

**LA
BOITE**

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
OPENING NIGHTS & OPENING MINDS



LA BOITE
THEATRE LTD
ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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.

CREATING THEATRE SINCE 1925

Australia's oldest continuously running theatre company, Brisbane's La Boite Theatre has been telling stories and making theatre for over a century.

From its wandering beginnings as the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society in 1925 — performing wherever a stage could be found across a young, growing city — to its first Roundhouse home on Hale Street, where it became known as La Boite, and now to its vibrant home in Kelvin Grove, this small but mighty theatre with a big heart has spent generations bringing audiences together and stories to life.

Today, La Boite stands as a bold, inclusive home for new Australian stories and contemporary voices that reflect the richness and diversity of Brisbane and beyond.

La Boite continues to push the boundaries of theatre, building pathways for local and national artists to bring their work to mainstream stages, and forging powerful connections between artists and audiences through stories that entertain, move, empower, and surprise.

Our work is grounded in cultural equity, social cohesion, and a deep sense of individual and collective responsibility. We are proud to sustain Queensland-based artistic practice and to have a long and proven history of nurturing artists as they grow from emerging to established careers.

We believe that leaving a legacy means actively continuing to create one. Guided by this vision, La Boite is shaping another century of brave storytelling, transforming our world, one story at a time.



La Boite Encore of X-Stacy. Image by Stephen Henry.

LA
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Brendan J Smith, Adam Brunes, Courtney Stewart and The Hon John-Paul Langbroek at the La Boite 100th Birthday Gala on 5 July 2025. Image by Josh Woning.

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CHAIR OF THE BOARD

In 2025, La Boite marked an extraordinary milestone, celebrating 100 years of theatre-making while stepping confidently into the future. It was a year defined by both reflection and momentum, honouring the artists, stories and communities that have shaped La Boite's legacy while continuing to invest in what comes next.

A defining feature of our centenary program was the *Encores* season, made possible through the generous support of long-term corporate partner Epic Hair Designs. Across 10 weeks, our "book club for theatre" invited audiences back into some of the most iconic works in La Boite's history, with semi-staged readings bringing together original cast members and directors to revisit these works with the perspective of time.

Highlights included *The Matilda Women*, written and directed by former Artistic Director Sue Rider, celebrating the stories of nine extraordinary women from Australia's past. It was a privilege to welcome back original cast members Justine Anderson, Barbara Lowing and Rosemary Traynor, reprising roles they first performed almost four decades ago, alongside recent graduate Mia Lierich.

Equally powerful was the return of former Artistic Director David Berthold with *Holding the Man*, reuniting Alec Snow and Jerome Meyer more than a decade after their professional debuts. To witness these performances again, shaped by lived experience, was deeply moving.

The *Encores* season culminated in our 100th Anniversary Gala, a celebration of La Boite's many seasons and the countless individuals who have contributed to its story. My sincere thanks go to all who helped bring this milestone event to life and to those who joined us in marking this moment.

A defining step toward La Boite's future sustainability was the introduction of our inaugural Giving Day. At a time when arts organisations must think differently about resourcing their work, this initiative marked a deliberate shift towards strengthening our philanthropic foundations and inviting our community to play a more active role in shaping the company's future.



The success of the inaugural campaign was made possible through the extraordinary leadership of our matched funders – Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM, Tim Fairfax AC, Gina Fairfax AC, Julian Myers, Philip Bacon and Dr Thomas and Ingeborg Girgensohn – whose generosity inspired others to give. Crucially, Giving Day lays the groundwork for a more resilient and diversified funding model, ensuring we can continue to support artists, audiences and the stories we bring to life in the years ahead.

In 2025, La Boite also took a significant step onto the international stage. Our production *Congratulations, Get Rich!* was presented with Singapore Repertory Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company, marking the company's first international tour of this scale. Supported by Creative Australia, this milestone reflects one of La Boite's enduring ambitions: to share Queensland stories and talent with the world.

While 2025 was a year of celebration, it was not without its challenges. Like many arts organisations across the country, we continue to navigate a complex landscape shaped by rising costs, cost-of-living pressures, political division and global uncertainty. These forces test the sustainability of our sector but also reinforce its importance.

Theatre remains one of the few places where we gather, in real time, to share an experience. It invites us in, offers perspective, challenges our thinking and sends us back into the world changed. In moments of uncertainty, that role becomes more vital than ever.

As a sector, we must continue to stand together, advocate for the value of the arts and ensure these shared experiences remain accessible to our communities.

None of what we achieved in 2025 would have been possible without the dedication of La Boite's team. Small but mighty, their commitment, creativity and care continue to drive the company forward each day. I also extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Board Directors for their stewardship, insight and unwavering belief in La Boite's future.



As we look ahead, we do so with confidence. The past 100 years have been shaped by bold ideas and courageous storytelling. The next 100 will be no different.

La Boite has always been a place that transforms people, inviting us to see ourselves, and each other, more clearly. That spirit endures and it will carry us into the next chapter.

ADAM BRUNES

Chair, Board of Directors
La Boite Theatre Ltd



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CEO

Something was clearly in the water in Brisbane in 1925 — a sense of hope, optimism and possibility for the future.

That year, 'Greater Brisbane' as we know it was born, as 20 local authorities joined to form the Brisbane City Council. The city also took to the skies with its first flights from Brisbane Airport.

And as this young city launched into the future, a passionate and energetic speech and drama teacher and linguistics professor from the University of Queensland recognised something vital was missing: a theatre company to bring the community together, a place to celebrate the stories that belong to Brisbane and its people.

In 2025, La Boite celebrated 100 years of creativity — a journey that began with the Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society and continues today as La Boite Theatre.

Today the city is again alive with hope, optimism and possibility as it prepares for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. And with the incredible talent emerging on our stage in 2025, we are excited to see this potential grow as we prepare to share our stories with the world in coming years.

To all who have trodden the boards of the Roundhouse, brought productions to life from the tech box and dressing rooms, attended shows, and had their lives touched by La Boite's legacy and stories... 2025 was a celebration of you!

As we stepped into our centenary year we prepared a program designed to honour our past while actively shaping our future.

Across the year, our mainstage season brought together a compelling collection of works that celebrated the breadth and strength of Brisbane's creative community. Each production was an invitation for audiences to engage with bold ideas, distinct perspectives and the unmistakable energy of live performance.



Alongside the mainstage program, *La Boite Encores* provided a vital platform, extending the life of exceptional works from the canon of La Boite's 100-year history and connecting them with new audiences. This spirit of continuation and reimagining was central to our centenary celebrations.

A significant milestone for the Company this year was our first international tour with *Congratulations, Get Rich!* Heading to Singapore, marking an important step in sharing La Boite's work beyond our immediate community and onto a global stage.

Collaboration also sat at the heart of our program. Through co-producing with Dead Puppet Society on *WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!*, and Singapore Repertory Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company on *Congratulations, Get Rich!*, we deepened our relationships within the industry and expanded the scale and reach of our work, resulting in outcomes that were both artistically ambitious and widely resonant.

Our ASSEMBLY+ program continued to grow in both scope and impact, providing meaningful opportunities for artists to develop their creative practice, connect with peers and mentors and develop nine new works. The strength of this program reflects La Boite's dedication to nurturing the next generation of theatre-makers.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to our donors and sponsors, whose support underpins so much of what we do. Your investment in La Boite enables us to take creative risks and deliver work of substance and significance.



A special acknowledgement must also go to the Creative Industries students from QUT, whose artistic storytelling contributions formed a vibrant and memorable part of our centenary celebrations. Their work brought fresh perspectives and energy to this milestone year.

As we look ahead, La Boite remains committed to creating theatre that is distinctive, inclusive and deeply connected to our community.

