

LABOITE
2023

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Everything we do at La Boite Theatre is underpinned by the acknowledgement of and the deepest respect for the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work – the Jagera and Turrbal people.

We extend our thanks and gratitude to the Traditional Owners who have looked after this land and these waters for more than 70,000 years – land and waters that we rely on, raise our families on, make a living on and tell stories on. We are deeply grateful for their continued custodianship and care for these countries.

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We value our collaborations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and advocate for their right to self-determined processes and artistic identity.



LA BOITE COMPANY PROFILE

La Boite Theatre is Australia's longest continuously running theatre company, celebrating its 100th year of operation in 2025.

Located in Kelvin Grove, Brisbane, La Boite is home to the iconic 400 seat Roundhouse Theatre: one of Australia's only purpose-built theatre in-the-round.

La Boite plays a crucial role in the local, state and national arts sector as an incubator and producer of new work, with a dedicated focus on the sustainability of Brisbane-based arts practice from emerging to established practitioners, producers, and arts managers.

La Boite's origins began in community and the organisation prides itself on being fiercely local. However, as we head into our second century of operation, La Boite's legacy and future-focused vision has seen it become a company of national significance.

One of the biggest challenges we face is how we continue to grow the importance and impact of the company nationally and internationally while not disenfranchising our loyal, loving, local artists.

La Boite will meet these challenges with determination, kindness and considered strategies through the crucial work we program, a targeted and dynamic marketing plan to reach new audiences and retain existing ones, and our pivotal vision of another century of changing the world, one story at a time.

Our sector needs a loved and trusted company committed to developing and presenting stories that have global impact and that strive to shape the soul of our nation.

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE STORY AT A TIME

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TURNING 100 YEARS OLD

A company that reaches a hundred years embodies a legacy of dedication, innovation and perseverance. It's a milestone that signifies its ability to evolve with the times, navigate uncertainties and continue thriving amidst adversity.

Beyond the numbers, it symbolises a profound impact on society, economy and culture.

A century-old company is not just a business entity. It's a living testament to human ingenuity, ambition, determination and the power of collective effort.

As Australia's oldest continuously running theatre company, La Boite has an unrivalled history of creating and sharing stories on stage.

As we enter our second century of operation, our responsibility is to nurture the sustainability of the arts sector in Queensland, model artistic excellence and leadership nationally, and continue our commitment to diversity, community and collaboration.

“

If we live in a society that calls itself a nation, I think we all have to have some responsibility towards that Nation's history.

– MAE NGAI

”

CHAIR'S REPORT

ADAM BRUNES

As we reflect on the year gone by, I am filled with pride and optimism for what lies ahead for La Boite, Australia's oldest continuously running professional theatre company. The year 2023 was a significant milestone in our journey, characterised by reconnecting, refining and landmark achievements.

This year, we have been focused on rebuilding key relationships that are foundational to our success. It was a monumental occasion to welcome back Sydney Theatre Company (STC) as co-producers on the world premiere of *The Poison of Polygamy* by Anchuli Felicia King.

This collaboration marked STC's celebrated return after 12 years and we were honoured to premiere this ground-breaking Australian work in Brisbane before its successful transfer to Sydney, directed by Courtney Stewart in her directorial debut as La Boite Artistic Director. The production's reception was nothing short of stellar, garnering rave reviews, three Matilda Award nominations and five Sydney Theatre Award nominations – a testament to the talent and passion that drives our company.

Furthering our commitment to original, thought-provoking theatre, we proudly brought three world premiere Australian works to the stage. Each production echoed our dedication to storytelling that resonates and challenges, ensuring our place as a beacon of cultural significance in Australia.

This year also saw exciting changes within our leadership. We were thrilled to announce the appointment of La Boite Artistic Director, Courtney Stewart, to the Creative Australia board. Courtney's appointment is not just a personal achievement but significantly strengthens La Boite's national connections and influence.

In addition, we welcomed two new directors to our board, Sarah Townsend and Amanda Jolly, whose expertise and vision will undoubtedly propel us toward new heights. While we welcomed new faces, we also farewelled Deputy Chair Vivienne Anthon after 12 years of invaluable service. Vivienne's contribution to La Boite has been immeasurable and we extend our heartfelt thanks for her dedication and leadership.

In 2023, we continued to navigate the lingering challenges created by the impact of the pandemic. Juggling increasing operating costs, sporadic COVID outbreaks, unexpected performance cancellations and cost-of-living impacts on audiences tested our resilience. These hurdles reminded us of the unpredictable nature of the theatre industry and the importance of adaptability and perseverance – characteristics that have defined La Boite throughout its 98-year history.

Our journey this year would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment of the entire La Boite community, whose passion and creativity are the backbone of our company. Each member, from the artists to the technical and administrative staff, plays a vital role in bringing our vision to life.

