

**LA
BOITE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Everything we do at La Boite Theatre is undergirded 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 Custodians 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.

We acknowledge that the lands on which we tell our stories were never ceded. We are grateful for the privilege to work on these lands. We value our collaborations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and advocate for their right to self-determined processes and artistic identity.



LA BOITE COMPANY PROFILE

As Australia's oldest professional theatre company, La Boite has been energising artists and audiences for almost 100 years. During this time, the Company has been a time capsule for the Australian voice. Working on the lands of the Jagera and Turrbal people, our vision is to re-birth the new Australian voice over the next hundred years to be the Country's most diverse theatre company.

We will do this by developing and profiling new voices and artists, and sharing stories that promote cultural equity, social improvement, and interrogate moral and spiritual values and individual and collective responsibility.

La Boite's role in the local, state, and national arts sector is critical to the pipeline of new Australian work. We have a dedicated focus on the sustainability of Queensland-based arts practice and have **an undeniable track record of nurturing artists to make the transition from emerging to established.** La Boite interrogates the boundaries of theatre, creating pathways for local and national artists to mainstream stages in Brisbane and beyond.

La Boite remains determined to increasingly **uncover and reveal untold stories from the voices of the oppressed and underprivileged.** We provide a platform for the Traditional Owners of the land, the Other, the Stranger, and the rejected. Sharing stories from diverse perspectives is a powerful way to encourage and promote cultural empathy.

From the work we deliver, to the community engagement we undertake, to the make-up of our team, **La Boite has its sight set on being the most culturally relevant theatrical institution in the country.**



CHAIR'S REPORT

Adam Bruner

It's remarkable that a near 100-year-old organisation continues to experience so many firsts. As La Boite rockets towards its centenary in just three years' time, 2022 saw the organisation take a number of vital steps in preparation.

Key to this was the appointment of the inimitable Courtney Stewart as La Boite's 18th Artistic Director in July 2022. Courtney is a revered and respected theatre artist and leader and is uniquely qualified to spearhead La Boite's vision to be Australia's most diverse theatre company. It's particularly poignant that a proud and passionate Brisbaneite will steward the organisation into its second century of operation and beyond.

We also saw the fruits of La Boite's trailblazing Artist Company, generously supported by the Federal Government's RISE fund, which allowed us to dream big across our mainstage season with two huge world premiere ensemble productions in Lewis Treiston's *An Ideal Husband* and Anita Heiss's *Tiddas*. What a thrill it was to see large casts at La Boite in full flight! This year also saw us pioneer a powerful new national partnership with Australian Plays Transform, providing 10 playwrights with a three-day play development to evolve their work to the next stage, including access to actors and creatives from the La Boite Artist Company. This trailblazing program culminated with a showcase of five new Australian works at La Boite's Roundhouse Theatre and we are proud to progress *Cut Chilli* by Chenturan Aran to the mainstage in 2023.

2022 brought some significant farewells including the departure of Executive Director and CEO Zohar Spatz, whose three-year tenure amidst unfathomable global disruption was truly inspiring. In November, we also mourned the loss of La Boite icon and Queensland theatre royalty Muriel Watson, whose devotion and generosity to La Boite spanned more than 60 years. Proving all good things must come to an end, Julian Myers retired as Chair in December 2022 following 11 remarkable years of service as a La Boite Board Director, including seven years as Chair. Julian's love and loyalty to La Boite remains and it's an honour to follow in his footsteps.

La Boite is a place of possibility and purpose and it's our supporters who make it so. To our government stakeholders, corporate partners and big-hearted individual backers, we simply couldn't do this without you. Thank you for believing in this vital and vibrant company, and here's cheers to another stellar year of theatre in the year ahead.



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO'S REPORT

Courtney Stewart

Ninety-seven years of existence in an ever-changing landscape takes resilience and ingenuity. Last year, La Boite saw the final instalment of The Artist Company, an initiative that allowed the company to make productions of scale, develop new Australian plays, and interrogate contemporary Artistic leadership models.

This was an invaluable learning experience for La Boite and revealed how important a concise and consolidated vision is to the sustainability of our company. The learnings garnered during this period laid the groundwork for the reinstatement of the Artistic Director position at the company – one that I am privileged to be custodian of as we forge ahead to our 100th year of operation in 2025. 2022 continued to see the changing of the guard at our company with the appointment of Adam Bruner as Chair of the Board. Having Adam's expertise as one of the most accomplished and connected marketing, producing, and business minds in the state will be an invaluable asset to our management team as we continue to hone our strategy to ensure our artists and our company thrive.

In 2022, we developed more than 20 new Australian plays by writers from across the nation and worked with more than 120 artists through our Artist Development programs. Out of our four mainstage shows, two were new Australian works that were originally commissioned by La Boite. In 2023, we will premiere four diverse new Australian works. We spotlight a voice from the Kabi Kabi (Sunshine Coast) and Butchulla (Fraser Coast) communities, explore the adoptee experience in Australia, interrogate the origins of the Chinese diaspora, and celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. Three of these plays were initially supported through La Boite's development programs and it is gratifying and imperative that these new voices are given a full production on the Australian mainstage.

