

LA BOITE THEATRE LTD

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**LA
BOITE**

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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 give our respects to their Elders past and present. We honour the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the first Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and their ancient and enduring cultures.

This country was the home of storytelling long before La Boite existed, and we are privileged and grateful to share our stories here today.



LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY PROFILE

La Boite Theatre is Australia's oldest continuously running professional theatre company and will celebrate 100 years of uninterrupted storytelling and theatre-making in 2025.

La Boite pushes the boundaries of theatre, creating pathways for local and national artists to bring their work to mainstream stages in Queensland and beyond. We work to create powerful connections between artists and audiences through stories that entertain, move, empower, surprise and transfix.

We believe that leaving a legacy requires actively creating one, and we are driven by a vision to forge another century of transforming our world, one story at a time.

La Boite's work is grounded in cultural equity, social cohesion, and the interrogation of individual and collective responsibility.

We have a long-held commitment to sustaining Queensland-based arts practices and have an impressive track record of nurturing artists as they transition from emerging to established careers.

Founded within the community, La Boite 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.

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.

It's a milestone that signifies its ability to evolve with the times, navigate uncertainties, and continue thriving amidst adversity.

Beyond longevity, it represents a profound impact on society, economy and culture.

Situated in the inner-city suburb of Kelvin Grove in Brisbane, Queensland's capital, La Boite's home is the iconic Roundhouse Theatre, one of the country's only purpose-built theatres in the round.



"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

LA BOITE THEATRE CHAIR

Adam Brunes

As La Boite Theatre approaches its 100th anniversary in 2025, this year has been defined by both celebration and strategic resolve. In the face of a challenging economic climate, with rising costs, shifting audience behaviours and continued pressure on the arts sector, we have remained steadfast in our vision, committed to creating ambitious, inclusive theatre that speaks to the times we live in.



Sustainability has remained front of mind. In 2024, we sharpened our focus on revenue growth and diversification, ensuring La Boite Theatre is not only artistically bold but financially resilient. A key pillar of this approach has been our deep investment in co-productions. By combining resources, sharing risk and reach, and collaborating across borders, we have extended the life of our work, enriched it through shared creative leadership and delivered greater impact for our artists and audiences.

This strategy was brought to life in a series of remarkable collaborations throughout 2024. Our powerful First Nations-led production *TIDDAS*, co-produced with Brisbane Festival and QPAC in 2022, travelled to Belvoir as part of Sydney Festival 2024 – a defining moment in La Boite’s national trajectory and a celebration of cross-border storytelling.

We proudly presented Belvoir’s acclaimed production of *Blue*, written and performed by Brisbane’s own Thomas Weatherall in a knock-out homecoming season that affirmed our role in extending the life of superb productions deserving of a wider audience.

The world premiere of *Fancy Long Legs*, a joyful new children’s musical celebrating neurodivergence, was delivered in partnership with The Little Red Company and Brisbane Festival. This work delighted audiences of all ages and, notably, marks the beginning of what we know will be a long and impactful life for the production across Australia, starting with a 2025 Adelaide season at DreamBIG; the world’s oldest children’s festival.

We also presented *Yoga Play*, La Boite’s first collaboration with the National Theatre of Parramatta, directed by international guest artist Mina Morita. This Australian premiere highlighted the strength and possibility of new national partnerships – collaborations that deepen our creative relationships and bring new voices and perspectives into our spaces.

At the heart of this momentum was a historic milestone: La Boite’s entry into the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework. Administered by Creative Australia in collaboration with all states and territories, the Framework provides critical stability and support for leading arts organisations across the country. This milestone affirms La Boite’s artistic leadership, national relevance and ongoing contribution to the Australian cultural landscape.

Crucially, this outcome is the result of decades of work and a testament to the tenacity, vision and dedication of all those who have contributed to La Boite’s journey. We pay tribute to the artists, administrators, board members, donors and audiences past and present who helped build the company we are today.

To Artistic Director and CEO Courtney Stewart, whose fearless leadership and strategic clarity continue to shape La Boite’s trajectory, along with Head of Business Ian Prowse, Head of Marketing Jacqueline Bawtree and the entire La Boite team, whose talent and tenacity underpin everything we do – the Board thanks you for your unwavering commitment and passion.

Finally, to our government partners, donors, sponsors and co-producing collaborators – our heartfelt gratitude. Your belief in what La Boite stands for has never been more important. With your support, we are proudly preparing to celebrate our centenary not just as a moment of legacy but as a launchpad for the century ahead.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO

Courtney Stewart

It is such an honour to be a cultural institution, responsible for the making and sharing of stories here on Yuggera and Turrbal Country, in Brisbane, Queensland. This past year has tested us both individually and collectively, as global crises—from conflict and climate change to economic uncertainty—continue to challenge the way we live and connect. Yet, we find strength in unity, and across our community, people are sharing their experiences, reflecting on local and global challenges, engaging with significant social and environmental shifts, and holding firm to their visions of a brighter, more hopeful future.