Equally, our corporate partners, sponsors and donors have been key to our success. Of particular note was the success of our Plus1 matched funding campaign, supported by Arts Queensland and Creative Partnerships Australia, which attracted 392 individual donors – 78 per cent of whom were new donors to La Boite.

Your support has enabled us to push creative boundaries and enrich our community with diverse and inclusive storytelling and we are profoundly thankful for your belief in our mission.

As we edge closer to our centenary year in 2025, we have looked inward to ensure that we are future fit. This introspection is driving us to refine our processes, embrace innovation and strengthen our community engagements and partnerships, ensuring that La Boite remains a vibrant and dynamic leader in Australia's cultural landscape.

The road ahead is filled with promise. With your continued support, we stand on the cusp of a new era of storytelling that honours our rich history while boldly stepping into the future.

Together, let us continue to celebrate and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of Australian theatre.

Warm regards

Adam Brunès



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO'S REPORT

COURTNEY STEWART

The indefatigable La Boite team and I have the job of upholding live performance as a way to deliver instrumental civic and social benefits. We do this by collaborating with the most exciting local and national artists and connecting them with audiences through the act of storytelling.

Last year we presented three World Premieres, which saw seven artists make their La Boite debut and 1065 audience members purchase their first ticket to a La Boite show.

While pockets of our industry have started to see the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of returning to a pre-pandemic state of operation, being small-but-mighty, we continue to navigate a new 'business as usual'.

We reignited our collaborative partnership with Sydney Theatre Company (STC) in the presentation of Anchuli Felicia King's adaptation of *The Poison of Polygamy* – our first collaboration with STC in 12 years - which played to critical acclaim both for Brisbane and Sydney audiences.

Our longstanding relationship with QPAC saw us work with some of the brightest rising artists in Brisbane to bring the formidable Aidan Rowlingson's *Capricorn* to the stage after multiple creative developments.

We also joined forces again with the nationally renowned Lewis Treston on his new work *IRL*, a work that tested our ability to stretch our resources as far as they would go to give this full-to-the-brim fever dream the production value it deserved.

Our plans to premiere *Cut Chilli* by Chenturan Aran had to pivot while we negotiated the familiar challenges of bringing new work to the stage. This was a necessary step to preserve the integrity of the Writer's vision for the work, to uphold our duty of care to the community we were trying to bring into our space to experience the story, and to honour the artists who were generously sharing parts of themselves within the work. This was an incredibly painful decision, but a critical one, and a decision that I believe wholeheartedly upholds our values as a company.

We are hurtling towards our 100th birthday – a significant milestone for our company as well as the sector. We are primed and ready to not only celebrate the achievements of the company to date, but to also cast our eyes forward and begin to lay the ground for this next chapter in our company's history.

To all of our stakeholders: our funding bodies who enable the team to turn up to work every day to drive us towards our strategic goals, to our Donors and Sponsors who enable us to support the development of our artists and create ground-breaking theatre, to our audiences who support us to test bold new work and help us to continue to solidify our legacy as the oldest and boldest theatre company in the country, to the artists we collaborate with to bring our season to the stage and so generously share their gifts with us and the community – it is the utmost privilege to work for you.

Courtney Stewart



PRODUCTION SEASON

THE POISON OF POLYGAMY

A PLAY BY ANCHULI FELICIA KING
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY WONG SHEE PING
TRANSLATED BY ELY FINCH

A La Boite Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company World Premiere Co-Production

LA BOITE SEASON **8 – 27 May**
OF PERFORMANCES **16**
PAID ATTENDANCE **1,329**
TOTAL ATTENDANCE **2,009**

STC SEASON **8 June - 8 July**
ATTENDANCE **5,322**

Cast & Creatives

Playwright Anchuli Felicia King
Director Courtney Stewart
Set & Costume Designer James Lew
LX Designer Ben Hughes
Sound Designer Guy Webster
Composer Matt Hsu's Obscure Orchestra
Fight, Intimacy & Movement Director Nigel Poulton
Choreographer Deb Brown
Dance Captain Anna Yen
Vocal Coach Melissa Agnew
Cultural Consultant Institute for Australian and Chinese Arts and Culture
UQ Dramaturg Secondment Yuchen Yao
Director Observers Triona Calimbayan-Giles, Peter Wood & Grace Law
Stage Manager Kat O'Halloran
Assistant Stage Manager Kristina Marjanac

Cast Hsin-Ju Ely, Ray Chong Nee, Silvan Rus, Shan-Ree Tan, Merlynn Tong, Kimie Tsukakoshi, Anna Yen & Gareth Yuen
Understudies Triona Calimbayan-Giles & Peter Wood



THE POISON OF POLYGAMY ARTISTS AND CREATIVES RECEIVED FIVE NOMINATIONS IN THE 2023 SYDNEY THEATRE AWARDS:
BEST MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION
BEST NEW AUSTRALIAN WORK (ANCHULI FELICIA KING)
BEST DIRECTOR (COURTNEY STEWART)
BEST MUSICAL SCORE (MATT HSU)
BEST LEADING ACTOR (SHAN-REE TAN)



The remastering of the epic requires an epic production, and director Courtney Stewart harnesses collaboration to deliver production elements that surprise and entrance to resounding perfection.