COURTNEY STEWART

Artistic Director & CEO
La Boite Theatre Ltd

MAINSTAGE

MACBETH

A SHOW OF WAR LOST AND WON

**PRESENTED BY LA BOITE THEATRE
6 - 22 MARCH 2025**

Fair was foul, and foul was fair when La Boite Theatre launched Season 2025 with a bold reframing of Shakespeare's famed tragedy, *Macbeth*.

The groundbreaking production shed new light on Macbeth's perilous pursuit of power, presenting the tale through the eyes of the Weird Sisters — three prophets who bore witness to his rise and eventual fall.

Bystanders in the 400-year-old text, the trio reclaimed the narrative in this modern interpretation, stepping out of the shadows to take their place in the spotlight. Recast as healers and grounded in the forces of nature itself, these contemporary Witches reminded audiences that every action carries profound consequences.

Embodying not only the three central Witches but also every other character in Shakespeare's murderous masterpiece were regular La Boite collaborator Aunty Roxanne McDonald — a descendant of the Mandandanji, Wangan and Darumbal peoples of Central Queensland — Queensland-trained Filipino actor Nicole Hoskins, and Mel Ree, an award-winning actor of Pacific Island and Papua New Guinea heritage.

“

**Exciting, epic
and visually stunning.**

STAGE WHISPERS

”



Image by David Kelly.

Macbeth was performed in the round at La Boite's iconic Roundhouse Theatre beneath a giant, reactive Bilum canopy, handwoven by three female master weavers. Cleverly designed costumes and statement props — all with a distinct military aesthetic — assisted the three cast members to seamlessly transition between characters as the on-stage action unfolded.

The production was co-directed by La Boite Artistic Director & CEO Courtney Stewart and Lisa Fa'alafi (*Polytoxic, Hot Brown Honey*), with former Artistic Director (1993–2000) Sue Rider returning to La Boite as *Macbeth*'s dramaturg.

Stewart and Rider revised and reshaped Shakespeare's seminal text into a streamlined 90-minute production, while remaining true to its original language. While the cast had several Shakespearean performance credits between them, *Macbeth* marked the first time Fa'alafi had taken on the Bard's work.



Image by Farley Ward.

Playwright William Shakespeare
Co-Directors Courtney Stewart and Lisa Fa'alafi
Cast Roxanne McDonald, Mel Ree, Nicole Hoskins

CREATIVE TEAM

Dramaturg Sue Rider **Costume Designer** Frances Foo
Set Designer Lisa Fa'alafi **Set Realiser** Freddy Komp
Lighting Designer Teegan Kranenburg **Sound Designer**
Brady Watkins **Costume Maker** Nerissa Saville **Weavers**
Ranu James, Nata Richards, Maryann Talia Pau

PRODUCTION TEAM

Set Builders Andrew Mills, Lee Stretton **Scenic Art**
Shaun Caulfield **Fight & Intimacy Director** NJ Price **Stage**
Manager Peter Sutherland **Assistant Stage Manager** Kayla
Cahill **Vocal Coach** Marcus Oborn **Session Drummer** Eva
Nikoloa **Sound Operator** Riley Camejo **Lighting Operator**
George Pitt

Director Observers Tainika Kane-Potaka, Anna Loren,
Danielle Milde, Dilsah de Rham, Presley Woods

OUTCOMES

In true Macbethian fashion, La Boite's production did not reach the Roundhouse stage without its share of "double, double toil and trouble". Ex Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought Brisbane to a standstill ahead of our previews and opening night, delaying the official start of the season until Tuesday 11 March.

Despite the disruption of Cyclone Alfred, we delivered 12 of 15 scheduled performances with an additional matinee added on the final Saturday (total of 13 performances). Total audience attendance was 3,711, which was 39% above our targeted sales.

A highlight of the season was the engagement with young people and educators. We welcomed 774 students and teachers from 33 South-East Queensland school groups to the show, with 97 students deepening their experience through a dedicated post-show Q&A with the cast and creative team.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2025 Matilda Awards Nominations

- Nicole Hoskins - Best Performance in a Leading Role, Mainstage Production
- Teegan Kranenburg - Best Lighting Design
- Brady Watkins - Best Composition / Sound Design



CRITICS RESPONSE

"Stunning textiles, outstanding technical design and impressive stamina from the actors." *Limelight*

"Exciting, epic and visually stunning." *Stage Whispers*

"An innovative, daring, edgy exploration." *Blue Curtains*

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

"This was the best ever arts experience I have EVER EVER felt."

"I took my 15-year-old to see. Was not expecting this style of interpretation so I was intrigued. We've been discussing the production since viewing. She identifies as Aboriginal & was truly moved by the interpretation."

"The play Macbeth was extraordinary! The three women showed amazing talent. The strong emotions were intense and the interpretation of Shakespeare's play allowed the language and meaning to flow effortlessly."



MAINSTAGE

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

A SHOW OF MONSTERS AND HEROES

**PRESENTED BY LA BOITE THEATRE AND DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY
30 JUL - 16 AUG 2025**

An epic battle between unknown monsters and unlikely heroes unfolded when La Boite Theatre and Dead Puppet Society teamed up to present the world premiere of *WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!* by Maddie Nixon.

The fiercely funny and fearlessly inventive new work combined a razor-sharp script, an all-Queensland cast, cutting-edge puppetry and a banging Brisbane soundtrack in a high-octane showdown set among the city's iconic landmarks.

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! was equal parts eco-thriller, schlock horror, laugh-out-loud comedy and live-action comic book, brought to life by a team of talented Queensland creatives.

It followed Theo, a young Brisbane student who first sensed a strange and menacing force stirring deep in the Pacific Ocean, off the Queensland coast. Her attempts to warn the world of impending doom and destruction went unheeded until the monster reared its head, leaving a path of destruction across Brisbane and a stark lesson in the perils of ignoring what lies below the surface.

“

Funny, frantic and unflinchingly urgent.

SCENESTR

”

Photos by Farley Ward.



Image by Dean Hanson.

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! began to take shape in 2019 when Dead Puppet Society commissioned young Brisbane playwright Maddie Nixon to create a script for a bold new monster story. Nixon began her career as an assistant stage manager at La Boite and said she was thrilled her Brisbane-centred story debuted during the company's 100th birthday celebrations.

“La Boite raised me, put up with me in my early 20s, kicked me out of the nest to freelance in my late 20s — to be fair, I willingly leapt out of the nest — and now I was coming back. It felt nice to come home,” she said.

Musician Dean Hanson of award-winning indie band Ball Park Music composed and curated the production's distinctly Brisbane soundtrack. The eclectic playlist included The Go-Betweens' seminal *Streets of Your Town* as well as drawing from the catalogues of local artists such as Regurgitator, Dune Rats, DZ Deathrays, Cub Sport and Thelma Plum.

Further celebrating Brisbane talent, emerging artists from Red Hill Band performed post-show on opening night, adding a live, local soundtrack to the festivities.

Playwright Maddie Nixon

Co-Directors David Morton and Courtney Stewart

Cast Louise Brehmer, Milena Nestic, Ngoc Phan, Anthony Standish, Hsiao-Ling Tang

CREATIVE TEAM

Designer David Morton **Lighting Designer** Ben Hughes

Composer & Curator Dean Hanson **Sound Designer** Brady

Watkins **Associate Sound Designer** Riley Camejo

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager Teegan Kranenburg **Technical**

Director Scott Barton **Stage Manager** Jacinta Way

Assistant Stage Manager Jasmin Flynn **Head of Wardrobe**

Maddi Dailey **Programmer & Lighting Operator** Tim

Gawne **Set Builders** Andrew Mills & Lee Stretton **Scenic**

Artist Leo Herreygers **Workshop Coordinator** Regan

Henry **Additional Set Assembly** Alexandra Macdonald

OUTCOMES

We delivered a dynamic season of 17 performances, reaching a total audience of 4,068 and achieving our ambitious sales target.