As we head into 2023, we have new challenges to face as we continue to recover from the last three years of business disruption. La Boite will face these challenges head on through the crucial work we program, a targeted and dynamic audience development and retention strategy, and **our unrelenting mission to change the world, one story at a time.**



PRODUCTION SEASON

SEVEN METHODS OF KILLING KYLIE JENNER

By Jasmine Lee-Jones

**A Darlinghurst Theatre Company and Green Door Theatre production,
Presented by La Boite Theatre**

SEASON **24 FEB - 19 MAR 2022**

PAID ATTENDANCE **1881**

BOX OFFICE INCOME **\$71,723**

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES **22**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE **2816**

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writer Jasmine Lee-Jones

Co-Directors Zindzi Okenyo, Shari Sebbens

Production Designer Keerthi Subramanyam

Lighting Designer Kate Baldwin

Composer and Sound Designer Kim 'Busty Beatz' Bowers

Vocal and Dialect Coach Angela Sullen

Audio Visual Designer Wendy Yu

Producer Leila Enright

Stage Manager Ayah Tayeh

**Lead Community Engagement Consultant /
Cleo Understudy** Effie Nkrumah

Brisbane Community Engagement Consultants

Grace Edward, Anisa Nandaula, Saro Roro

Social Media Community Consultant Rebka Bayou

Sydney Community Engagement Consultants

Henrietta Amevor, Bernadette Fam, Moreblessing Maturure,
2 Sydney Stylists (Niwa Mburuja and Wanyika Mshila)

Cast Moreblessing Maturure, Iolanthe



**"FRESH, YOUNG, REAL,
AND EXCEPTIONALLY
WOKE."**

BROADWAY
WORLD

DARLINGHURST
THEATRE COMPANY

GREEN DOOR
THEATRE
COMPANY





PRODUCTION SEASON

246

THE LAST FIVE YEARS

By Jason Robert Brown

Presented by La Boite Theatre

SEASON **28 MAY – 18 JUN 2022**

PAID ATTENDANCE **2432**

BOX OFFICE INCOME **\$118,033**

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES **19**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE **3175**

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writer Jason Robert Brown

Director Darren Yap

Musical Director James Dobinson

Set and Costume Designer Chloe Greaves

Lighting Designer Ben Hughes

Sound Designer Brady Watkins

Choreographer Benjamin Osborne

Movement and Intimacy Director Nigel Poulton

Assistant Creative (Directing) Egan Sun-Bin

Stage Manager Aimee Monement

Assistant Stage Manager Ben Mills

Lighting Operator Katrina Johnston

Sound Operator Sophie Watkins

Cast Danielle Remulta, Robert Tripolino

Musicians Dr Danielle Bentley, Patrick Farrell, David Freisberg, Annie Silva, Joel Woods

Understudies Billy Bouchier, Ellen Tuffley



“A SHOW YOU SIMPLY CANNOT LOOK AWAY FROM.”

THE AU
REVIEW



La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts.



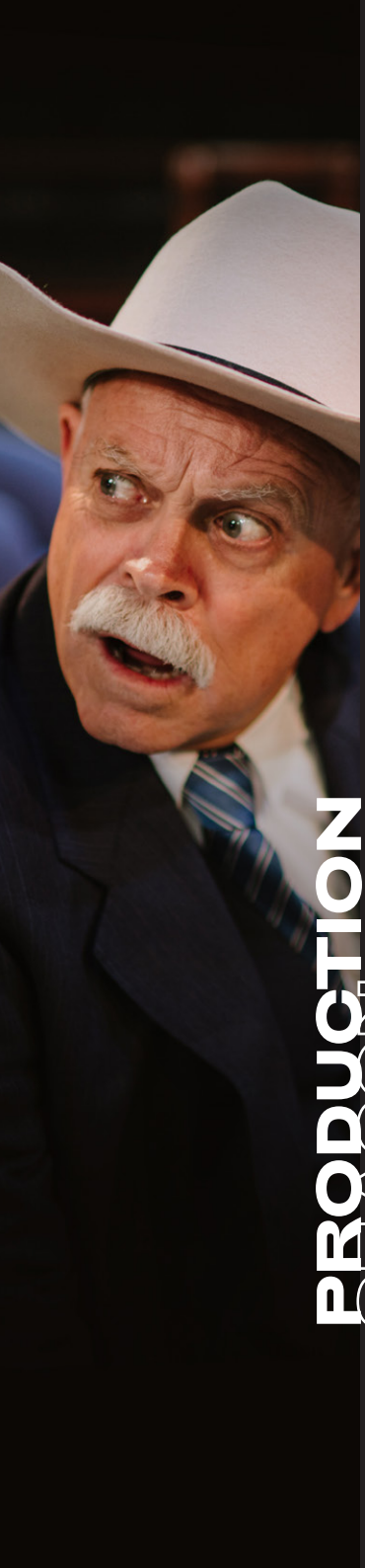
La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Australian Government through the RISE Fund.