- TIME OUT



A work of impressive ambition and scale, strikingly realised.

- LIMELIGHT





PRODUCTION SEASON

CAPRICORN

BY AIDAN ROWLINGSON

Presented by La Boite Theatre in association with Queensland Performing Arts Centre

SEASON	24 Jul – 12 Aug
# OF PERFORMANCES	19
PAID ATTENDANCE	863
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	1,717

Cast & Creatives

Playwright & Director Aidan Rowlingson
Co-Director Nadine McDonald-Dowd
Set & Costume Designer Peter Keavy
Here Fishy Fishy Fishy Costume Designer Delvene Cockatoo-Collins
Lighting Designer Geoff Squires
Video Designer Sasha Parlett (Red Handed Productions)
Sound Designer Wil Hughes
Composers Waveney Yasso & Jhindu-Pedro Lawrie
Fight, Intimacy & Movement Director Nigel Poulton
Cultural Consultant Colleen Wall
Vocal Coach Rosalind Williams
Director Observer Che Skeen
Stage Manager Sarah O'Neill
Assistant Stage Manager Sophie Watkins

Cast Sean Dow, Jazleen Latrise & Kerri Llewly-Allan



La Boite is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

SECTION 4
PRODUCTION SEASON



Rowlingson’s engrossing, acerbic dialogue captures the downfall and conflict of a relationship in crisis. But ultimately ‘Capricorn’ is a commanding, debut play written from a First Nations perspective that takes into account the cultural aspects of what it means to be a First Nations person living on unceded land.

- ARTSHUB



‘Capricorn’ is supported by a cast and crew of proud First Nations performers, their presence and their stories are amplified throughout the production with raw beauty, grace and humour. La Boite is known for supporting new and emerging talent and is the perfect place for ‘Capricorn’ to make its debut. It is more than just a new show, ‘Capricorn’ is supporting emerging talent and amplifying the voices of First Nations creators on stage.

- SCENESTR



PRODUCTION SEASON

IRL

BY LEWIS TRESTON

SEASON	6-25 Nov
# OF PERFORMANCES	16
PAID ATTENDANCE	918
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	1,615

Cast & Creatives

Playwright Lewis Treston
Director Sanja Simić
Set & Costume Designer Anthony Spinaze
Design Realiser M'ck McKeague
Lighting Designer Ben Hughes
Sound Designer & Composer Wil Hughes
Fish Choreography Sammie Williams
Director Observers Jordan Stott & Grace Wilson
Rehearsal Stage Manager Jacinta Way
Stage Manager Nicole Neil
Assistant Stage Manager Kayla Cahill
Mechanist Natalie Scott
Dresser Christine McDougall

Cast Will Bartolo, Byron Lankester Howells & Rachel Nutchey
Understudy Will Carseldine
Voiceover Hugh Parker



La Boite is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

“

Finishing the theatre year with a teenage dream costume extravaganza, La Boite has delivered just in time for the silly season. Playwright Lewis Treston believes theatre for young people belongs in our mainstage seasonal offerings, and 'IRL' is a prime example, taking this romantic queer fantasy into an action-packed 90-minute production.

- ARTSHUB

”

“

Treston is a bright light on the playwriting scene, and there's an element of literary cosplay to his two big successes to date.

- BRISBANE TIMES

”

“

'IRL' is light-hearted and comical, but treats identity and its entanglement with the internet with due seriousness and sensitivity. Treston's writing articulates emoji use and online communication well, and playfully breaks the fourth wall as well as dipping into surrealism.

- BACKSTREET BRISBANE

”



SPECIAL EVENT #1



GARDEN PARTY

BY ARC CIRCUS

SEASON	11 – 21 Jan
# OF PERFORMANCES	11
PAID ATTENDANCE	1,168
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	1,279

Cast & Creatives

Co-Creator, Director & Performer Robbie Curtis
Co-Creator, Director & Performer Lizzie McRae
Set & Costume Designer Maria McRae
Sound Production/Mastering Steve Thornely



La Boite is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland

SECTION 4
PRODUCTION SEASONS

SPECIAL EVENT #2



YES YES YES

BY ELEANOR BISHOP
AND KARIN MCCRACKEN

SEASON	4 – 6 Sep
# OF PERFORMANCES	5
PAID ATTENDANCE	201
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	325

Cast & Creatives

Creators/Writers Eleanor Bishop and Karin McCracken
Director Eleanor Bishop
Lighting Designer Rachel Marlow for Filament 11
Touring Technician Oliver Hawke
Cast Karin McCracken
Understudy Brynley Stent



This is the kind of approachable, inclusive, and compassionate sex education and guidance on difficult conversations I wish I had been able to see when I was a young person navigating this tricky and volatile time.