This honour of being a cultural institution certainly comes with continued challenges. As with everyone, we are all experiencing the impact of the rising cost of living, but together, we've navigated these trials with resilience and creativity. We've remained steadfast in our commitment to bringing extraordinary artistic experiences to our audiences, pushing pre-conceptions of what is possible, and delivering on our mission to create powerful connections between artists and audiences through stories that entertain, move, empower, surprise and transfix.

Our mainstage season saw the revitalisation of our longstanding relationship with schools, students and educators. La Boite has long been the place where young people have had their first theatrical experience, and it's incredibly heartening to see the indefatigable efforts of drama educators across the state bringing their students back to the theatre after the challenges of the pandemic. Our cultural exchange with our dear friends at Belvoir saw our production of *Tiddas* headline at Sydney Festival, while Belvoir's production of *Blue* saw beloved Brisbane artist Thomas Weatherall return home to share his knockout one man show with audiences here. We revisited the cult classic *Closer* in a bruising new production with some of Queensland's best talent. *Fancy Long Legs* brought families into our home here at the Roundhouse, celebrating all the different ways we perceive the world around us. We are looking forward to *Fancy Long Legs*, a collaboration with The Little Red Company and Brisbane Festival, delighting audiences in Adelaide on tour in 2025. Finally, we continued to cement our impact on the national and international landscape with our co-production of *Yoga Play* with co-producing partner Riverside National Theatre of Parramatta and internationally renowned director Mina Morita.

Our landmark artist development program Assembly was back with a cohort of worldclass artists. Brisbane has always been teeming with independent artists of the highest calibre, and it was thrilling to watch the seeds of nine new Australian plays start to sprout. Our artistic achievements this year have been nothing short of remarkable. From groundbreaking performances to inspiring collaborations, our efforts have resonated deeply with our community. Our dedication to artistic excellence has been unwavering, and our successes are a testament to our team's passion and talent.

I'm pleased to report that our funding has stabilised with our entry into the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework, ensuring our sustainability and enabling us to plan confidently for the future. This financial security allows us to continue our mission of enriching lives through the arts and nurturing creativity in all its forms.

Our successes would not be possible without our small but mighty team, whose dedication and hard work have been the cornerstone of our achievements. To our incredible artists, whose talent and passion inspire us every day, we say thank you. To our Board, collaborators, donors, and audiences, your unwavering support and belief in our vision have been invaluable. Together, we've created something truly special.

As we dive into 2025, we're filled with excitement and anticipation for what lies ahead as we celebrate our 100th year. This year promises to be our biggest yet, brimming with new stories and collaborations, innovative programs, and inspiring performances. We look forward to sharing this journey with all of you, and we can't wait to see what we'll achieve together.

Thank you for being a part of our story. Here's to a bright, creative and inclusive future!

MAINSTAGE SEASON

Closer

After 24 years, *Closer*, a cult classic by Patrick Marber, returned to La Boite to get under the audience's skin once again.

The Olivier Award-winning work follows the lives of out-of-towner Alice, photographer Anna, obituary writer Dan, and dermatologist Larry over several years as they meet, bond, separate, and move on.

Described as "bruising and beautiful", *Closer* offers a confronting reality about how adults approach relationships.

Artistic Director Courtney Stewart directed an all-Queensland cast in this critically acclaimed work, which blends classical tragedy, comedy, and melodrama in a contemporary setting.

Blue

Blue made its Queensland debut at La Boite in 2024, following its premiere season at Belvoir as part of Sydney Festival 2023.

A bold and deeply personal new work from Thomas Weatherall, *Blue* is a touching and beautiful exploration of a young person's journey through grief, loss, mental well-being, and young adulthood.

A work of "very personal fiction", *Blue* draws from Weatherall's experiences as a teenager and young adult, finding his place in the world and overcoming an onslaught of emotional circumstances. It was brought to the stage by director Deborah Brown, a choreographer and award-winning dancer from Bangarra.

Blue struck the hearts and minds of audiences who poured in to see the Logie Award-winning *Heartbreak High* star take the Roundhouse stage in a vulnerable and moving performance.

Rachel Burke's Fancy Long Legs

Based on a picture book by Brisbane's international tinsel and craft icon Rachel Burke, *Fancy Long Legs* was a brand-new, glittery musical adventure brought to life by La Boite Theatre, Brisbane Festival, and The Little Red Company.

This bright and bold production gifted sparkle, inclusivity, and catchy tunes to the youngest theatregoers, while breaking new ground in accessibility for young audiences. Designed to create a welcoming, safe, and inclusive theatre experience for all, each performance in the season was presented as a 'relaxed' session, proudly featuring flexible venue access, ambient lighting, spoiler sheets, sensory warnings, a quiet space, accessible seating, and, on select performances, Auslan interpretation, audio description, and tactile tours.

Yoga Play

Yoga Play is a sharp comedy that interrogates what it takes to find your authenticity in a world determined to sell enlightenment.