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

SECTION 5
PRODUCTION SEASON

LA BOITE THEATRE
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PRODUCTION
SEASON

AN IDEAL HUSBAND

By Lewis Treston after Oscar Wilde

Presented by La Boite Theatre

SEASON **16 JUL - 6 AUG 2022**

PAID ATTENDANCE **2449**

BOX OFFICE INCOME **\$110,197**

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES **17**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE **3342**

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writer Lewis Treston

Director Bridget Boyle

Set and Costume Designer Chloe Greaves

Lighting Designer Jason Glenwright

Composer and Sound Designer Guy Webster

Audio Visual Designer Justin Harrison

Fight and Intimacy Director Nigel Poulton

Choreographer Neridah Waters

Dramaturgical Consultant Saffron Benner

Assistant Creative (Video Design) Nevin Howell

Design Support Sarah Ridgway-Cross

Stage Manager Freddy Komp

Assistant Stage Managers Sophie Watkins, Kayla Cahill

Cast Emily Burton, Will Carseldine, Billy Fogarty, Kevin Hides, Patrick Jhanur, Christen O'Leary, Kevin Spink, Hsiao-Ling Tang

Understudies Anthony Standish, Sarah Ogden, Emily Liu



**"SAUCY, TANTALISING,
SCINTILLATING AND
FRESH."**

SCENESTR





TIDDAS

By Anita Heiss

Presented by La Boite Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Brisbane Festival

SEASON 3 – 24 SEP 2022
PAID ATTENDANCE 3910
BOX OFFICE INCOME \$180,314

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES 19
TOTAL ATTENDANCE 4662

CAST AND CREATIVES

- Writer** Anita Heiss
- Director** Nadine McDonald-Dowd
- Set and Costume Designer** Zoë Rouse
- Lighting Designer** Jason Glenwright
- Composer and Sound Designer** Wil Hughes
- Cultural Consultant** Colleen Wall
- Movement and Intimacy Director** Nigel Poulton
- Dramaturg** Jane Harrison
- Dramaturgical Consultant** Sanja Simić
- Vocal Coach** Dr Melissa Agnew
- Assistant Creatives (Directing)** Aidan Rowlingson, Lara Croydon
- Design Support** Sarah Ridgway-Cross
- Design Intern** Michelle Hair
- Stage Manager** Sophie Watkins
- Assistant Stage Manager** Sarah O'Neill
- Lighting Operator** Katrina Johnston
- Cast** Louise Brehmer, Shakira Clanton, Chenoa Deemal, Sean Dow, Phoebe Grainer, Roxanne McDonald, Anna McMahan
- Understudies** Aidan Rowlingson, Lara Croydon, Helen Stephens

"THE WRITING IS CLEVER AND FUNNY AND REALISTIC."

THE COURIER-MAIL



La Boite Theatre Company is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council of the Arts and industry body.



La Boite is a recipient of the RISE Fund to Support and expand RISE from an Australian Government initiative.



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





ARTIST COMPANY

We were thrilled to continue to showcase our incredibly talented group of artists, the La Boite Artist Company in 2022. Working across our Mainstage Season, Artist Development Programs, and providing teaching opportunities with Youth and Education, they embodied the vision and ecology of La Boite Theatre.

We were privileged to see our Artist Company Directors take works to the stage with Darren Yap bringing musicals back to La Boite with *The Last Five Years*, Nadine McDonald-Dowd bringing *Tiddas* to stage after three years in development and Nigel Poulton providing vital *Intimacy / Fight / Movement* Direction across three of our four Mainstage works.

The La Boite Artist Company enabled the company to dream big across our Mainstage season, with large casts taking the stage in true ensemble shows. We were able to showcase six of our talented actors in *An Ideal Husband* by Lewis Treston and across *Tiddas*.

These artists were also busy behind the scenes, providing their knowledge and skills to national playwrights as a part of our La Boite x Australian Plays Transform partnership and our Artist Development program.

Funded by the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program: Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) fund, the La Boite Artist Company initiative began in a time where artists were faced with serious impacts to the arts industry due to COVID-19. While 2022 continued to provide challenges for artists and companies, we were grateful to have the opportunity to support artists and experiment with a new model of working across 2021-2022.

Statistics 2021 – 2022

9 MAINSTAGE PRODUCTIONS

25 NEW WORKS DEVELOPED

8 READINGS/ SHOWINGS OF WORKS IN PROGRESS

16 SKILL DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

La Boite Artist Company

ACTORS

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





LA BOITE x AUSTRALIAN PLAYS TRANSFORM

In 2022, La Boite embarked in a brand new National partnership with Australian Plays Transform to provide opportunities for playwrights and their plays.

Working with actors and creatives from our Artist Company and local Brisbane artists, the program provided ten playwrights with a three-day Play Development workshop to evolve their work to the next stage.

The program was open to national applications interested in building and developing a pre-existing play.

In November, La Boite showcased five of the plays in the Roundhouse Theatre to give audiences a taste of these new Australian works. We are thrilled to take *Cut Chilli* by Chenturan Aran to the La Boite Mainstage in 2023.