The production resonated strongly with audiences, drawing consistent attendance across the run and reinforcing the work's broad appeal and impact.

A highlight of the season was the engagement with young people and educators. We welcomed 965 students and teachers from 30 South-East Queensland school groups to the show, with 125 deepening their experience through a dedicated post-show Q&A with the cast and creative team.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2025 Matilda Awards Nominations



- Milena Nestic - Bille Brown Award Best Emerging Artist



CRITICS RESPONSE

"A strong cohesive ensemble of five actors carries the story across both outrageous comedy and deep feelings of grief and isolation." Limelight

"The script shimmered with irreverence, yet hid moments of quiet profundity." Westender

"Funny, frantic and unflinchingly urgent." Scenestr

"A wild, hilarious and unexpectedly moving romp through Brisbane's iconic landmarks." Embrace Brisbane

"A wildly fun, fiercely original show." 4ZZZ

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

"The show was amazing! The story and acting were great. I laughed, I cried, I connected with the characters and I had a great time."

"Incredibly creative and inventive, fun and full of energy, and so good to see the theatre packed with young people excited about theatre and engaging in diverse themes and issues concerning the environment."

"Very tight production! Great script! So funny with a serious message. Excellent production to enjoy with my teenage daughter."

MAINSTAGE

CONGRATULATIONS, GET RICH!

A SHOW OF TRANSFORMATION AND HOPE

**PRESENTED BY LA BOITE THEATRE,
SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY
AND SINGAPORE REPERTORY
THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION
WITH BRISBANE FESTIVAL
4 - 20 SEP 2025**

An explosive tale of family, ghosts, fate and karaoke, struck all the right notes when *Congratulations, Get Rich!* made its world premiere at La Boite Theatre.

The brand-new work is set in a Singaporean karaoke bar, where three powerful women convene, compete, commiserate and confront one another through stories, showmanship and song over one fateful night.

Following its debut La Boite season in association with Brisbane Festival, the internationally co-produced work went on to play Singapore Repertory Theatre from 28 October and Sydney Theatre Company from 21 November.

Congratulations, Get Rich! explored the complexity of mother-daughter relationships, the legacy of trauma and grief, and the power of vulnerability.

The musical theatrical experience introduced audiences to Mandy on the night of her 38th birthday, as she faced the twin challenges of a crumbling love life and a struggling karaoke business.

“

**An incredibly funny play,
sharpened by the actors’
impeccable comedic timing.**

THE SATURDAY PAPER

”



Image by Stephen Henry.

Things took a surprising turn when two customers walked into her bar — the first, her mother, who had died aged 38, and the second, a woman she believed to be her long-dead grandmother.

Congratulations, Get Rich! was written by and starred Merlynn Tong, and straddled the line between fact and fiction.

Growing up in a family-run karaoke bar in Singapore, Tong said the piece drew on her experiences of grief and tragedy, while casting a creative lens on Singaporean culture and what it was like to live among ghosts.

Composer and sound designer Guy Webster created an original soundtrack for the work, leaning into the fun and spectacle of its karaoke bar setting.

Opening in association with Brisbane Festival on the same night as *Riverfire*, La Boite welcomed guests earlier than usual, adding extra cultural sparkle to the evening with *Lion Dancers* on the forecourt ahead of the opening night performance.

Playwright Merlynn Tong

Director Courtney Stewart

Cast Zachary Boulton, Seong Hui Xuan, Merlynn Tong, Kimie Tsukakoshi

CREATIVE TEAM

Dramaturg Jules Orcullo **Set & Costume Designer** James Lew **Lighting Designer** Gabriel Chan **Composer & Sound Designer** Guy Webster **Music Director** Alex Van den Broek **Fight & Intimacy Director** NJ Price

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager Teegan Kranenburg **Stage Manager** Peter Sutherland **Assistant Stage Manager** Briana Clark **Lighting Programmer** Riley Silk **Lighting Operator** George Pitt **Sound Operator** Douglas Carr **Set Builders** Andrew Mills & Lee Stretton **Scenic Art** Shaun Caulfield

Director Observers Buddy Malbasias, Jazz Zhao

OUTCOMES

Congratulations, Get Rich! marked a standout international collaboration, with La Boite joining forces as co-producer alongside Singapore Repertory Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company to bring Merlynn Tong's dynamic new work to the stage, originally commissioned for development by La Boite in 2021.

The production realised its full potential in a vibrant premiere season, with a sensational cast delivering 15 performances. It then travelled to seasons in Singapore and Sydney, extending its reach and impact well beyond Queensland.

Across all three cities, *Congratulations, Get Rich!* captivated audiences, with more than 9,481 patrons experiencing the work, an outstanding result that underscores both the strength of the partnership and the production's international resonance.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2025 Matilda Awards Nominations

- La Boite Theatre - Best Mainstage Production
- Merlynn Tong - The Lord Mayor's Award for Best New Australian Work
- Merlynn Tong - Best Performance in a Lead Role Mainstage Production
- Kimie Tsukakoshi - Best Performance in a Supporting Role Mainstage Production
- Guy Webster - Best Composition / Sound Design



CRITICS RESPONSE

"An important Asian-Australian story told with heart and humour." Arts Hub

"An incredibly funny play, sharpened by the actors' impeccable comedic timing." The Saturday Paper

"Brings a sharpness to the comedy and an honesty to the grief beneath." Embrace Brisbane

"Sharp banter, outrageous ballads and a fair dose of intergenerational tension." Stage Buzz

"Intelligently crafted, skilfully melding humour, horror and heartwarming sequences with hugely enjoyable musical numbers." The Scoop

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

"Brilliantly written, directed, designed and performed. Awesome original songs."

"A window into a life, culture and experience. Merylnn Tong puts her life into the plays - lived experience and culture."

"What a show! It held you from beginning to end and I'm still savouring it way after the actual showtime."

MAINSTAGE

WHITEFELLA YELLA TREE

A SHOW OF YOUNG LOVE AND SURVIVAL

**A GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY
PRODUCTION PRESENTED BY
LA BOITE THEATRE
23 OCT - 8 NOV 2025**

A timeless love story, infused with culture, history and identity, played out on the iconic Roundhouse Theatre stage when the award-winning *Whitefella Yella Tree* made its Queensland premiere.

A story of first love — of Ty and Neddy, two teenage boys who met under a lemon tree and experienced their fragile friendship transform into a heady romance. Set in the early 19th century, Ty is River Mob while Neddy is Mountain Mob, and their Country is on the brink of irrevocable change.

This heart-warming and heartbreaking story was brought to life by Pertame and Tiwi actor Joseph Althouse (*The Visitors*) and Danny Howard (*Jacky*), who has ties to the Barrd, Yamatji, Noongar, Bunuba and Ngadju peoples.

Whitefella Yella Tree won the Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting at the 2023 NSW Premier's Literary Awards and marked the La Boite debut of Palawa playwright Dylan Van Den Berg.

The Griffin Theatre Company production had its Queensland premiere at La Boite Theatre as part of Melt Festival under the careful and considered direction of Griffin Theatre Company's Artistic Director Declan Greene and Wiradjuri and Worimi theatre-maker Amy Sole.

“

A moving, sobering and ultimately very rewarding theatre experience.

IN DAILY QLD

”



Image by Stephen Henry.

La Boite Artistic Director and CEO Courtney Stewart said the company was thrilled to bring Dylan Van Den Berg's poetic, award-winning work to Queensland audiences to close its centenary season in 2025.

“This was a story about love and survival by one of the country's most celebrated contemporary writers, and we were so pleased he made his Queensland debut at La Boite.