An uproarious exploration of cultural appropriation, exploitation, consumerism, fat-shaming, and yoga pants at any cost, the work—written by US playwright Dipika Guha and directed by internationally renowned director Mina Morita—played at La Boite as part of its Australian premiere season, following a season at Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta.

Queensland favourites Andrea Moor and Thomas Larkin were joined on stage by exceptional Sydney cast members Nat Jobe, Camila Ponte Alvarez, and Jemwel Danao.



CLOSER

A SHOW OF DESIRE AND BETRAYAL

By Patrick Marber
Directed by Courtney Stewart

Presented by La Boite Theatre

SEASON 4 - 20 APRIL 2024

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES 15

TOTAL ATTENDANCE 2083

CAST AND CREATIVES

Playwright Patrick Marber

Director Courtney Stewart

Set & Costume Designer M'ck McKeague

Lighting Designer Glenn Hughes

Sound Designer & Composer Wil Hughes

Fight, Intimacy & Movement Director Nigel Poulton

Creative Consultant Eli Free

MakeUp SFX Nicholas James

Director Observership Participants Fikrte Bushell, Chelsea August

Stage Manager Peter Sutherland

Assistant Stage Manager Kayla Cahill

Lighting Operator Riley Camejo

Voice and Accent Helen Howard

Cast Sophia Emberson-Bain, Anna McGahan, Colin W. Smith, Kevin Spink



**"CLOSER REMAINS SUCH A POWERFUL
PIECE OF THEATRE THAT IT DEMANDS
TO BE SEEN."**

LIMELIGHT

**"ALMOST 30 YEARS AFTER ITS
PREMIERE, THE LANGUAGE OF CLOSER
RETAINS ITS BITE."**

IN REVIEW

**"CLOSER AT LA BOITE IS BEAUTIFULLY
ACTED. IT MAINTAINS THE ILLUSION
FROM START TO FINISH."**

WESTENDER

**LA
BOITE**



La Boite Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



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

BLUE

A SHOW OF TRANQUILITY AND GRACE

By Thomas Weatherall

**A Belvoir St Production presented by
La Boite Theatre**

SEASON **16 MAY - 1 JUNE 2024**
NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES **16**
TOTAL ATTENDANCE **3198**

CAST AND CREATIVES

Playwright Thomas Weatherall
Director Deborah Brown
Set & Costume Designer Jacob Nash & Cris Baldwin
Lighting Designer Chloe Ogilvie
Sound Designer & Composer Wil Hughes
Video Designer David Bergman
Stage Manager Isabella Kerdijk
Associate Director & Dramaturg Dom Mercer
Lighting Realiser & Production Manager Richard Whitehouse
Technical Mechanist Matthew James
Cast Thomas Weatherall



**"HONEST, WELL-OBSERVED AND
HYPNOTICALLY ENGAGING."**

WEEKEND NOTES

**"A TOUR DE FORCE THAT
CAPTIVATES THE AUDIENCE
FROM BEGINNING TO END."**

SCENESTR

**"BLUE IS FULL OF HEART AND
HEARTBREAKING HONESTY."**

BLUE CURTAINS



La Boite Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



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

RACHEL BURKE'S FANCY LONG LEGS

A SHOW OF RAZZLE DAZZLE
AND ACCEPTANCE

Adapted for the stage by Naomi Price
Original Music by Waveney Yasso
Directed by Courtney Stewart

**Presented By La Boite Theatre,
Brisbane Festival and The Little Red Company**

SEASON 12 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES 17

TOTAL ATTENDANCE 3450

CAST AND CREATIVES

Author Rachel Burke

Playwright Naomi Price

Director Courtney Stewart

Composer Waveney Yasso

Set & Costume Designer Rachel Burke

Design Realisation Josh McIntosh

Arrangements & Music Direction Alex Van den Broek

Lighting Designer Teegan Kranenburg

Sound Designer Brady Watkins

Stage Manager Angela Ponting



Assistant Stage Manager Gigi McLaren

Assistant Director Rebekkah Law

Sound Operator Riley Camejo

Lighting Operator George Pitt

Access Consultant Madeleine Little

Education Consultant Annette Box

Cast Irena Lysiuk, Kate Yaxley, Mia Lierich, Tim Carroll

Production Intern Alexandra MacDonald

Director Observers Amy Chien-Yu Wang, Brooklyn Matthews, Henry Booth

"DELIGHTFUL... WHAT REALLY MAKES THIS PRODUCTION STAND OUT FROM THE REST IS THE INCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE EVENT."

BRISBANE KIDS

"GENUINELY AMAZING... IT'S LOCAL, IT'S AMBITIOUS, IT'S KIND, IT'S INCLUSIVE, IT'S FUN."

NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN BRISBANE

"A BEAUTIFULLY TOLD STORY WITH CATCHY SONGS AND RELATABLE CHARACTERS THAT ANYONE WILL CONNECT WITH. IT CONTAINED A SWEET MESSAGE TO 'FOLLOW YOUR ART,' STAY TRUE TO YOURSELF AND EMBRACE YOUR UNIQUE GIFTS."