Who

Chenturan Aran – *A Side of Cut Chilli*

James Elazzi – *Miss Tesana*

William Hinz – *Residue*

Donna Hughes – *What Made Lesley Pratchett So Mad?*

Julian Larnach – *Leviathan*

Gemma Bird Matheson – *More Than One Canoe*

Rebecca Meston – *Hits of the 70s, 80s and 90s*

Brian Obiri-Asare – *Speak of the Devil*

Daley Rangī – *Tataraimaka-moana (Beautiful Place By The Sea)*

Steve Rodgers – *The Goldilocks Zone*

Statistics

DEVELOPMENT

10 PLAYWRIGHTS
(3 VIC based, 4 NSW based, 1 SA Based, 2 WA based)

55+ OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECTORS /
DRAMATURGS / ACTORS

SHOWCASE

5 WORKS
Showcased via excerpts

10 ACTORS

68 AUDIENCE



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

Assistant Creatives

La Boite's Assistant Creatives Program provides the opportunity for individuals to engage in industry mentorship within our Mainstage program.

The mission of this program is to provide a connection between emerging and experienced creatives, provide learning opportunities within a Mainstage context and upskill the Brisbane creative community.

The Creative Assistant positions are paid, commensurate with working part-time over a four-week rehearsal period. During each production, the Assistant Creatives shadow their mentor across rehearsal, production week and (if appropriate) throughout the season.

In 2022, La Boite provided four individuals mentorship across our Mainstage Program. Each of the Assistant Creatives proved their capability and skill in this professional development opportunity, and we look forward to seeing their success in the future.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

La Boite Theatre's Artist Development Program is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council.



2022 Assistant Creatives



EGAN SUN-BIN

Directing *The Last Five Years*

Mentor Darren Yap



NEVIN HOWELL

Video Design *An Ideal Husband*

Mentor Justin Harrison



LARA CROYDON

Directing *Tiddas*

Mentor Nadine McDonald-Dowd



AIDAN ROWLINGSON

Directing *Tiddas*

Mentor Nadine McDonald-Dowd

La Boite Commissioned Work

Congratulations! Get Rich by Merlynn Tong

La Boite Artist Company's Merlynn Tong poses the question of whether you can truly escape your past in this exciting new musical theatre work. Set in a Karaoke Lounge on the night before Chinese New Year, this work uses stories, showmanship and songs to explore relationships between the living and the past.

Beautiful Country and **The Good Dad** by David Burton

Through his time with La Boite Artist Company, David Burton produced an initial draft of *Beautiful Country*, a work which explores a story compelled by the harsh experience of Baby Asha, and an initial draft of *The Good Dad*, a one-man comedy.

Tacky by Ellen van Neerven

As a part of the Artist Company, and with the support of Nadine McDonald-Dowd, Ellen van Neerven produced an initial draft of *Tacky*, a work that explores the dichotomy of age, gender, youth and experience with an all First Nations cast.

Supported Projects

YOKE by Aha Ensemble

YOKE, a disability-led dance-theatre work, returned to La Boite for a two-week development. After their initial development and showing in 2021, Aha Ensemble revisited the work to refine and shape the series of interconnected partner works with the support of Leisel Zink.

The Great Emu War by Paul Hodge and Cal Silberstein

The Great Emu War is a brand new musical that highlights a unique part of Australian History, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2022. This three-day development connected Darren Yap to the project to further explore the theatrical elements with the cast, writers and musical directors.

Capricorn by Aidan Rowlingson

Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) and La Boite collaborated to support a one-week development of *Capricorn* by Aidan Rowlingson. This work has been previously supported by the Sparks program with QPAC and PlayLab and through Yellamundie Festival by Moogahlin Performing Arts Inc. La Boite is excited to continue this partnership with QPAC to bring this work to the Mainstage in 2023.

Skills Development Program

La Boite launched a new Behind-the-Curtain Masterclass Series which gave artists the opportunity to see processes in action. These Masterclass events featured audition-style experience that provided a window into the learning processes experiences within rehearsal rooms and beyond. The events included:

Biomechanics Masterclass with Nigel Poulton

ATTENDANCE 101 people

Audition Masterclass with Christen O'Leary

ATTENDANCE 106 people

C.R.U.S.H by Crossroad Arts

Our ongoing partnership with Crossroad Arts (Mackay) continued in 2022 with La Boite's Youth and Education Producer, Ari Palani, facilitating three days of professional skills development workshops in contemporary movement, performance and theatre making for d/Deaf and/or disabled and/or neurodiverse artists nationally. *C.R.U.S.H* is suitable for all ages, bodies, minds and levels of artistic experience, and in 2022 participants doubled to 76. This ongoing partnership celebrates the power of communities, collaborations and professional theatrical experiences for all.

Stage to Screen: Incubator and Pitching Event

In 2022, La Boite and Screen Queensland continued our partnership, which saw the return of the Stage to Screen Incubator program that allowed the opportunity for six Playwrights to build integral skills to help pitch their work to the film industry.

The week-long incubator in February 2022 was guided by Industry Facilitators, Diya Eid and Stephen Lance and supported with mentorship sessions with Krissy Kneen, Stephanie Dower and Andrew Knight.

In November 2022, four of the participants were given the opportunity to pitch their work live to an industry panel. This event was presented by La Boite, Screen Queensland and Brisbane International Film Festival, and featured SQ's Lucy Markovich as facilitator, with an industry panel including: Veronica Fury (Wild Bear Productions), Matt Pearson (Story Bridge Films) and Richard Jameson (Wirram Media).