“I knew our audiences would respond to the idea of a teen romance unfolding against the weight of history — that blend of joy, humour and heartbreak.”

Whitefella Yella Tree debuted at Griffin Theatre Company in 2022 and returned in September 2025 to commence a national tour, with seasons at Sydney Theatre Company, La Boite Theatre and University of Melbourne Arts and Culture (UMAC).

Playwright Dylan Van Den Berg
Co-Directors Declan Greene & Amy Sole
Cast Joseph Althouse and Danny Howard

CREATIVE TEAM

Design Mason Browne **Lighting Design** Kelsey Lee and Katie Sfetkidis **Composer and Sound Design** Steve Toulmin **Associate Composer & Sound Designer, Touring Sound Realiser** Daniel Herten **Intimacy Coordinator** Bayley Turner **Dramaturg** Andrea James

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager Isabella Kerdijk **Assistant Stage Manager** Tyler Fitzpatrick **Production Manager** Damion Holling **Head Electrician** Sammy Read **Lighting Programmer** Riley Silk **Sound Operator** Douglas Carr **Lighting Operator** George Pitt

OUTCOMES

Our final production of 2025 brought a critically acclaimed work from Griffin Theatre Company to Queensland audiences, as part of a national tour that premiered at Sydney Theatre Company before arriving at La Boite.

Across 15 performances, the production captivated both critics and audiences alike, earning heartfelt responses for its tender and evocative portrayal of young love on the eve of colonisation. The season closed the year on a powerful note, bringing history and emotional resonance together in a touching work that lingered long after the lights went down.

RECOGNITION

Whitefella Yella Tree is the work of award-winning Palawa playwright Dylan Van Den Berg, winner of the Griffin Award, the Rodney Seaborn Playwrights Award, the David Williamson Prize and two NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Whitefella Yella Tree was developed as part of Griffin Studio, an initiative of Griffin Theatre Company, with support from the Malcolm Robertson Foundation and Griffin Studio donors, and through Melbourne Theatre Company's Cybec Electric Play Reading Series. The premiere production was supported by Griffin's Production Partner program.

CRITICS RESPONSE

"A moving, sobering and ultimately very rewarding theatre experience." In Daily QLD

"*Whitefella Yella Tree* is more than a play; it is a lament, a love song, and a reminder of what endures even in the face of devastation." Stage Whispers

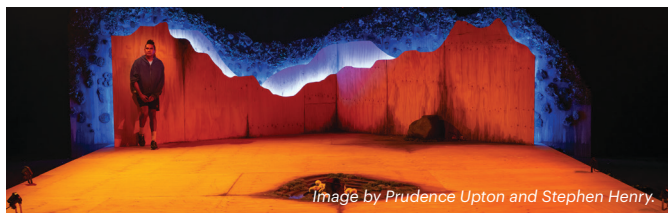
"It's a story for all of us, in the here and now." Westender

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

"This production was my favourite of the year. First Nations storytelling is so special, and something as a coloniser you have to see to begin to understand it. The writing was amazing, the actors were so connected. I loved this show so much."

"An amazing production, exactly the kind of storytelling that I think is the most important to be sharing. Intersectional, human, knowledge-expanding!"

"The main leads were both INCREDIBLE. The staging was stunning—the set, the lighting, the sound design. Of course, the writing was the beating heart of this piece. Everything came together into an impeccably layered, nuanced, and complex exploration of invasion, coloniality, and Black queerness. I loved it. I'll never forget this play."



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF OPENING NIGHTS & OPENING MINDS

LA BOITE ENCORES

EPIC PLAYS FROM THE ARCHIVES 28 APRIL - 1 JULY 2025

La Boite Theatre's 100-year history was celebrated with *La Boite Encores*, a captivating play-reading series that revived 10 iconic Australian works from the archives of the country's oldest continuously running theatre company.

Across 10 weeks, with one performance each week, both new and returning audiences experienced these much-loved works brought to life once more. Like a book club for theatre lovers, this intimate series reunited original cast members and directors alongside emerging Brisbane talent, offering a unique journey through La Boite's rich history.

Celebrating the company's artistic legacy and honouring the trailblazing works that have shaped it, four former La Boite Artistic Directors—Sue Rider, Sean Mee, David Berthold, and Todd MacDonald—returned to direct key works, further enriching the program.

Revisiting these remarkable productions allowed La Boite to honour the artists, creatives, and communities who have shaped its 100-year legacy, connecting the company's past while forging its future.

The series opened on 28 April with *In Beauty It Is Finished* by George Landen Dann, a play that sparked controversy long before its 1931 premiere due to its candid language and groundbreaking portrayal of a relationship between a young white woman and an Aboriginal man.

This powerful reading was directed by proud Butchulla man Aidan Rowlingson and, for the first time, was read by an all First Nations cast.

The La Boite Encores program was made possible through the generous support of Epic Hair Designs.



“

*Just wanted to say how much I loved the Encore reading of *Single Asian Female*. There was such a nostalgia for me, an emotional one – in that when I first saw the show back in 2017 and having never seen something so deeply relatable for me and FUNNY – it was like a bolt from the blue that shone light on how badly I needed that and also how badly I wanted to make work that did that too.*

Fast forward to today, and it's such a glorious thing to realise that I'm on the way to doing it. To be offered an opportunity to look back and reflect is a gift. A gift being reminded how powerful these kinds of stories are and the significance of creative work. And a much-needed reminder that it's worth continuing the fight to tell those stories.

There's something so deeply raw about the reading that made the show all the more connective – to be invited into a performance that's not polished and therefore more vulnerable and open. As a lover of the messiness in process and lifting the veil, I absolutely loved it. So wonderful to have all the performers back – I imagine bringing everyone together and reconnecting with the material and each other would have been incredibly special for you all.

RAE CHOI SHE/HER
LIMINA PICTURES

”

IN BEAUTY IT IS FINISHED

28 April 2025 (First performed 1931)

Playwright George Landen Dann

Director Aidan Rowlingson

Cast Jazleen Latrise, Roxanne McDonald, Alinta McGrady, Thea Raveneau, Colin Smith, Tibian Wyles

Cultural Consultants Bain Stewart and Colleen Wall



Image by Stephen Henry.

THE MATILDA WOMEN

6 May 2025 (First performed 1988)

Playwright Sue Rider

Director Sue Rider

(Artistic Director 1993-2000)

Cast Justine Anderson, Mia Lierich, Barbara Lowing, Rosie Traynor



Image by Stephen Henry.

X-STACY

12 May 2025 (First performed 1997)

Playwright Margery Forde

Director Courtney Stewart

(Artistic Director since 2022)

Cast Tom Anderson, Zoe Beirne, Rutika Nagarkar, Pirie Outridge, Cameron Walker



Image by Stephen Henry.

BLACK CHICKS TALKING

19 May 2025 (First performed 2002)

Playwright Leah Purcell

Director Leah Purcell

Cast Lara Croydon, Nadine McDonald-Dowd, Roxanne McDonald, Alinta McGrady, Che Skeen



Image by Stephen Henry.

ZIG ZAG STREET

26 May 2025 (First performed 2004)

Playwright Philip Dean

Adapted from the book by Nick Earles

Director Sean Mee

(Artistic Director 2001 - 2008)

Cast Rowan Chapman, Mark Conaghan, Caroline Dunphy, Charlotte Grimmer, Cara McIlveen



Image by Stephen Henry.

THE NARCISSIST

2 Jun 2025 (First performed 2007)

Playwright Stephen Carleton

Director Ian Lawson (Associate

Director 2002 - 2008)

Cast Jonathan Brand, Sandro Colarelli, Judy Hainsworth, Andrea Moor, Cameron Hurry



Image by Stephen Henry.