– BACKSTREET BRISBANE



LA BOITE THEATRE
2023 ANNUAL REPORT / 8

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT



DIRECTOR OBSERVERSHIPS

Over 2023, we welcomed six emerging directors into the rehearsal rooms of our Mainstage Season to observe the directorial process, learn how to bring new work to the stage and understand what it means to work with a professional theatre company. Artists benefitted from one-on-one sessions with Directors, access to the Artistic team of La Boite, uninterrupted observation and inclusion in special events such as Opening Nights.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Triona Calimbayan-Giles
Grace Law
Peter Wood
Che Skeen
Jordan Stott
Grace Wilson

WRITERS MEET AND GREET

In March 2023, La Boite swung open our doors to meet writers and hear their stories. We invited playwrights to meet with our Artistic team to discuss their work, their practices and look at potential development opportunities.

We received over **75** applications and met with **29** writers Australia-wide to start a dialogue about their work, forge new relationships and reignite long lost connections.

LONGHOUSE BRISBANE

In partnership with Contemporary Asian Australian Performance

In August, La Boite in partnership with CAAP (Contemporary Asian Australian Performance), held an In Conversation facilitated by Tessa Leong (in Triona Calimbayan-Giles' absence), with Courtney Stewart (Artistic Director and CEO La Boite), Katrina Irawati Graham (Screenwriter and La Boite's Resident Emerging Dramaturg) and Tarun Nagesh (Curator of Asian Art at QAGOMA).

The discussion unpacked what it means to be an Asian Australian leader in Brisbane.

This laidback event was held in La Boite's Studio with around 30 artists in attendance, where artists connected post-event over delicious Vietnamese food and refreshments.



RESIDENT EMERGING DRAMATURG

After a Queensland-wide search for this coveted position, La Boite selected screenwriter, playwright and activist Katrina Irawati Graham as our Resident Emerging Dramaturg, a role designed for an artist looking to develop their dramaturgical career. Katrina was embedded in the La Boite Artistic team across 2023 and worked under the guidance of Courtney Stewart and other industry professionals.

In this role, Katrina contributed to various La Boite programs, such as Assembly and the Artist Masterclass series, assisting in the development of La Boite's Mainstage work, and will continue working with La Boite in 2024.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



ARTIST MASTERCLASSES

We continued our highly successful Masterclass series in 2023 with four new events, allowing artists a peek into the process of some of Brisbane's brightest. These Masterclass events featured an auditing-style experience for participants, with panellists participating in Q&As and live process onstage. The Masterclasses included:

WRITING FOR THEATRE

with Lewis Treston
97 participants

MARKETING YOURSELF AND YOUR BRAND

with Yuverina Shewpersad
31 participants

DRAMATURGY AND STORY DEVELOPMENT

with Saffron Benner & Katrina Irawati Graham
60 participants

PITCHING TOOLKIT

with Nicholas Paine, Danielle Carney
& Shari Indriani Irwin
55 participants



ASSEMBLY

Entering its fifth year in 2023, La Boite's Assembly is a 10-week skills developments and showcase program, designed for 27 emerging artists. Throughout the program, participants collaborate with like-minded peers, create and develop a new work, and learn from leading industry mentors through creative development workshops. Nine directors, nine writers and nine actors are selected from hundreds of applicants to work towards a public outcome.

C.R.U.S.H BY CROSSROAD ARTS

Our ongoing partnership with Crossroad Arts (Mackay) continued in 2023 with La Boite Teaching Artist, Madeleine Lewis, representing the company while facilitating three days of professional skills development workshops in contemporary movement, performance and theatre making for d/Deaf and/or disabled and/or neurodivergent artists nationally. This partnership celebrates the power of communities, collaborations and professional theatrical experiences for all.

VENUE ACTIVITIES

VENUE HIRE

In addition to our own artistic programming, La Boite continued to welcome commercial and community venue hires into the Roundhouse Theatre, La Boite Studio and Forecourt.

Across the year, La Boite hosted over 50 performances and events through venue hire activities which were attended by over 10,000 patrons. La Boite engaged with over 50 individual technicians and front of house staff to assist in the delivery of our projects and activities.

La Boite remains firmly committed to providing support to the wider Brisbane arts community, local businesses, not-for-profits, charities and NGOs, providing over \$125,000 of in-kind support in 2023.

La Boite remains a proud member of Live Performance Australia and Stage Queensland and is an active participant in discussions of consultation and advocacy.

OPERATIONS

BOX OFFICE

As a member of the Tessitura Network, La Boite continues to deliver in-house ticketing services for all events and activities within our venues, ensuring we can be flexible and responsive to patron requests and external users of the venue, and streamlining our ticketing, fundraising, marketing and customer relationship management.