Program Participants

Hannah Belanszky
David Burton
Luke Diamond
Kayah Guenther / Gavin Webber
Anna Loren
Thien Nguyen

Work-In-Progress Showings

As a part of our Artist Development program, La Boite also supported short term developments and readings for the following projects:

Falling Up

Written by **Amer Thabet**
Presented in association with **Belloo Creative**
Directed by **Caroline Dunphy**
Dramaturgy by **Katherine Lyall-Watson**

Travelling from Damascus to Brisbane, via refugee camps in Lebanon and Iraq, *Falling Up* is Amer Thabet's thrilling autobiographical play that shares a story of survival, hope, humour and love, told in Arabic and English by a brilliant storyteller.

Let's Break Up

Written by **Anisa Nandaula**
Directed by **Ari Palani**
Dramaturgy by **Sanja Simić**

Let's Break Up is a multidisciplinary work by award-winning poet and founder of Brisbane-based collective Voices of Colour, Anisa Nandaula, which combines stand-up comedy and spoken word to interrogate the world through the personal, political and hilarious.

A one-woman work that centers Anisa's interpersonal relationships with friends, family, lovers, and so-called Australia to explore a range of critical issues, including race, feminism, and contemporary politics.

ATYP and Fresh Ink works

La Boite and Australian Theatre For Young People (ATYP) partnered together to deliver the Fresh Ink National Mentoring Program for emerging writers. La Boite's Youth and Education Producer Ari Palani worked with esteemed Dramaturg Saffron Benner and the ATYP team to provide an 8-month development program with four writers to further their chosen scripts.

Monthly mentorship meetings allowed for ongoing script development culminating in an invited reading in July and a public showcase in November 2022.

Playwrights

Courtney Cavallaro – *White Christmas*
Nicole Haeusler – *I Don't Like Who I Live With*
Blake Hohenhaus – *Loving Men*
Egan Sun-Bin – *Kung Pow Cambodia*



YOUTH & EDUCATION

La Boite is committed to providing experience-defining educational opportunities and training for school students, teachers and emerging artists.

Through our dedicated Youth & Education arm, the company aims to connect participants with inventive programs, industry leading professional artists and processes at the forefront of professional theatre practice. Aligning with State and National curricula, we strive to make these offerings as relevant to classrooms and the varied contexts students and teachers find themselves in.

Through passionate dedication to diversity and access, we are committed to creating programs and making scholarship pathways available to those who 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)

For Young and Emerging Artists

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

Assembly La Boite's Assembly is an eight-week skills development 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 to participate, and work towards a public outcome. This includes six masterclasses, one intensive full day rehearsal culminating in a public outcome.

For Classrooms

\$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 and conventions.

Digital Program Syllabus-aligned production and workshop recordings allow teachers and students to engage with the magic of live theatre, without leaving their classroom.

Multicultural Young Artist Program (MYAP)

MYAP is a creative enrichment program designed for people aged 11-19 years, for educational, recreational and social activities through intercultural, multimodal and multilingual delivery.

Specifically designed to support young people from refugee and migrant backgrounds, the program promotes literacy and numeracy, self-expression, leadership and confidence in their new communities whilst resettling. Storytelling is a key component to building a sense of belonging and fostering our contemporary cultural identities. In 2022, 223 participants with origins in 22+ countries were engaged.

Facilitated by a team of Teaching Artists with lived resettlement experiences and supported by Multicultural Australia and the Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT), MYAP centres and celebrates Australia's next generation of stories and storytellers across our stages.

2022 Delivery Locations

Woodridge State High School
 Milpera State High School
 Yeronga State High School

“I experienced things that other subjects just don’t have. This program makes me feel interested, comfortable and relaxed.”

– J 15, MILPERA SHS PARTICIPANT

“I learned many things from our time together. I learned to be confident and speak English very well!”

– N 14, WOODRIDGE SHS PARTICIPANT





THE WELCOME

By Cieavash Arean, Nima Doostkhah, Aurora Liddle-Christie, Dr Matt Hsu, Anisa Nandula, Liliana Sanchez, Amer Thabet and Aunty Colleen Wall

Co-created by Todd MacDonald, Aleea Monsour and Ari Palani

Presented with the support of Queensland Government's Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, the Commonwealth Bank and in partnership with KIOSK

Case Study

Growing upon the success of *The Neighbourhood* in 2020 and supported by a strategy of digital delivery, La Boite partnered with the Queensland Government's Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs, and Commonwealth Bank, to deliver a life-affirming collection of short films for Multicultural Month 2021 and beyond. The films were specifically curated for Queenslanders across all regions to:

- Promote Queensland's cultural and linguistic diversity
- Provide positive narratives around diversity and inclusion in Queensland
- And increase intercultural understanding based on the real stories of belonging from diverse Queenslanders.

With the creative collaboration of Brisbane-based internationally-focused television production company KIOSK, these nine short stories and core film premiered online as a free digital resource. In 2021-22 these screened across multiple digital platforms, international film festivals and were showcased in the Australian Pavilion at the EXPO 2020 Dubai.

- **15k+** viewers January – April 2021 on YouTube
- **220+** viewing hours on YouTube
- **75%** of viewers located in regional Australia, with the highest viewership originating from Queensland

In 2022 these works have become packaged with professional development workshops designed and presented for teachers and students to aid in supporting learning around a key pillar in the Australian Curriculum (F-10) Intercultural Understanding. This program will ensure that all school students in Queensland and nationally will have access to first-hand stories and cultural competency development opportunities free of charge.