THE BLURB



A very big thank you to the friends of Fancy who helped to bring Fancy's world to life:

Gina Fairfax, Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM, Sharon Grimley and David Readett, and Kath and Dean Merlo

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YOGA PLAY

A SHOW OF SCANDALS AND LAUGHTER

By Dipika Guha

Presented by La Boite Theatre and Riverside National Theatre of Parramatta

SEASON 7 - 23 NOVEMBER 2024

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES 15

TOTAL ATTENDANCE 2685

CAST AND CREATIVES

Playwright Dipika Guha

Director Mina Morita

Stage Manager Tyler Fitzpatrick

Assistant Stage Manager Jasmin Flynn

Set and Costume Designer James Lew

Lighting Designer Kate Baldwin

Sound Designer & Composer Wil Hughes

Multimedia Designer Mark Bolotin

Cultural Safety Consultant & Production Dramaturg Katrina Irawati Graham

Dialect Coach Linda Nicholls-Gidley

Intimacy Director Shondelle Pratt

Cast Jemwel Danao, Nat Jobe, Thomas Larkin, Andrea Moor, Camila Ponte Alvarez



"A VERY FUNNY EVENING AT THE THEATRE AND A FUN WAY TO WIND DOWN AS WE APPROACH THE SILLY SEASON."

INREVIEW QUEENSLAND

"YOU LEAVE THE THEATRE PLEASANTLY RELAXED, AS WELL AS HAVING A GIGGLE."

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

"IT SELLS AUTHENTICITY, AND DEMANDS WE CO-CREATE OUR FUTURE."

WESTENDER

LA BOITE

RIVERSIDE NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA

GIRGENSOHN FOUNDATION


Australian Government


Creative Australia

La Boite Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.


Queensland Government

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

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

Artist Masterclasses

In 2024, La Boite expanded its highly successful Masterclass series with four new events, offering artists an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the creative processes of some of Brisbane's brightest talents. Participants engaged in open conversations with panelists, observed processes in action, and took part in facilitated Q&A sessions. Post-event, they received practical resources to apply directly to their practice.

APRIL – AUDITIONS

Facilitators Courtney Stewart and Jess Bunz

Panel Shake & Stir – Nelle Lee and Nick James

Participants 96

MAY – DESIGN-LED THEATRE MAKING

Facilitator Teegan Kranenburg

Panel Counterpilot – Nathan Sibthorpe, Christine Felmingham and Mike Wilmet

Participants 40

OCTOBER – RUNNING A SAFE ROOM: STAGE MANAGEMENT

Facilitator Courtney Stewart

Panel Angela Ponting and Peter Sutherland

Participants 52

NOVEMBER – DIRECTING FOR THEATRE

Facilitator Courtney Stewart

Panel Lisa Fa'alafi and Matt Seery

Participants 81

Assembly

La Boite's Assembly returned for its sixth year, guiding 28 emerging artists through a ten-week skills development and showcase program. The cohort—comprising of nine directors, ten writers, and nine actors—participated in skill-specific masterclasses, learned from industry experts, and collaborated to create nine new short works for the stage. The program culminated in two public performances, presented to full houses in the Roundhouse Theatre.

Dates – May to August

Writers

Olivia Brand
Xinyu Chen
Sophia Davidson Gluyas
Kian Dillon
Annabel Gilbert
Anna Jacobson
Harrison Mills
Keng Tan
Sophie Wickes
Grace Wilson

Directors

Shaun Casey
Kathryn Collins
Jake Goodall
Winnie Sempio
Martelle Simon-Green
Maddie Stephens
Alexandra Velea
El Waddingham
Ellie Woods

Actors

Sinead Carey
Axielle Doddridge
Rachael Gorham
Charles Griffin
Ruby Gudenswager
Luca Klarwein
Grace Lofting
Bar Silberstein
Henry Solomon

Facilitators

Jess Bunz
Steve Prie

Program Dramaturg

Alex Macdonald

Mentors

Stevie Prie
Bridget Boyle
Louise Brehmer

Director Observerships

La Boite welcomed five emerging directors into the Company rehearsal room for our Mainstage Season productions to observe the directorial process, learn how to bring new work to the stage and develop their exposure to the processes when working with a professional theatre company.

These artists benefited from one-on-one sessions with Directors, access to the La Boite creative team and inclusion in special events such as Opening Nights.

General Auditions

Held biennially, General Auditions provide an open platform for actors to connect with La Boite's Artistic team. In 2024, we met with a curated selection of 72 artists, chosen from 254 expressions of interest. General auditions offer us the opportunity to unearth new talent, forge creative relationships, and consider performers for roles across La Boite's Mainstage and Artistic programming.