Participating in the LPA's Ticketing Code of Practice Review, La Boite remains committed to upholding industry standards, enhancing transparency, and contributing to the ongoing improvement of ticketing practices within the live performance sector.

ESPRESSO BAR & CAFÉ

La Boite continues to grow our food & beverage arm, operating our Espresso Bar and Café during the day and for performances and events, serving over 16,000 patrons in 2023.

PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, La Boite partnered with:

MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

In hosting *Our Journey 2023* and a Citizenship Ceremony as part of World Refugee Day celebrations.

MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (QLD)

In hosting the Multicultural Queensland Awards Ceremony and the presentation of our *Love Blooms* visual arts exhibition.

VENA CAVA PRODUCTIONS

In hosting their season launch event and student-led production, *BUG HOUSE*. Vena Cava Productions is the Queensland University of Technology's student-driven theatre company, offering students semi-professional learning opportunities and practical experiences within the theatre industry to grow and learn as emerging artists.

ACTORS' & ENTERTAINERS' BENEVOLENT FUND QUEENSLAND

La Boite Theatre continues to support the *Actors' & Entertainers' Benevolent Fund of Queensland* by inviting the fund to conduct a charity bucket collection each Mainstage production, raising fund to support performers and arts workers who have fallen on hard times.



ROUNDHOUSE THEATRE

Season 2024 Launch

Vena Cava Productions

Drenched

Mad Dance House x Caetlyn Watson

Choose Your Own Song Dance Battles

Mad Dance House

Alex: A Play with Holograms

Queensland University of Technology

Audrey (2024 Feature Film)

Invisible Republic Pty Ltd
x Orange Entertainment Pty Ltd

Strictly Ballroom The Musical

St Margaret's Anglican Girls School

The Inspector General

Brisbane Boys' College

K+J Wedding

Jennifer Wong Has No Peripheral Vision

Jennifer Wong

Our Journey 2023 (World Refugee Day)

Multicultural Australia

Multicultural Queensland Awards 2023

Queensland Government

Youth TheatreSports Grand Finals

TheatreSports Queensland

BUG HOUSE

Vena Cava Productions

Rehearsals

The Little Red Company

A Very Naughty Christmas

Woodward Productions

LA BOITE STUDIO

Creative Development

Madeleine Border and Madeline Römcke

Adult Masterclass

Dead Puppet Society

Rehearsals

The Little Red Company

Staff Training

Australian Community Support Organisation

Creative Development

Dead Puppet Society

Flu Vax Clinic

Actors' & Entertainers'
Benevolent Fund of Queensland

Rehearsals

Playlab Theatre

Private Event

Abingdon Wealth

First Nations Circle (Circus / Physical Theatre)

Theatre Network Australia

Longhouse

Contemporary Asian Australian Performance

Auditions

Brainstorm Productions

Rehearsals

Woodward Productions

LA BOITE FORECOURT

K+J Wedding

Citizenship Ceremony

Multicultural Australia

Multicultural Queensland Awards 2023

Queensland Government

Love Blooms: Paint & Sip

Multicultural Affairs Queensland (Co-Presented)

Artist Talk

Australian Film Television and Radio School
x Brisbane International Film Festival

La Boite has provided in-kind support to over 26 individuals, organisations and businesses in 2023, in addition to those listed above: Queensland Theatre, Metro Arts, Brisbane City Council, Queensland University of Technology, Griffith University, Queensland Academies Creative Industry Campus.

VISUAL ART INSTALLATION

LOVE BLOOMS

1 JUL - 30 SEP

LA BOITE FORECOURT

A Visual Art Installation

Presented by Multicultural Affairs Queensland

La Boite's Forecourt came alive with seven vibrant artworks designed to captivate and immerse visitors in a world of love.

In collaboration with the vibrant community, La Boite curated a free program of visual art, transforming the public space into an accessible, safe and inclusive haven for all. For three magical months, visitors were invited to experience an unforgettable journey centered around the theme 'Love Blooms.'

Through the masterful integration of digital design, captivating installations, mesmerising video projections, and enchanting lightboxes, the exhibition sought to express the myriad forms of love that take place in our lives. Flora, with their timeless symbolism of affection and connection, took centre stage, serving as profound expressions of romance, family bonds, and the beauty of human relationships.

At the heart of this awe-inspiring exhibition was the visionary curator, Gemma Truong. A creative producer driven by a profound passion for nurturing creativity through collaborative ventures and cultivating a deep sense of place within projects, Gemma meticulously crafted an experience that left visitors spellbound.

LOVE BLOOMS: PAINT & SIP

29 - 30 SEP

To celebrate the arrival of Spring, La Boite hosted Paint & Sip sessions, set against our vibrant *Love Blooms* exhibition. Celebrating this beautiful Spring season in bloom, these sessions allowed participants to tap into their inner visual artist and settle in for a relaxing facilitated painting session, accompanied by live entertainment, refreshing beverages and good company.