BOY GIRL WALL

10 Jun 2025 (First performed 2011)

Playwrights Matthew Ryan & Lucas Stibbard

Co-Directors Matthew Ryan & Lucas Stibbard

Cast Emily Burton, Lucas Stibbard



Image by Stephen Henry.

HOLDING THE MAN

16 Jun 2025 (First performed 2013)

Playwright Tommy Murphy

Adapted from the book by Timothy Conigrave

Director David Berthold

(Artistic Director 2008-2014)

Cast Courtney Cavallaro, Billy Fogarty, Jerome Meyer, Hugh Parker, Francesca Savige, Alec Snow



Image by Stephen Henry.

PRIZE FIGHTER

23 Jun 2025 (First performed 2015)

Playwright Future D. Fidel

Director Todd MacDonald

(Artistic Director 2015-2022)

Cast Stephen Anzo, Margi Brown Ash, Nadia Low, Gideon Mzembe, Pacharo Mzembe, George Nyamuzinga



Image by Stephen Henry.

SINGLE ASIAN FEMALE

1 Jul 2025 (First performed 2017)

Playwright Michelle Law

Director Claire Christian

Cast Emily Burton, Alex Lee, Patrick Jhanur, Tatum Mottin, Courtney Stewart, Hsiao-Ling Tang

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF OPENING NIGHTS & OPENING MINDS

LA BOITE THEATRE 100TH BIRTHDAY GALA

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025

On a midwinter evening, La Boite Theatre hosted a landmark event in the forecourt to mark its centenary.

Artists, audiences and supporters who have played a part in La Boite's rich and rebellious history, gathered to celebrate its past while looking ahead to its future. The space was transformed through a program of visual installations, including archival imagery projected across the walls, immersing guests in the Company's extensive history.

A specially commissioned stop-motion animation by students from Queensland University of Technology Creative Industries, celebrated La Boite's enduring role in nurturing new generations of artists, while a vinyl stained-glass window installation paid tribute to the women who have shaped the Company, from Barbara Sisley and Babette Stephens to Sue Rider and Courtney Stewart, among many others.

The event was hosted by Brendan Smith alongside the team from No Notes Podcast: Tim Carroll and Jordan Malone. The evening featured speeches and shared reflections, followed by live music from Waveney Smith and DJ sets, creating a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere.

Distinguished guests included Her Excellency Jeannette Young, the Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts, Australian Senators Nita Green and Paul Scarr, and from Brisbane City Council, Councillors Vicki Howard, Seal Chong Wah and Penny Wolff, who joined in recognising La Boite Theatre's significant contribution to Brisbane's cultural landscape over the past 100 years.

Also in attendance were La Boite supporters, Mr Tim Fairfax AM and Mrs Gina Fairfax AM, Mr Thomas Girgensohn and Mrs Ingeborg Girgehnsen, and Mr Julian Myers, along with past and present members of the La Boite Theatre Board.

We thank Glo Events for their exceptional work in theming and delivering La Boite's 100th Year Gala, helping to bring this milestone celebration to life.



Image by Josh Wong.

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Image by Josh Woning.



Image by Josh Woning.



Image by Josh Woning.

LA BOITE ON TOUR



Cast and Creatives at Singapore Repertory Theatre

CONGRATULATIONS, GET RICH!

Congratulations, Get Rich! completed a remarkable multi-city tour in 2025, with the support of Creative Australia's International Touring Fund. Travelling from its premiere season in Brisbane to Singapore Repertory Theatre and on to Sydney Theatre Company almost 10,000 patrons experienced the show across three cities.

This ambitious trajectory represents one of La Boite's most significant international collaborations to date, expanding the company's reach across the Asia Pacific region.

The Singapore season marked a key strategic milestone, strengthening international partnerships and positioning La Boite as a cultural exporter for Queensland. Across all stages of the tour, the production drew strong audiences, critical acclaim, and national attention, reinforcing La Boite's growing reputation for brave, globally engaged contemporary work.

CRITICAL RESPONSE

"The writing is wildly inventive, holding us rapt from the first moment to the last. Unpredictable and delightfully eccentric, it balances sincerity with a sense of the marvellously outlandish. Courtney Stewart's direction brings together rich cultural specificity and deep emotional truth, guiding a story that moves between Singapore and Australia while allowing its layered meanings to reverberate across cultural lines." Suzie Goes See



Image by Stephen Henry.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Congratulations, Get Rich! was shortlisted for the inaugural Brisbane Creative Collaboration Awards in the category of Best Strategic Collaboration, alongside the work of UAP (Urban Art Projects) and Griffith University.



This recognition highlights the strength of La Boite Theatre's partnership with Singapore Repertory Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company, demonstrating a carefully planned and executed collaboration that delivered meaningful artistic, cultural and sector-wide impact. The project exemplified how strategic co-production can expand audiences, strengthen international exchange, and support the long-term sustainability of contemporary creative practice.



Cast and Creatives at Sydney Theatre Company. Image by Prudence Upton



Image by Jade Ellis.

RACHEL BURKE'S FANCY LONG LEGS

DREAMBIG CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ADELAIDE

Venue Dunstan Playhouse Adelaide Festival Centre

Dates 15 - 17 May 2025

Following its successful premiere season in 2024, presented by La Boite Theatre, The Little Red Company and Brisbane Festival, *Fancy Long Legs* by Rachel Burke was remounted in 2025 for a season at the DreamBIG Children's Festival in Adelaide.

The full cast returned, rehearsing in the La Boite Theatre Studio under the direction of Artistic Director and CEO Courtney Stewart. La Boite's Production Manager, Teegan Kranenburg—who also served as Lighting Designer on the original production—travelled to Adelaide to support the touring team from The Little Red Company.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT



Image by Stephen Henry.

ASSEMBLY+

JANUARY TO JUNE 2025

As La Boite Theatre celebrated a century of artistic innovation, the Company proudly presented ASSEMBLY+: a bold evolution of its flagship artist development initiative. This six-month, process-driven program brought together 36 emerging Queensland artists, including writers, directors and actors to collaborate on original works for the stage.

More than a showcase, ASSEMBLY+ focused on nurturing long-term, sustainable careers. Through intensive workshops, masterclasses and mentorship from leading theatre-makers, participants were supported to deepen their craft and challenge traditional models of making and sharing work.

At a time when storytelling felt more urgent than ever, ASSEMBLY+ reflected La Boite's commitment to future-facing theatre. As the Company looked ahead to its next century, as well as the global stage of 2032, the program invited audiences to witness the creative sparks set to shape Queensland's artistic legacy for decades to come.

The program culminated in June with two showcases of all the new works in the Roundhouse, attracting strong audiences.

CREATIVE MENTORS

La Boite Senior Producer & Facilitator Jess Bunz
Program Dramaturg Alex Macdonald **Writing Mentor** Steve Pirie **Directing Mentor** Michelle Miall **Acting Mentor** Emily Burton **Vocal Coach** Marcus Oborn **Intimacy Coordination** Michelle Miall **Cultural Safety** Katrina Irawati Graham.



Image by Stephen Henry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NATALIE!

Writer Sophie Wickes
Director Tom Anderson
Actors Nathan Turner & Roxanne Ruby

It's Natalie's 27th birthday party and she's hired a pirate. Who happens to be her high school ex-boyfriend. Coincidence? *Sound Design by Ziggy Enoch*



Image by Stephen Henry.

ZERO GRAVITY

Writer Bianca Blades
Director Grace Longwill
Actors Claire Atkins & Chris Nguyen

Two fulfilment officers are hired to process emotional baggage. Don't ask about their own.



Image by Stephen Henry.

MAY CONTAIN FORMALDEHYDE

Writer Bailey Smith
Director Amy Chien-Yu Wang
Actors Stephen Anzo & Kristie Corkill

There's formaldehyde in your favourite biscuits. Don't know what that means? Good. That's what they're hoping for.