May 2024

CAAP Playwright Lab

Delivered in collaboration with Contemporary Asian Australian Performance, this day-long program convened playwrights with artistic leaders, industry experts and established writers. Through facilitated discussion, practical workshops and peer to peer introductions, participants gained invaluable insights into the programming and commissioning processes, while forging connections and refining their craft.

The mission was to address the underrepresentation of Asian Australian voices on stages, supporting 13 playwrights, leaving an indelible mark on the national cultural landscape.

June 2024



Assembly 2024 Participants

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Teacher Advisory Group

La Boite's Teacher Advisory Group plays a vital role in supporting drama teachers, teaching artists, and students. The pipeline from school to stage is a powerful space of influence in young people's lives, and our Teacher Advisory Group provides essential guidance to ensure we serve this space meaningfully.

In 2024, the group met four times to explore the evolving needs of high school drama teachers and their students, and to help shape programs that offer the most relevant support.

Key outcomes included the development of a risk management resource to assist teachers and excursion organisers in preparing effective risk assessments and documentation.

To further support educators, La Boite offers complimentary preview tickets to each mainstage production, enabling teachers to experience the work before bringing their students. In August, we also hosted a Teacher Sneak Peek of our 2025 Season, giving educators an early look to help plan curriculum-aligned excursions.

Post-Show Q&A Add-On Workshops

Schools attending our Mainstage productions at the theatre were offered a chance to meet the cast and creatives, along with learning about the process of making a professional show.

In-School Workshops

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

La Boite's passionate casual Teaching Artists visited a large number of Brisbane schools in the metro area as well as schools across the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, Ipswich, and Toowoomba.

School Holiday Programs

Musical Theatre Workshop with The Little Red Company – June 2024

La Boite ran an exciting School Holiday Program in the June/July holidays for young performers aged 13 –17. Collaborating with The Little Red Company, the program saw 32 students cultivate their passion for storytelling and theatre-making.



Musical Theatre Workshop Participants



VENUE ACTIVITIES

Venue Hire

In 2024, La Boite continued to be a hub for creativity and collaboration, welcoming commercial and community venue hires to showcase theatre, host a wide variety of events, and create unforgettable connections and experiences for all involved.

We proudly offer several unique spaces for hire, including the iconic Roundhouse Theatre, our versatile Studio space, the welcoming Espresso Bar and Café, the vibrant Forecourt, and our dedicated workshop facility in Yeronga. These spaces enable us to accommodate a broad range of events, from theatrical performances and community gatherings to corporate workshops and private functions.

Key Highlights

- **Events and Attendance** Over the past year, La Boite hosted more than 50 performances and events through venue hire activities. These events brought over 10,000 patrons through our doors, contributing to Brisbane's vibrant arts and cultural scene.
- **Employment and Engagement** Our venue hires engaged over 50 individual technicians and Front of House staff, ensuring high-quality delivery of all activities while providing valuable employment opportunities within the arts sector.
- **Community and Financial Support** As part of our commitment to supporting the wider Brisbane arts community, local businesses, not-for-profits, charities, and NGOs, La Boite provided over \$110,000 worth of in-kind support in 2024. This includes waived or heavily discounted venue hire fees, venue services assistance, and additional resources for community-focused initiatives. La Boite has provided in-kind support to over 30 individuals, organisations and businesses in 2024, including: Assembly of Elephants, Big Scary Animal, Brisbane Arts Theatre, Dead Puppet Society, IMRSE, Metro Arts, National Theatre of Paramatta, Polytoxic, Queensland Theatre, Queensland University of Technology, Riverside Theatres, Shake & Stir, The Reaction Theatre, Vermilion Records, and Vulcana Women's Circus.



In 2024, we expanded our venue hire offerings at La Boite Theatre, reaching more guests and enhancing their experience through our versatile venue, which features three unique spaces for events of any occasion and budget.

With a skilled events team and renowned hospitality partners, La Boite's iconic spaces provided bespoke settings for rehearsals, workshops, corporate events and performances.

Roundhouse Theatre

Season 2024 Launch Vena Cava Productions (Mar)

White Rabbit Red Rabbit Christopher James Baker & Anna McGahan (Mar)

Our Journey 2025 Multicultural Australia (Jun)

Playwrights Lab Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (Jun)

BLOOM GIRL MeOhMy, PM Collab Operations, Sambi Legal and Woodward Productions (Jul)

School Musical Compass Independent School (Aug)

Videoshoot Finesse Burlesque (Oct)

QLD Youth Shake Fest Shake & Stir Theatre Co (Oct)

The Radio That Cried War Vena Cava Productions (Oct)

TEDxQUT 2024 Queensland University of Technology (Oct)

A Very Naughty Christmas Woodward Productions and B105 (Nov-Dec)

La Boite Studio

First Nations Playwrighting Retreat ATP (Jan)

Creative Development Digi Youth Arts (Feb)

Rehearsals Woodward Productions (Feb)

Rehearsals Shock Therapy (Feb)

Annual Client Briefing Abingdon Wealth (Feb)

QPDA Developments Queensland Theatre (Apr)