Timeline

- 2017** *The Village* premiere season
- 2018** *The Village* return season
- 2019** Development underway to turn the promenade style *The Village* into an in-theatre experience
- 2020** *The Neighbourhood* premiere season (transfer season at Empire Theatres cancelled due to COVID)
- 2021** Development of *The Neighbourhood* into a digital project, screened across digital platforms and international film festivals
- 2022** Further development of *The Welcome* into a digital education experience inclusive of workshops for teachers and students
- 2023** *The Welcome* Education Package to be launched to Queensland schools in 2023





DHAGUN

YUGGERA WORD MEANING EARTH, PLACE OR COUNTRY

Over 2021 and 2022 La Boite partnered with Blaklash Creative to deliver *dhagun*.

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.

La Boite is committed to activating our forecourt area and building to be a more supportive space for free public art, performances and community activities. *dhagun* and La Boite's outdoor activities in 2021 and 2022 were funded by Arts Queensland's COVID-19 Recovery Open Air Fund and Brisbane City Council.

**BLAK
LASH**
creative



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

2022 Featured Artworks

Invasion Day 2022

Lewis Bin Doraho

Beeyali (2021)

Lyndon Davis, Leah Barclay and Tricia King

Fragments of Redlands: the ocean pandanus (2021)

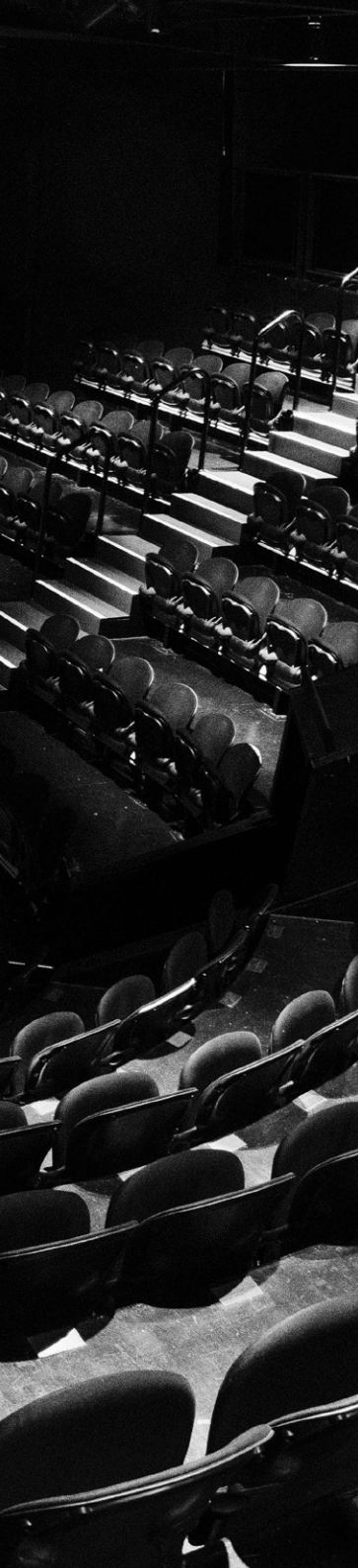
Tamika Grant-Iramu

2022 Featured Performances

SolChld

Blak Cadence

Kritty



VENUE ACTIVITIES

Venue Hire

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

Across the year, La Boite hosted a total of 48 performances and events through venue hire activities which were attended by over 8,000 patrons. La Boite engaged with 50 individual technicians and front of house staff to assist in the delivery of our projects and activities.

La Boite remains committed to providing support to the wider Brisbane arts community, local businesses, not-for-profits, charities, and NGOs. In addition to our commercial venue hires, La Boite Theatre provided over \$85,000 of in-kind support to the Brisbane arts community.

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

Since 2021 La Boite has been part of the Tessitura Network, enabling us to deliver ticketing in-house while also ensuring we can be flexible and responsive to patron requests and external users of the venue.

Partnerships

In 2022, La Boite continued partnerships with:

VERMILLION RECORDS

A not-for-profit, student-run record label based out of QUT for live music performances in our Mornings with Merlo and Sunset Sound sessions.

QUIVR

Brisbane's own independent DJ platform for DJ sets across the year.

MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA

In hosting World Refugee Day activities and film screening.

Roundhouse Theatre

Finesse Burlesque

CYOS Street Dance Battles Mad Dance House & Golden Coastlines

RUNT CIRCfest 2022

Youth TheatreSports Finals TheatreSports Queensland

Circus Evolved Bend The Air

Love Sermon Story Baker

The 39 Steps Vena Cava Productions

Shakefest shake & stir theatre co

FLEE (2021) Screening Multicultural Australia

Vermillion High Showcase Vermillion Records

QUT School of Creative Practice Showcase Queensland University of Technology

The Bluff + The Kidney Double-Bill The Drawer Productions & Speakeasy Productions

A Very Naughty Christmas Woodward Productions

La Boite Studio

Woodward Productions

Brainstorm Productions

Access Arts

Unless Pictures

QUT Acting School

Iranian Solidarity Event

La Boite Forecourt

World Refugee Day 2022 (Multicultural Australia)

Multicultural Queensland Awards 2022 (Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs)

Other

La Boite also provided in-kind support in 2022 to:

Dead Puppet Society

The Farm

Queensland Theatre



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.



