator	Nathan Mills
Bar & Events Manager	Lauren Woods
Development & Philanthropy Manager	Jackie Maxwell
Marketing & Audience Development Manager	Joeli Gribben
Marketing Coordinator	Georgie Rowlands (to Oct 2021) Jesse Sobey (from Oct 2021)
Communications Agency	ARUGA
Graphic Design	Sean Dowling Jacob Brewer
Production Manager	Stu Syme
Workshop Coordinator	Andrew Mills
Technical Coordinator	Jonathan Harrison

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STAGE MANAGEMENT

Nicole Neil, Sophie Watkins, Pip Loth, Makayla Purdy, Kat O'Halloran, Anika Vilée.

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Kayla Alexandra, Akshay Aravind, Lewe Atkinson, Corinne Biddulph, Linda Bulloch, Cath Carkeet, Kerrel Casey, Paula Chiverall, Andri Christoforou, Russell Cockerill, Tony Cole, Rebecca Day, Gayle Duncan, Sarah Esser, Bruce Finlayson, Leonie Flood, Jane Garratt, Jessica Gould, Karen Gould, Tara Griffin, Sophia Harris, Anna Holmes, Greg Johnson, Chuxiao Kang, Shelby Lee, Jeannie Lloyd-Apjohn, Alex Macdonald, Shirley Markie, Mary Massey, Bailey McNee, Emily Murray, Helen Musgrove, Miles O'Leary, Jenny Owen, Jane Paterson, Phoebe Pellas-Jeffreys, Brooke Reilly, Jenny Rough, Sascha Shipley, Werner Stur, Quincy Wilson and Jean Woodyatt

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