Rehearsals Woodward Productions (Apr)

Rehearsals The Little Red Company (Jun)

Rehearsals Scenes From A Yellow Peril (Jun)

Rehearsals Circa (Jun)

Rehearsals Shock Therapy Productions (Jul - Aug)

QLD Youth Shake Fest Shake & Stir Theatre Co (Oct)

ScratchThat Magazine Launch Queensland University of Technology (Oct)

TEDxQUT 2024 Queensland University of Technology (Oct)

Teacher Professional Development Dead Puppet Society (Oct)

Auditions Brainstorm Productions (Nov)

Rehearsals Woodward Productions (Nov)

Private Event Woodward Productions (Dec)

Creative Development Polytoxic (Dec)

La Boite Forecourt

Our Journey 2025 Multicultural Australia (Jun)

QUT In Bloom Vermilion Records (Sep)

Vermilion High Showcase 2024 Vermilion Records (Oct)

ScratchThat Magazine Launch Queensland University of Technology (Oct)

OPERATIONS

In-House Ticketing Services

As a proud member of the Tessitura Network, La Boite is committed to delivering exceptional in-house ticketing services for all events and activities hosted within our venues. Central to this commitment is ensuring a high standard of patron satisfaction, which remains a core focus across all our operations.

By leveraging Tessitura's powerful CRM capabilities, La Boite provides a streamlined ticketing experience that is intuitive, accessible, and tailored to meet the needs of diverse audiences. The system enables us to manage ticketing, fundraising, marketing, and customer relationship management in one unified platform, allowing for a personalised and efficient approach to patron engagement.

Box Office Highlights

- **Seamless Ticketing Experience** Patrons benefit from an easy-to-navigate online ticketing platform, mobile-friendly options, and personalised support for inquiries or changes. This ensures that all aspects of the ticket-buying journey—from selection to post-event follow-up—are as smooth as possible.
- **Industry-Leading Accessibility Practices** Recognising the diverse needs of our audience, we introduced new accessibility features such as improved options for companion seating, clearer labelling for sensory-friendly performances, and a simplified process for redeeming ticket vouchers and discounts.
- **Patron Engagement** Served over 22,000 ticket-buyers across all performances and events, strengthening La Boite's relationship with new and returning audiences.
- **Industry Collaboration** Attended and participated in workshops and consultations with other arts organisations to share insights and innovations in ticketing practices, including organisational representation at the Tessitura Learning & Community Conference in Sydney (November).



La Boite Espresso Bar & Café

La Boite's Espresso Bar and Café continues to thrive as a vibrant hub for patrons, artists, and the wider community. Operating during the day and extending its services into the evening for performances and events, the Espresso Bar served over 29,000 patrons in 2024.

As a vital profit centre, the Espresso Bar & Cafe not only enhances the patron experience but also provides critical financial support for La Boite's creative projects and mission. In addition to a menu of high-quality coffee and beverages, the Espresso Bar & Café offers a welcoming space for pre-show gatherings, informal meetings, and post-event celebrations.

Looking forward, La Boite plans to explore opportunities to further integrate the Espresso Bar into the patron experience, including further bespoke packages for private events and an expanded range of offerings.

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.



CORE FUNDING

Operational Funding

In 2024, La Boite Theatre received multi-year operational funding from the Australian Government through Creative Australia, the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and from the Brisbane City Council. These funds play a critical role in supporting La Boite's core operational and program delivery costs, to further engage audiences, strengthen communities, sharing stories and providing significant employment opportunities for Queensland artists and arts workers.

National Performing Arts Partnership Framework

La Boite Theatre is thrilled to have been successful in its application for funding through the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (the Framework).

Australia's oldest continuously running professional theatre company enters the Framework from January 2025, on the eve of the organisation's 100th anniversary.

Established in 2019, the Framework, administered by Creative Australia, in partnership with all states and the Northern Territory, provides a cohesive and collaborative, national approach to sustainable arts funding and guides effective decision-making for the sector.

Organisations funded under the Framework benefit from the stability of up to eight years of funding with the first stage of La Boite's partnership running from 2025-2028.

The joint, multi-year investment from both state and federal governments acknowledges La Boite Theatre for its leadership and significant contribution to Queensland's arts sector, and sees the company recognised as the seventh major arts organisation in Queensland alongside Queensland Ballet, Opera Queensland, Queensland Theatre, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Circa and Dancenorth.

La Boite's entry into the Framework is a testament to its bold artistic vision, strong presence within the national arts and cultural landscape, operational excellence, and robust governance framework.



PHILANTHROPY

The Wall of Light

Proudly displayed in the bustling La Boite Foyer, this striking acknowledgment greets every visitor at the entrance to our Studio and Roundhouse Theatre.

Since its launch, Wall of Light donors and visitors to the La Boite Espresso Bar & Café have contributed over \$250,000 to bring bold new theatre to life. These generous families, individuals and companies have their names prominently welcoming artists and audiences to the heart of La Boite.