Media Partners



Season Partners



Presenting & Development Partners





PHILANTHROPY

Your generous donations throughout 2022 not only allowed La Boite to support the creation of new work, but also to nurture emerging artists, explore new arts practice and keep the theatre open.

We engaged in our community by investing in our young audiences through our youth and education programs. In December, La Boite secured matched funding through the collaboration funding initiative between Arts Queensland's New Strategic Partnerships Fund and Creative Partnerships Australia Plus 1 Program. This initiative will match Dollar for Dollar until 30 May 2023.

The act of donating is no small gesture, 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, investing in new and significant theatre, support a program of free events, and invest in renewable technologies. These generous donations are from our direct giving program and Box Office Giving.

The *La Boite Associates*

2022 saw La Boite's new Artistic Director open her office to Brisbane arts enthusiasts for 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 newest 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.

“Come along and join me on this extraordinary three-year journey; a once-in-a-lifetime experience to herald La Boite’s second century of operation.”

COURTNEY STEWART, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Create a future for Artists

This brand-new 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 an ongoing instalment to celebrate those who celebrate us. Residing in the Espresso Bar Foyer, this highly visible 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 theatrical works. 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.

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 provided support. Over the years, donors have chosen to give through this campaign to celebrate their love of theatre with 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

In its second year, the La Boite Bursaries created outstanding experiences and opportunities for young artists and creatives. Individual bursaries allow 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 your support to the area that you care about.

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!

Corporate Philanthropy & Sponsorship

Our Corporate Partners help us achieve our goals, playing a crucial role in the provision of financial or logistical support throughout the year. La Boite’s thriving artistic activity is underpinned by a strong community of corporate supporters. We pride ourselves on our ability to create and sustain long-term partnerships that become an extension of the La Boite family. We ensure that our unique tailor-made partnerships offer increased opportunities for our partners to grow their networks.

Once again it is with great pride and admiration that we thank those companies who have also continued to make a philanthropic donation as part of their commitment to La Boite’s success. Several of La Boite’s corporate partners made a renewed pledge of support through our Wall of Light program. In addition to cash sponsorship, we received over \$420,000 of in-kind support in 2022.

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 2022.

Platinum

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

Diamond

Lucy Coulson
Sheryl Cornack
Sean Dowling
L & R Foundation
Daniel Tobin

Gold

Bruce Blocksidge
Michelle Boyd
Samuel Boyd
Katherine Hoepper
Wayne Kratzmann AM
Jackie Maxwell
Sarah McAree
Multicultural Australia
Lois Murray
Collin Myers AM
Marilyn Myers
Jill Nicklin
Fiona Poschelk
Kaye Stevenson
The Little Red Company

Silver

ARUGA
Ian Barfoot
Geoffrey Beames
Bill & Margie 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
Scott Gibson
Sophia Hall
Justin Harrison
Marc James
Annette Kerwitz
Andrea Kriewaldt
Sean Leader
Susan Learmonth
Shirley Markie
Karen Mitchell
Jamie Nicol
John Nuell
Prue Pateras
Naomi Price
Jessica Simpson
Zohar Spatz
Darren Yap
BAC

Bronze

Sheryl Ballesty
Jacob Brewer
Cathy Brown
Adam Brunes
Julian Buckley
Jane Eastwood
Samuel Mayze
Dirk McNicoll

Friend

Sheryl & Neil Ballesty
Hannah Barr
Jacqui Betteridge
Katrina Bills
Kanchana Bishop
Meg Bock
Lucy Bopf
Barbara Brooks
Jaymie Celesto
John Cleary
Kathryn Dekker
Rachel Dunstan
Ian Fraser
Matthew Gambin
Glugs Of Gosh Brisbane
Clare Guilfoyle
Sharriese Hamilton
Miriam Hart
Leanne Higgens-Bond
Glenn Hughes
Melanie Hughes
Judith Hunt
JC Decaux Australia
Thomas Kulich
Alicia Martin
Jeremy Neideck
Jennifer Odell
Wendy O'Donnell
Rebecca Parer
Kristine Parikka
Chloe Rowe
Maryanne Russell
Gary Sawyer

Nellie Scott
Antonia Sullivan
Sara Taghaode
Hsiao-Ling Tang
Kyle Turpin
Margaret Tutunoa
Yonghui Wang
Jenny Wynter
Richard Young



The Wall of Light

On behalf of the Board and Staff of La Boite, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generous donations in 2022.