FEATURED ARTWORKS

Bonafide

By Masimba Sasa, 2013

Chilli And Hoppers

By Bima Perera, 2022

Good Fortunes (Gold)

By Gin Sen, 2021

Richmond Birdwing Butterfly

By Ingrid Bartkowiak, 2023

Tree Of Love (Crocheted Hearts)

By Gin Sen, 2023

Under The Sea

By May Lyn Chew, 2023

Written In The Stars

By Gin Sen, 2023

Curated By

Gemma Truong



Queensland
Government

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

YOUTH & EDUCATION



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

In 2023 La Boite continued to offer exciting School Holiday Programs. Designed for young performers aged 13-17 years, these programs help young people develop their passion for storytelling and theatre making.

WRITE! ACT! DIRECT!

April 2023
20 participants

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP WITH THE LITTLE RED COMPANY

September 2023
24 participants

ACTOR TRAINING INTENSIVE

December 2023
17 participants



IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Designed to provide a specialised experience for students to aid in their learning journey, La Boite's In-School workshops are tailored to classroom context and content, connecting industry skills and knowledge to the curriculum.

In 2023, La Boite visited schools across the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, as well as Metro areas, and established ongoing relationships with a number of schools.

POST-SHOW Q&A ADD-ON WORKSHOPS

This program offers school groups a chance to meet the cast and creatives of our Mainstage season, and learn about the process of making a professional show.



TEACHER MASTERCLASSES

La Boite offered three in-person and three online Teacher Masterclasses in 2023. These events offered teachers the opportunity to learn the latest practices, techniques and insights, led by industry experts.

EXPLORING NARRATIVE FORMS

May 2023
8 participants

CREATING A DIRECTORIAL VISION

October 2023
11 participants

DIRECTING AND DEVSING FOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

November 2023
13 participants

YOUTH & EDUCATION

MULTICULTURAL YOUNG ARTIST PROGRAM

MYAP was a Multicultural Youth Arts enrichment program designed to provide space, education, recreational and social activities for students aged 11 – 19 years.

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

La Boite is committed to creating outstanding and transformative experiences for young people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds.

Through MYAP, La Boite has engaged the next generation of refugee and migrant storytellers and leaders, nurturing them into future facilitators, storytellers and artists.

TEACHERS ADVISORY GROUP

In 2023 our Teachers Advisory Group (TAG) was reassembled and commenced quarterly meetings. They have been an invaluable resource to La Boite in terms of advising us on major curriculum changes and how Theatre can best intersect with the needs of educators and their students. We will continue this collaborative relationship into 2024, and will be in conversation with our TAG members to look at how our seasons can continually improve to align with the rhythms of assessment and the interests of the educators in our community.

THE WELCOME

Stories Of Belonging, *The Welcome* is a life-affirming collection of short films sharing stories that will transport you across countries, borders and oceans.

Hear fresh voices and emerging Queensland artists from diverse backgrounds tell honest and authentic stories about migrant and refugee experiences and what it means to belong in Australia.

The Welcome was available to every Student and Teacher nationally, aligned to the general capabilities of Intercultural Understanding as part of the Australian Curriculum. This has been made possible through the generous support of the Queensland Government and the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs.





PARTNERSHIPS

CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY & SPONSORSHIP

La Boite is proud of its longstanding partnerships with the corporate sector which helps us achieve our goals by playing a crucial role in the provision of financial or logistical support throughout the year. La Boite's thriving artistic activity is underpinned by this strong community of corporate supporters. In addition to cash sponsorship, we received over \$376,173 of in-kind support in 2023.

Our ability to create and sustain long-term partnerships that become an extension of the La Boite family ensures that our unique tailor-made partnerships offer increased opportunities for our partners to grow their networks.

La Boite's corporate partners made a renewed pledge of support through our Wall of Light program in 2023. It is with great appreciation that we once again thank those companies who have continued to make a philanthropic donation as part of their commitment to La Boite's success.



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

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



Media Partners



Season Partners



Presenting & Development Partners





PHILANTHROPY

Throughout 2023, your generous donations enabled us to support the development of our artists, to create new work, produce ground-breaking theatre, and continue to engage in our communities by investing in our young audiences through our youth and education programs.

La Boite successfully exceeded its matched funding target of \$50,000, with a total amount raised during the campaign of \$70,790. Contributions to this campaign came from 392 donors, of which 78% were new donors to La Boite. The Plus1 Match Funding Program was an initiative between Arts Queensland's New Strategic Partnerships Fund and Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 Program.

Your philanthropic support forms a critical revenue stream for our company, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity throughout the year.

You are a part of our family, our history and our future. Your support is vital in making theatre that matters.