In 2024 we garnered renewed support from 33 donors who committed a further \$2,000 tax-deductible donation for a further three years.

Adam Brunes & Jacob Brewer

Amanda Jolly

Anna Davidson

Asher & Nate

Barry Stone & Michelle Boyd

Bec Langdon & Julian Buckley

The Beckitt Family

Belinda Gibson & Jim Murphy

The Blocksidge Family

Bobby Wayland Smith & Nora Monae Smith

BVN

Christine Comans & Katherine

Hoepper

Courtney Stewart & Robert Smith

Darren Yap & Max Lambert

Elize & Millie Smith

Epic Hair Designs

Ian Barfoot - Corporate Audit and Assurance Services

Ian, George & Edwina Prowse

Jessica Simpson

John Reid AO & Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM

Justin Harrison

Karen Mitchell

Laurel, Ted & Kerrin Benson

McCullough Robertson

The Myers Family

Nick Seery

The Nicklin Family

Philip Bacon Galleries

Samuel Mayze & Nadia Sugden

Sarah McAree & Steve Smith

Sean Dowling

Shirley Markie

Susan Ellison & Kevin O'Brien

Tim & Gina Fairfax



The La Boite Associates

La Boite's Artistic Director offered a unique opportunity for Brisbane arts enthusiasts to embark on an exclusive artistic journey through the La Boite Associates program.

The La Boite Associates Program provided associates with the opportunity to have direct engagement with the artistic director, asking questions and gaining deeper insight into the creative process of developing and delivering live theatre, fostering a personal and lasting connection with the company.

They were also offered opportunities to experience activity behind-the-scenes such as first reads of plays at the beginning of the rehearsal periods, an invite to the Sneak Peek events before opening and other opportunities as they arose.

Running from 2023 to 2025, this three-year initiative has celebrated and highlighted Brisbane's incredible artistic talent while strengthening connections with the associates.

Supporting the Creation of New Work

The full creative development of *Fancy Long Legs* was made possible through the generous support of our core partners, whose commitment enabled us to explore innovative storytelling designed specifically for autistic children and their families.

Special support was provided by Gina Fairfax, Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM and Sharon Grimley and David Readett to the development of the show.

Additional support from Brisbane City Council and Merlo allowed us to enhance the experience with dedicated spaces and interactions, including a specially designed quiet area where families could retreat before, after, or even during the show. Several performances also featured tactile tours beforehand, audio-described sessions for attendees with low or no vision, and Auslan interpretation.

Meanwhile, the forecourt was transformed into an interactive space with activities for families, ensuring a safe, inclusive, and enriching experience for all.



Bequest Program

After ensuring their families and loved ones were provided for, some supporters chose to leave a gift to La Boite, helping to create bold and significant theatre for future generations.

By including La Boite in their wills, they ensured their love of theatre and its impact on our community would endure for years to come.

Throughout the year, we continued to build relationships and engage with potential donors, fostering a shared vision for the future of this program and the lasting legacy of theatre.

Hillside Helping Fundraising Event

Thanks to long-term sponsors Epic Hair Designs, Brendon Mann and Brendan J Smith hosted their annual fundraising event, Hillside Helping, in honour of La Boite Theatre.

With a focus on La Boite Theatre's 100th anniversary, revenue from ticket sales and generous donations made during the event raised over \$26,000 to support the La Boite Encore Series in 2025.

In addition, they launched a raffle with a prize package worth \$10,000, which we will continue to promote and sell tickets for in the lead-up to our 100th birthday celebrations to raise further funds.



Brendan J Smith, Courtney Stewart, Brendon Mann, Minister Leeanne Enoch, and Adam Brunes

PARTNERSHIPS

La Boite Theatre continues to benefit from the generous support of corporate partners, whose contributions—both financial and in-kind—enable us to deliver our programs. Their assistance, from direct funding to discounted supplier rates, is invaluable.

In 2024, corporate partners provided over \$376,173 in in-kind support alongside cash sponsorships, playing a vital role in sustaining La Boite's programs and initiatives.

By fostering long-term partnerships that become part of the La Boite family, we create tailored collaborations that not only strengthen our organisation but also help our partners expand their networks and achieve shared goals.

Brisbane Airport Corporation has played a key role, not only through financial support but also by extending our reach to new audiences. This includes offering staff and community rates through their extensive network and featuring us in the Cultural Events Guide, which is hosted on their website and amplified via social media.

Our long-standing relationship with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) continues to grow as we co-develop new initiatives, engage students in creative projects, and exchange opportunities around venue and facility use.

Key partners—including Aruga, BVN, Epic Hair Designs, and McCullough Robertson—provide vital pro bono and discounted services, significantly reducing our operational costs.

We are also grateful to our suppliers—Archie Rose Distilling Co, CAAS Audit Services, Fire N'Dough, Joval Wine Group, Merlo Coffee Roaster, PQI, and Quest Kelvin Grove—who support us with generous discounts and contra stock.