John B. Reid AO
 Tim Fairfax AC
 The Myers Family
 Philip Bacon AM
 The Makeham Family
 QUT Creative Industries
 James and Tess Lye
 Boris' Wife
 Encourage, Support & Promote
 Theatre
 Sarah McAree
 Christine Comans
 Laurel, Ted & Kerrin Benson AM
 Can't Keep My Eyes Off You,
 La Boite
 The Houghton & Russel Family
 Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM
 Gina Fairfax AC
 Darren Mew
 Steve Smith
 Wayne Kratzmann AM
 Multicultural Australia

Katherine Hoepper
 Honouring Our Volunteers
 Samuel Boyd
 Andrea & Martin Kriewaldt
 POWER ARTS
 Collin Myers AM & Marilyn Myers
 Lucy Coulson
 Anna Davidson
 Almost was good enough Jackie
 Maxwell
 Actors and Entertainers
 Benevolent Fund QLD
 Bec Langdon and Julian Buckley
 All You Need Is Love
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth
 Barry Stone and Michelle Boyd
 The Blocksidge Family
 Ian Barfoot Corporate Audit and
 Insurance Services
 The Nicklin Family
 Ben and Fiona Poschelk
 Margi Brown Ash & Bill Ash

Jessica Simpson
 Brisbane Airport Corporation
 Karen Mitchell FCA
 Wesley Enoch AM
 Asher & Nate
 Joy & Judith McLean
 APN Outdoor
 Epic Hair Designs
 Dendy Cinemas
 Geoffrey Beames
 PricewaterhouseCoopers
 Naomi Price
 Adam Gardnir and Joseph
 Simons
 Daniel Tobin & Gilbert Guaring
 Sean Dowling
 Eliza & Millie Smith
 Michael Snelling and Suhanya
 Raffel
 Treasure Memories
 Quest Kelvin Grove
 Paul and Maureen Tynan

Les Batros
 Adam Brunes & Jacob Brewer
 Zarah Anthon
 BVN
 Leanne Muller and Robert
 Hubbard
 Tony Denholder & Scott Gibson
 David Berthold
 Peter Coldrake AO
 Shirley Markey
 Anna and Nigel Markey
 The Nicklin Family
 Susan Ellison and Kevin O'Brien
 The McGann Family
 Ari Anthon
 Samuel Mayze & Nadie Sugden
 Darren Yap & Max Lambert
 Justin Harrison
 Ziva Anthon



BOARD & STAFF

Organisation Profile

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

La Boite Board of Directors

Julian Myers (stepped down as Director and Chair of the Board on 12 December 2022), Adam Brunes (Chair of the Board from 12 December 2022), Vivienne Anthon (Deputy Chair of the Board), Gresham Congoo (appointed to the Board on 17 October 2022), Sarah McAree, Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM, Jessica Simpson

Staff

Artistic Director & CEO Courtney Stewart (from 18 July 2022)

Executive Director & CEO Zohar Spatz (to 29 April 2022)

Executive Director Roxane Eden (from 2 May 2022)

Creative Producer Bri Zammit

Youth & Participation Producer Ari Palani

Artist Company Manager Anika Vilée (to 4 March 2022)

Associate Producer Aidan Rowlingson (to 14 October 2022),
Jessica Bunz (from 9 March 2022)

Finance & Venue Manager Roxane Eden (to 29 April 2022)

Assistant Accountant Emma Wilson

Venue & Operations Manager Nick Seery (from 16 May 2022)

Venue Coordinator Kayla Cahill

Ticketing & Administration Officer Hannah Flannery

Director, Development & Philanthropy Jackie Maxwell

Marketing & Audience Development Manager Joeli Gribben (to 15
April 2022), Yuverina Shewpersad (from 25 May 2022)

Marketing Coordinator Jesse Sobey

Graphic Designer & Digital Marketing Coordinator

Sarah Ridgway-Cross

Communications Agency ARUGA

Production Manager Jonathan Harrison

Venue Production Manager Stu Syme (to 11 March 2022)

Workshop Coordinator Andrew Mills

Venue Technician Sophie Watkins (from 3 May 2022)

Front of House, Bar and Café Staff

Jessica Bunz, Cassidy Cahill, Natalie Callaghan, Courtney Cavallaro, Megan Dale, Marie David, Owen Green, Sophia Harris, Peter Keavy, Kristina Marjanac, Mayatu, Georgia McKenzie, Bronte Mew, Daphne Ratcliffe, Levi Rose, Elijah Sanderson, Aimee Sheather, Lewis Treston, Carys Walsh, Lily Williams, Presley Woods

Technical, Costume, Carpentry and Scenic Art Staff

Jamie Bowman, Hunter Brown, Emma Burchell, Leighton Burgess, Riley Camejo, Shaun Caulfield, Winter Chapman, Briana Clark, Morgan Cole-Jones, Sarah Connolly, Joshua Culcross, Brandon Duncan, Stephanie Ganfield, Jessica Johnson, Katrina Johnston, Peter Keavy, Nathaniel Knight, Freddy Komp, Sebastian Long, Jaelyn Lyas, Andrew McNelley, Ben Mills, Iluka Nally, Ella O'Brien, Sarah O'Neill, Brooklyn Pace, Thomas Panitz, Anto Peter, Peregrine Sanders, Olivia Shoosmith, Alison Smith, Kaleb Stewart, Hudson Taylor, Jamie Taylor, Sean Thomas, Kirsty Thompson, Hannah Tighe, Michael Trevisan, Lachlan Van Der Kreek, Brady Watkins, Sophie Watkins, Lindsay Wilkins

Stage Management

Kayla Cahill, Freddy Komp, Ben Mills, Aimee Monement, Sarah O'Neill, Ayah Tayeh, Sophie Watkins

LABOITE

laboite.com.au