GENERAL DONATIONS

La Boite's *General Fund* enables us to work with passionate artists, invest in new and significant theatre, support a program of free events, and adopt renewable technologies. These generous donations are from our Direct Giving Program and Box Office Giving.

LA BOITE ASSOCIATES

La Boite Artistic Director Courtney Stewart opened her office in 2023 to Brisbane arts enthusiasts to experience a unique artistic journey. Providing unrivalled behind-the-scenes access and insight into the world of live theatre, this program is an exclusive opportunity to build a personal and ongoing connection with our new leader.

Over the course of three years, *The Associates* are part of a vision that seeks to celebrate Brisbane's incredible talent with a strong focus on social cohesion through unifying artists, audiences, partners and communities. The *La Boite Associates* Program is a once in a lifetime investment, culminating at our 100th birthday in 2025.



I am so glad I took the leap and joined the La Boite Associates Program. What a precious treat it was to be able to sit-in on the first reading of *The Poison of Polygamy* by the cast! I was captivated – this story has got it all and I cannot wait to see how rehearsals unfold and design brings it all together on Opening Night.

- LEISA PROWSE
LA BOITE ASSOCIATE



SUPPORT THE CREATION OF NEW WORK

This donation program raises funds that go directly to the making of new work and the development of Australian artists. These donations fund and support commissioning new Australian Plays, skills development for artists, research and development of new ideas and works from Brisbane-based artists and companies. A critical program of social, political and cultural conversations.

WALL OF LIGHT

The *Wall of Light* is a continued way to celebrate those who celebrate us. Residing in the La Boite Espresso Bar Foyer, this highly visible and public acknowledgement is situated at the entrance to La Boite's Studio and Roundhouse Theatre.

Since its inception, our Wall of Light donors have generously donated over \$250,000 to support the creation of new theatre. Acknowledgements to these generous families, individuals and companies take pride-of-place in our foyer – welcoming artists and audiences to La Boite's iconic Roundhouse Theatre.



PHILANTHROPY

TAKE A SEAT

Since 2015, our *Take a Seat* program has celebrated 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.

Over the years, 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.

LA BOITE BURSARIES

La Boite Bursaries create outstanding experiences and opportunities for young artists and creatives.

Individual bursaries allow donors to deepen their engagement with the company, with bursaries available across our Assembly program and Skill Development Scholarships.

This directional gift-giving program channels support to the area of the donor's preferred focus.

GIFT A TICKET

Do you remember your first time in a theatre – when the lights went down and a new world appeared in front of your eyes?

The *Gift a Ticket* giving program can allow you to uncover the magic of theatre for a young person today. 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.

Your generosity could be the catalyst for a life-long love of the arts!

DONORS

THE LA BOITE CIRCLE

PLATINUM

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

DIAMOND

Lucy Coulson
Sheryl Cornack
Sean Dowling
Sarah McAree
L & R Foundation
Belinda Gibson
Daniel Tobin

GOLD

Ian Barfoot
Bruce Blocksidge
Margi Brown Ash
Bill Brown Ash
Michelle Boyd
Samuel Boyd
Katherine Hoepper
Wayne Kratzmann AM
Susan Learmonth
Sean Leader
Karen Mitchell
Jackie Maxwell
Multicultural Australia
Lois Murray
Collin Myers
Marilyn Myers
Jill Nicklin
Fiona Poschelk
Kaye Stevenson
Hamish Chappell
Leisa Prowse
Jessica Simpson
Susan Verzar
Mary-Ann Vale
Wesley Enoch
The Little Red Company

SILVER

ARUGA
Geoffrey Beames
Adam Brunes
Jonathan Blocksidge
Julian Buckley
Jacob Brewer
Peter Coaldrake AO
Christine Comans
Lachlan Cross
Anna Davidson
Dendy Cinema
Thomas Girgensohn
Anthony Denholder
Brendon Mann
Ziji Fox
Sophia Hall
Justin Harrison
Marc James
Amanda Jolly
Annette Kerwitz
Andrea Kriewaldt
Dirk McNicoll
Shirley Markie
Andrea Moor
Jamie Nicol
John Nuell
Prue Pateras
Naomi Price
Zohar Spatz
Darren Yap
Brisbane Airport Corporation

ASSOCIATES

Hamish Chappell
Belinda Gibson
Leisa Prowse
Mary-Ann Vale
Susan Verzar

On behalf of the Board and Staff of La Boite we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our Bronze and Friends Donors along with the thousands of online ticket purchase donors that contributed to our organisation in 2023.

Through your donations, La Boite can continue being 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.