Media partners The Weekend Edition and Must Do Brisbane continue to expand our reach through additional opportunities, ensuring our work connects with broader audiences. A special thank you to Pixel Frame, whose outstanding video content consistently exceeds expectations while keeping costs manageable.

To all our partners and supporters—thank you for making what we do possible.



Partners



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



La Boite Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



Media Partners



Season Partners



Presenting & Development Partners



BOARD & STAFF

Organisation Profile

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

LA BOITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adam Brunes - Chair of the La Boite Theatre Board

Adam is an accomplished business leader and co-founder of Queensland's celebrated communications agency Aruga. Over the last 15 years, Adam has devoted his career to raising the profile of Queensland's creative community to advance Brisbane's position as a world-leading city, creating pathways for inspiring talent to carve out exciting, fulfilling careers.

Adam is also co-founder of award-winning production house The Little Red Company.

Amanda Jolly - Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

Amanda is a highly respected executive leader in the not-for-profit sector with specialties in strategic planning and implementation, organisational development, cultural policy, government relations, fundraising/ philanthropy and sponsorship. Amanda was the Executive Director of Queensland Theatre from 2018 to 2023 and is currently Executive Director of Queensland Youth Orchestras.

Gresham Congoo - Member of the Finance & Risk Subcommittee

Gresham is Ngaro, Giya, Umpila, Barburum and Kalkadoon man from North Queensland and a First Nations consultant, accountant and IT professional. Gresham is a Senior Manager at Yamagigu Consulting Pty Ltd.

Jessica Simpson - Chair of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

Jessica is the Global Head of Indigenous and Local Procurement at BHP. Jessica's expertise includes community development, communications, commercial and business acumen, and stakeholder engagement.

Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM - Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

Lynn is the Chair of the Rainbow Reid Foundation at QUT, and a Trustee of the Queensland Museum Foundation. Lynn's expertise extends to artistic development, corporate development, fundraising and philanthropy.

Sarah McAree - Chair of Finance & Risk Subcommittee and Company Secretary

Sarah is a corporate and commercial lawyer. Her experience includes managing corporate and commercial transactions including drafting, negotiating and advising on commercial agreements, share and asset sales and investments and advising on corporate governance. Sarah is currently Senior Counsel at the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC).

Sarah Townsend - Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

Sarah Townsend is a results-driven Business Manager at Story Bridge Adventure Climb, excelling in management, strategy, sales, marketing, negotiation, and partnerships. With expertise in business development and interior design, she enhances customer experience and drives growth. Passionate about adventure tourism, Sarah ensures unforgettable experiences and strengthens the brand's market presence.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Artistic Director & CEO Courtney Stewart

Head of Business Ian Prowse

Head of Marketing & Audience Development Yuverina Shewpersad (to Feb 2024), Jacqueline Bawtree (from Mar 2024)

Head of Development & Stakeholder Engagements Jackie Maxwell (to May 2024)

Head of Philanthropy Samantha Currie (from Aug 2024)

AT THE HEART OF LA BOITE THEATRE

Marketing Coordinator Siluni Kumarapperuma

Graphic Designer Sarah Ridgway-Cross (to Feb 2024), Dowling & Dowling Design (interim), Ella Marschke (from Oct 2024)

Venue & Operations Manager Nick Seery

Ticketing & Executive Officer Sophie Wickes (until Oct 2024)

Venue & Ticketing Coordinator Kathryn Collins (from Nov 2024)

Senior Producer Jessica Bunz

Production Manager Teegan Kranenburg

Technical Coordinator George Pitt (from Apr 2024)

Venue Technician Natalie Scott (to March 2024)

Workshop Manager Andrew Mills

Company Accountant Karen Mitchell (until Aug 2024), Tim Hall, Bones Accounting (from Sep 2024)

Finance Officer Elizabeth Lepua (until Jun 2024), Julia Beckitt (from Jul 2024)

Communications Agency ARUGA

Front of House, Bar and Café Staff

Espresso Bar & Café Barista Annabel Gilbert

Front of House Supervisors Marie David, Cassidy Cahill, Sophia Harris, Claire Holland, Aimee Sheather, and Liam Wallis

Front of House & Espresso Bar Staff Will Carseldine, Courtney Cavallaro, Billy Fogarty, Peter Keavy, Peta Kishawi, Bryson McGuire, Georgia McKenzie, Michael Meredith, Olivia Sullivan, Carys Walsh, and Lily Williams.

Technical Staff

Caleb Bartlett, Emma Burchell, Riley Camejo, Winter Chapman, Briana Clark, Tia-Hanee Cleary, Tim Gawne, Charlie Graham, Tommi Hirvonen, Erin O'Shea, Natalie Scott, Abigail Taylor, Sophie Watkins, and Sam Gehrke.



laboite.com.au



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[LaBoiteTheatreCompany](https://www.youtube.com/LaBoiteTheatreCompany)



[LaBoiteTheatre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/LaBoiteTheatre)

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