Image by Stephen Henry.

GENTLE HANDS

Writer Phi Sandy
Director Sophia Davidson Gluyas
Actors Ameer Di Meglio & Emma Pruss

One chomp. One email. One slow descent into the parental hell of guilt and blame.



Image by Stephen Henry.

STANFORD MARRIAGE EXPERIMENT

Writer Fen Carter
Director Cale Dennis
Actors Mia Chisholm & Nadia Low

Week Eight. The Final Dinner Party. Lucille is rethinking her time in the Experiment. All she has to do now is tell Emily.



Image by Stephen Henry.

BOTHERING WITH HAPPINESS

Writer Jules Broun
Director Indiah Morris
Actors Alexander James & Presley Woods

Natural enemies to doomed lovers to melancholic exes. Opposites attracted and they made it work - right up until the point they couldn't anymore.



Image by Stephen Henry.

MIND GAMES

Writer Lauren Hartwin
Director Amy Skene
Actors Shekhar Raychaudhury & Lucy Rayner-Toy

Battles are fought across fields and oceans— then there are those waged in kitchens, bedrooms, and in the mind. Strategic. Deceptive. Manipulative. Silenced words. Weaponised emotions. Strike. Hit. Apologise. Repeat. Games played. Bruises fade. No one notices - until: you sunk my...



Image by Stephen Henry.

PROMISED PEOPLE PAY

Writer Igor Ejmont
Director Bek Schmidt
Actors Jordan Schulte & Sacherence Sitagata

A recruiter extorts his younger brother and countless others in an effort to accomplish his dream to reach the top ranks of a pyramid scheme. Where can he turn when crude tactics cease to work, and the scheme sacks him?



Image by Stephen Henry.

BULLSHIT

Writer Brigitte Freeme
Director Brooklyn Matthews
Actors Nathaniel Crossinggum & Rachael Gorham

In a bunker at the end of the world, a doomsday prepper and an environmental columnist clash, connect and question - testing the boundaries between isolation, intimacy, and absurdity.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR OBSERVERSHIPS

La Boite provides an exciting opportunity for emerging theatre directors to immerse themselves in the rehearsal process of a mainstage production.

As Director Observers, these aspiring creatives shadow experienced professionals, gaining invaluable insight into the journey from early rehearsals to production meetings, technical runs, and beyond.

For those at the beginning of their directing practice, this hands-on experience helps refine their craft, deepen their understanding of directing techniques, and strengthen their creative approach.

In 2025 La Boite supported seven Director Observers through the program.



Image by Jacqueline Bawtree.

MACBETH

Director Observers Tainika Kane-Potaka, Anna Loren, Danielle Milde, Dilsah de Rham, Presley Woods



Image by Jacqueline Bawtree.

CONGRATULATIONS, GET RICH!

Director Observers Buddy Malbasias, Jazz Zhao

OBSERVER RESPONSES

"Having a cast of women of colour led by two directors that are women of colour take on Macbeth was something I knew would be powerful, and I wanted to be a part of that." - Tainika Kane-Potaka

"I'm always looking for ways to learn from other creatives. I was drawn to this production because of the ways it set out to challenge existing narratives around power and ambition, by shifting the lens to centre those traditionally on the margins." Anna Loren

"I was struck by the way Courtney and Lisa created a space where a variety of First Nations women could truly dominate and take ownership of the text. Seeing them lead with such tenacity and openness completely shifted my perspective on Macbeth, it was no longer a classical text, but a story reimaged through our lens." - Presley Woods

"There was a moment when an actor shared with the director what they were feeling in their body about a moment in the play, and negotiated how to address it in their acting with them. The tension was palpable and so honest, real and authentic." Dilsah de Rham

"This experience has revealed to me that there are no rules or limitations when it comes to storytelling." Danielle Milde

MASTERCLASSES

Our acclaimed Masterclass series continued in 2025 with two sensational artist-focused sessions. These two hour sessions be led by industry professionals, addressed key aspects of artistic life and practice saw the panel sharing advice and techniques, followed by a facilitated Q&A session.

APRIL

THE ART OF THE ASK: GRANT WRITING

Facilitator Jess Bunz

Panel Amanda Jolly, Nicholas Paine, Courtney Stewart

Participants 30

AUGUST

SAFE SPACES, STRONG VOICES: CULTURAL SAFETY IN ARTISTIC PRACTICE

Facilitator Jess Bunz

Panel Katrina Irawati Graham, Courtney Stewart

Participants 19

GENERAL AUDITIONS

General Auditions were held in collaboration with Queensland Theatre Company, providing an open platform for actors to connect with La Boite's Artistic team. In 2025, we met with a curated selection of 121 artists. 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.



Image by Stephen Henry.

YOUTH & EDUCATION

La Boite Theatre's Teacher Reference Group plays a vital role in strengthening engagement between the company and the education sector, to create meaningful impact for drama teachers, teaching artists, and students. The group meets quarterly and is invited to attend relevant in-house events, alongside the broader network of educators La Boite collaborates with.

Recognising the importance of the pathway from school to professional practice, La Boite values the Teacher Reference Group as key advisors in shaping programs that continue to support young people's creative development.

TEACHER REFERENCE GROUP 2025

Adrienne Jones	<i>Education</i>	QPAC
Jarrah Leslie-Baker	<i>Drama Teacher</i>	Bray Park State High School
Jess Merretz	<i>Drama Teacher</i>	Concordia Lutheran College
Sam Neil	<i>Head of Department</i>	Balmoral State High School
Ben Newth	<i>Head of Drama</i>	Brisbane Grammar School
Melissa Rowse	<i>Drama Teacher</i>	Ferny Grove State High School
Jed Stoll	<i>Drama Teacher</i>	McGregor State High School
Aislinn Williams	<i>Drama Teacher</i>	Mansfield State High School

LIVE PERFORMANCE EDUCATION

Macbeth welcomed 774 school students and their teachers from 33 South-East Queensland schools to the production, with 97 students joining a Post-Show Q&A with cast and creatives following our dedicated school's performance.

WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! brought in 965 students and teachers from 30 South-East Queensland schools, with 125 taking part in a Post-Show Q&A with cast and creatives about the making of the show.

La Boite is proud to offer subsidised tickets for high school student groups to attend shows at the Roundhouse offering a real world experience through an engaging theatre experience, combining live performance with interactive discussion.



Scene from *WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!* Image by Dean Hanson.

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

In 2025, La Boite extended its reach into South-East Queensland classrooms, delivering nine dynamic in-school workshops that engaged 168 students in hands-on creative learning, with this program set to increase in 2026.

Spanning a wide range of disciplines - including Contemporary Performance, Group Devising, Rehearsal Room Processes, Playwriting and Dramaturgy, Directing, Physical Theatre, Monologues and Auditions, Working with Text, and Genre and Convention - these sessions offered students a rich and practical insight into the craft of theatre-making.

Led by La Boite Teaching Artists, these workshops brought professional practice directly into the classroom. At a time when access to arts education is increasingly limited, they play a vital role in nurturing creativity, building confidence, and empowering young people to express themselves through performance.

DRAMA QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE AT LA BOITE THEATRE

In May 2025, La Boite Theatre became a vibrant hub of creative exchange, proudly hosting the Drama Queensland Conference as its major sponsor. Over two days in May the team welcomed drama teachers and educators from across South-East Queensland into the venue.

Artistic Director Courtney Stewart led an interactive masterclass on directing, while the La Boite team actively engaged delegates throughout the event through a stall, showcasing the company's programs and opportunities alongside fellow theatre organisations.