DONORS

WALL OF LIGHT SUPPORTERS

Actors and Entertainers Benevolent Fund

Julieanne Alroe

Vivienne Anothon

Bill Ash

Philip Bacon AM

Les Batros

Geoffrey Beames

Laurel Ted & Kerrin Benson AM

David Berthold

Graham Bethune

The Blocksidge Family

Samuel Boyd

Michelle Boyd

Jacob Brewer

Brisbane Airport Corporation

Margi Brown Ash

Adam Brunes

Julian Buckley

BVN

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Peter Coldrake AO

Christine Comans

Sheryl Cornack

Lucy Coulson

Anna Davidson

Bruce Davidson

Dendy Cinemas

Tony Denholder

Sean Dowling

Susan Ellison

Wesley Enoch AM

Epic Hair Designs

Tim Fairfax AC

Gina Fairfax AC

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Scott Gibson

Gilbert Guaring

Justin Harrison

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Andrea Kriewaldt

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James Lye

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Jim Murphy

Collin Myers AM

Marilyn Myers

The Myers Family

The Nicklin Family

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John B Reid AO

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Jessica Simpson

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Millie Smith

Michael Snelling

Southbank Institute of Technology

Zohar Spatz

Barry Stone

Nadie Sugden

Daniel Tobin

Paul & Maureen Tynan

Darren Yap

BOARD & STAFF

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

LA BOITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Brunes	Chair	
Vivienne Anthon	Deputy Chair	(resigned August 2023)
Sarah McAree		
Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM		
Jessica Simpson		
Gresham Congoo		
Sarah Townsend		(appointed April 2023)
Amanda Jolly		(appointed September 2023)

CORE STAFF

Artistic Director & CEO Courtney Stewart

Executive Director Roxane Eden (to 14 April 2023)

Head of Business Ian Prowse (from 20 November 2023)

Head of Development & Stakeholder Engagements Jackie Maxwell

Head of Marketing & Audience Development Yuverina Shewpersad

Marketing Coordinator Jesse Sobey (to 17 March 2023), Siluni Kumarapperuma (from 14 August 2023)

Graphic Designer Sarah Ridgway-Cross

Communications Agency ARUGA

Venue & Operations Manager Nick Seery

Ticketing & Administration Officer Hannah Flannery (to 16 June 2023)

Ticketing & Executive Officer Sophie Wickes (from 24 July 2023)

Venue Coordinator Kayla Cahill (to 3 February 2023)

Resident Dramaturg Katrina Irawati Graham (from 22 May 2023 to 31 December 2023)

Creative Producer Bri Zammit (to 16 June 2023)

Acting Executive Producer Krista Barker (from 11 July 2023)

Youth & Participation Producer Ari Palani (to 16 June 2023)

Associate Producer Jess Bunz

Production Manager Jonathan Harrison (to 27 October 2023), Teegan Kranenburg (from 11 July 2023)

Technical Coordinator Sophie Watkins (to 12 August 2023)

Venue Technician Natalie Scott (from 10 August 2023)

Workshop Manager Andrew Mills

Company Accountant Karen Mitchell

Finance Officer Elizabeth Lepua (from 3 August 2023)

Assistant Accountant Emma Wilson (to 8 August 2023)



BOARD & STAFF

FRONT OF HOUSE, BAR AND CAFÉ STAFF

Aimee Sheather, Annabel Gilbert, Bryson McGuire, Carys Walsh, Cassidy Cahill, Georgia McKenzie, Kathryn Collins, Kayla Cahill, Kristina Marjanac, Lily Williams, Peta Kishawi, Peter Keavy, Presley Woods, Sarah Jarvis, Sophia Harris, Will Carseldine, Zoe Walters, Billy Fogarty, Jess Bunz, Liam Wallis, Megan Dale, Michael Meredith, Olivia Sullivan, Marie Antoinette David, Peter Hatton, Bronte Mew, Courtney Cavallaro.

DESIGNERS

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STAGE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Kat O'Halloran, Kristina Marjanac, Sarah O'Neill, Sophie Watkins, Kayla Alexandra, Jacinta Way, Nicole Neil, Kayla Cahill

OTHER CREATIVES

Aidan Rowlingson, Nadine McDonald-Dowd, Chenturan Aran, Ari Palani, Lewis Treston, Sanja Simic

CAST

Shan-Ree Tan, Merlynn Tong, Kimie Tsukakoshi, Hsin-Ju Ely, Ray Chong Nee, Silvan Rus, Anna Yen, Gareth Yuen, Triona Calimbayan-Giles, Peter Wood, Jazleen Latrise, Sean Dow, Kerri Llewellyn-Allan, Matt Domingo, Christen O'Leary, Sophie Emberson-Bain, Hugh Parker, Will Bartolo, Byron Lankester Howells, Rachel Nutchey, Lukasz Embart

FACILITATORS

Madeleine Lewis, Grace Lofting, Lewis Treston, Saffron Benner, Nicholas Paine, Shari Indriani Irwin, Danielle Carney, Zac Boulton.





LA BOITE

CREATING THEATRE
SINCE 1925

-  LaBoiteTheatre
-  laboitetheatre
-  LaBoiteTheatreCompany
-  la-boite-theatre
-  LaBoiteTheatre

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