The conference firmly positioned La Boite as a vital meeting point for the sector, deepening connections with educators and industry peers, and amplifying the company's presence within both the education and broader arts community.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 SEASON



90
PERFORMANCES
ON STAGE



1
INTERNATIONAL
TOUR



11
NEW AUSTRALIAN
WORKS DEVELOPED
AND PRESENTED



2
WORLD
PREMIERES



9
AWARD
NOMINATIONS

OUR COMMUNITY



27,068
TOTAL AUDIENCE
ATTENDANCE



320
STUDENTS ATTENDED POST
SHOW Q&A SESSIONS



1,964
STUDENT
ATTENDANCE



9
PERFORMANCES AT LA BOITE
FROM EXTERNAL COMPANIES



168
STUDENTS ACROSS 9 SCHOOLS
ATTENDED LA BOITE IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS



4
FIRST NATIONS LED
WORKS PROGRAMMED

OUR INDUSTRY



3
ARTIST DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMS DELIVERED



180
CREATIVES ENGAGED,
INCLUDING A DIVERSE COHORT OF
ARTISTS ALIGNED WITH DEI PRINCIPLES



121
ACTORS ATTENDED OPEN
AUDITIONS AT LA BOITE



90%
PERFORMER/ARTIST
ENGAGEMENT SATISFACTION

MARKETING & ACCESS



13,842
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS



3,069
LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS



29,979
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



4
AUSLAN SIGNED
PERFORMANCES

PHILANTHROPY



LA BOITE THEATRE INAUGURAL GIVING DAY

WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 2025

La Boite Theatre's inaugural Giving Day made a significant impact in 2025, with generous donor support helping to advance the company's mission of bringing local stories to Queensland stages and beyond as the theatre celebrated 100 years of storytelling.

With the support of seven very generous matching donors and 376 community donations on the day, La Boite Theatre was thrilled to exceed the goal of raising \$200,000 by a further 14%.

Giving Day played a vital role in supporting La Boite's future, enabling the company to:

- Continue championing Australian storytelling in the Roundhouse Theatre
- Support new and diverse artistic voices, fostering sustainable careers
- Create ambitious productions that connected communities and showcased Queensland talent on a global stage.

Every contribution represented a strong vote of confidence in the power of Australian theatre to inspire, challenge and unite.

The success of the inaugural Giving Day strengthened La Boite's capacity to thrive into its second century, ensuring a continued legacy of transformative storytelling.

A special thank you to our matching donors who underpinned the campaign: Tim Fairfax AC, Gina Fairfax AC, Philip Bacon AO, Lynn Rainbow-Reid AM, Thomas and Ingeborg Girgensohn and Julian Myers.

7 MATCHING DONORS
376 COMMUNITY DONORS
\$200K+ RAISED

THANK YOU!

La Boite Theatre extends its heartfelt thanks to Brendan Mann and the team at Epic Hair Design for their leadership and generosity in delivering a standout centenary raffle fundraiser, drawn following La Boite's 100 Year Gala.

Through this campaign, audiences were invited to take part in a landmark moment in La Boite's history while directly contributing to its ongoing commitment to championing artists and sharing bold Australian work. The raffle's success, anchored by the highly anticipated prize pack valued at \$10,000, generated strong community engagement and deepened support for the company's future.

PARTNERS

THANK YOU!

La Boite thanks all partners and supporters for their continued commitment and for helping make its work possible. In 2025, corporate partners contributed significant in-kind value alongside cash sponsorships, playing a vital role in sustaining La Boite's programs and initiatives.

By fostering long-term relationships as part of the La Boite family, the company continued to develop tailored collaborations that strengthened the organisation while supporting partners to expand their networks and achieve shared goals.

In 2025, La Boite Theatre and *Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC)* marked a shared milestone, with the airport also celebrating its 100th year, alongside 15 years of valued partnership. BAC is a loyal supporter, providing both financial backing and expanded audience reach through access to airport assets, including visual promotions and collaborative activities that highlighted the partnership.

This support included offering staff and community rates through its extensive network, celebrating the milestone with visual assets across the terminal, and featuring La Boite in its Cultural Events Guide, hosted on its website and amplified via social media.

The long-standing relationship with *Queensland University of Technology (QUT)* continued to evolve, with ongoing collaboration across new initiatives, student-led creative projects, and shared use of venues and facilities.

A particularly special project marked the Theatre company's 100th birthday celebrations in July and August. The La Boite Theatre team partnered with students from QUT's Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice disciplines on the *Centenary Creative Project*, offering a diverse cohort of emerging artists the opportunity to excavate and reimagine the theatre's century-long history.

Five distinct collaborative works emerged from the process, functioning as both memorials and generative acts throughout the theatre's official birthday month.

Guided by Associate Professor Charles Robb, the students developed original artworks through their Situated Creative Practice studies, adding a fresh and thoughtful dimension to the company's centenary storytelling.

Aruga provided extensive pro bono support, playing a vital role in ensuring La Boite's legacy was shared both locally and nationally across the media, as well as supporting the 2025 Season. This included a very special interview on ABC Radio National, featuring current Artistic Director Courtney Stewart and former Artistic Director David Bertholdt in conversation about the company's journey to 2025. Deep appreciation is extended to the Aruga team for their commitment to ensuring La Boite's story was shared throughout the year.

As well as providing ongoing pro bono support to keep cast and team looking fabulous on stage and off, the team at *Epic Hair Designs* extended their generosity during the 100-year celebrations by delivering a standout centenary raffle fundraiser, drawn following La Boite's 100 Year Gala.

Media partners *The Weekend Edition* and *Must Do Brisbane* continued to extend La Boite's reach through added value opportunities, connecting its work with broader audiences.

A special acknowledgement goes to *Pixel Frame*, whose dedication to telling La Boite's stories through high-quality video content consistently exceeded expectations across season advertisements, Giving Day, interviews and production.

BVN continued their dedicated financial support, while *McCullough Robertson* and *CAAS Audit Services'* ongoing provision of vital pro bono and discounted services helped reduce operating costs. Staff from the organisations also continued to attend events and show their support in person throughout the year, strengthening their connection to the company's work.

La Boite is grateful to suppliers who offered reduced costs for products and services, including *Aether Brewing Co*, *Fire N'Dough*, *Joval Wine Group*, *Merlo Coffee Roasters*, *PQI*, and *Quest Kelvin Grove*, all of which contributed meaningfully to operations in 2025.

La Boite thanks all partners and supporters for their continued commitment and for helping make its work possible.

La Boite Theatre continued its support of the Actors' & Entertainers' Benevolent Fund of Queensland by welcoming the organisation into each mainstage season, where charity bucket collections were held during one key performance. Through the generosity of audiences, these collections helped raise vital funds to support performers and arts workers facing financial hardship.

CORE FUNDING PARTNERS



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



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



Australian Government



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

SEASON PARTNERS



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



JOVAL WINE GROUP



MEDIA PARTNERS



ADDITIONAL REVENUE STREAMS

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 each morning as a cafe and extending its services into the evening for performances and events, the Espresso Bar served over 22,000 patrons in 2025.

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.

VENUE HIRE

In 2025, 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, and the vibrant La Boite Forecourt.. These spaces enable us to accommodate a broad range of events, from theatrical performances and community gatherings to corporate workshops and private functions.



Image by Josh Woning.

WORKSHOP

La Boite's workshop is a versatile, multi-use facility that serves as an event and theatre construction hub. Purpose-built to support a wide range of creative and production activities, the workshop enables the design, fabrication, and delivery of high-quality sets and environments for both internal productions and external projects.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2025

EVENTS AND ATTENDANCE

In 2025, La Boite hosted more than 40 performances and events through venue hire activities, reinforcing its role as a key cultural hub within Brisbane. These events spanned a diverse range of artistic, corporate, and community uses, attracting broad audiences and contributing to the city's vibrant cultural landscape.

EMPLOYMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Venue hire operations engaged over 180 technicians and Front of House staff across the year. This workforce was instrumental in ensuring the seamless delivery of all events to a high professional standard. In addition to supporting operational excellence, these opportunities contributed to the ongoing development and sustainability of skilled arts workers within the sector.

COMMUNITY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

La Boite maintained a strong commitment to supporting the Brisbane arts and community sector, providing more than \$120,000 in in-kind support throughout 2025. This support included waived or significantly subsidised venue hire fees, technical and production assistance, and access to facilities and resources for community-led initiatives.

In total, more than 40 individuals, organisations, and businesses benefited from this support. Recipients included a broad cross-section of the creative and community sectors, including Dead Puppet Society, Queensland University of Technology, Shake & Stir, Vermilion Records, McCullough Robertson Lawyers, Woodward Productions, Sydney Theatre Company, Wild Bear Entertainment, Circa Rehearsals, The Big Love Tour, ABC, Drama Queensland, Girls in Boxes, Playlab Inc, Scratch That, All Hallows School, Brisbane Grammar School, Queensland Pole Championships, Vina Cava Mainhouse, Finesse Burlesque, Love Stories Tour, MX Pole Dance Amateur Queensland, Queensland College of Dance, Singapore Repertory Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse, Youth Theatre Sports, Multicultural Australia, Fresh Inc, Rock Community Church, Brisbane Festival, and Griffin Theatre Company.

Through this support, La Boite continues to play an active role in fostering creativity, enabling access, and strengthening connections across the local arts and community ecosystem.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

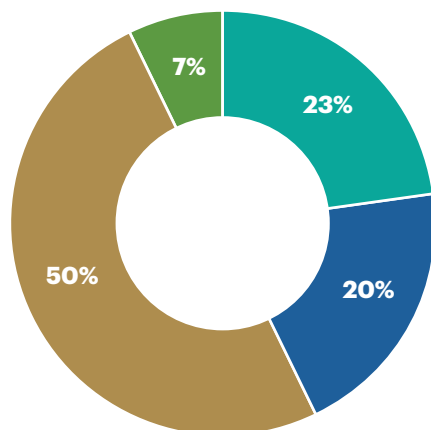
	2025
Total Income	\$3,022,845
Total Expenses	\$3,077,314
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$54,469)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2025
Total Assets	\$784,687
Total Liabilities	\$697,458
Total Equity	\$87,229

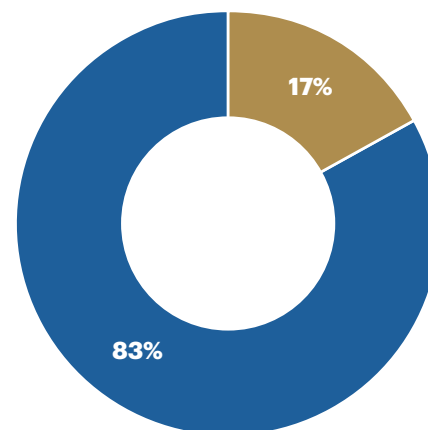
TOTAL REVENUE

- Box Office 23%
- Sponsorship and Philanthropy 20%
- Grants 50%
- Other 7%



TOTAL EXPENSES

- Program Production 17%
- General Operating Costs 83%



QR CODE
TO ACNC WEBSITE
TO VIEW LA BOITE'S
AUDITED FINANCIAL
REPORT 2025



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 the co-founder of award-winning production house The Little Red Company.



GRESHAM CONGOO

Member of the Finance & Risk Subcommittee Company Secretary

(as at 9 December 2025)

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.



GRACE BALL

Member of the Finance & Risk Subcommittee

(Commenced Sep 25)

Grace is a commercial litigation, dispute resolution and regulatory lawyer with experience advising clients across a broad range of industries, including government, property, energy, mining and resources and professional and financial services. Grace acts for individuals, SMEs, and ASX-listed companies on simple and complex disputes, regulatory matters, and litigation strategy, and regularly represents clients in both state and federal jurisdictions. Having previously worked as an enforcement lawyer at ASIC, she brings a strong understanding of the regulatory landscape to La Boite.



GRACE LOYDEN

Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

Grace is the Dean of Learning & Teaching at St Laurence's College with a wealth of education experience.

A recognised teacher in the field of English and Literature, Grace has held positions on the management committee of the English Teachers' Association of Queensland and has co-authored two textbooks. Her commitment to literature and arts education aligns with La Boite's mission to present bold new work and engage young people.



HANNAH BARR

Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

(Commenced Jan 2025 – Resigned position August 2025)

Hannah works with the Fairfax Foundation with experience as both an administrator in the not-for-profit sector and as an independent theatre artist. She has a keen interest in how the private and government sectors can collaborate to sustain and grow Queensland's and Australia's creative and cultural industries.



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.



DR JOHN NICHOLAS SAUNDERS

Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

John is a Lecturer at the Australian Catholic University's National School of Education. He has extensive experience in education, having worked as a teacher, Head of Department, and Assistant Dean of Learning. From 2013 to 2020, he served as Director of Education and Community Partnerships at the Sydney Theatre Company. John is the President of the Australian Alliance of Associations in Education (AAAE), Chair of the National Advocates for Arts Education (NAAE), and a board member of Australian Plays Transform and Drama Australia.



JESSICA SIMPSON

Member 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.



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.



LYNN RAINBOW-REID AM

Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

(Resigned position Apr 25)

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

(Resigned position Oct 25)

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).

LA BOITE STAFF

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Courtney Stewart

Artistic Director & CEO

Member of the Finance & Risk Subcommittee

Ian Prowse

General Manager

*Member of the Finance & Risk Subcommittee
and Marketing & Development Subcommittee*

Jacqueline Bawtree

Head of Marketing & Audience Development

Member of the Marketing & Development Subcommittee

AT THE HEART OF LA BOITE

Senior Producer

Jess Bunz

Artistic Administrator

Chelsea August

Production Manager

Teegan Kranenburg

Workshop Manager

Andrew Mills

Technical Coordinator

George Pitt

Venue & Operations Manager

Nick Seery (until June 2025)

Garry Wilson

Venue & Ticketing Coordinator

Kathryn Collins

Espresso Bar & Café Barista

Annabel Gilbert

Marketing Coordinator

Siluni Kumaraperuma

Graphic Designer

Ella Marschke

Finance Officer

Julia Beckitt

Front of House Supervisors

Cassidy Cahill, Marie David, Annabelle Gilbert,
Emma Hanson, Sophia Harris, Claire Holland,
Aimee Sheather, Carys Walsh,

Front of House & La Boite Espresso Bar Staff

Aidan Calleja, Billy Fogarty, Ruby Gleeson, Charlie Griffin,
Sebastian (Baz) Leigh, Harry Maynard, Emilee McCosker,
Lela McManus, Kai Ocean Anderson, Zoe Ross,
Lucy Wilding, Flynn Young

Technical Staff

Kelsey Booth, Emma Burchell, Riley Camejo, Douglas Carr,
Briana Clark, Tia-Hanee Cleary, Morgan Cole-Jones, Eloise
Collins, Maddisen Dailey, Hamish Elliot, Tim Gawne, Sam
Gehrke, Charlie Graham, Kelly Hau, Regan Henry, Sam
Howlett, Leila Marsden, Haylee Millett, Erin O'Shea, Brianna
Stanton, Riley Silk, Alla Macdonald, Tyler Morrison, Lialize
du Plessis, Thomas Ranie, Jacqueline Sichter, Mariah
Simpson, Jacqueline Sichter, Brianna Stanton, Lachlan van
der Kreek, Carys Walsh, Sophie Watkins, Bella Wellstead,
Claire Yorston



La Boite Theatre Front of House Team Members.
Image by Josh Woning.

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