

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 2019

LA BOITE'S 2020 SEASON CELEBRATES THE DIVERSITY OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE WITH STORIES OF PASSION, DARING AND CONNECTION

La Boite celebrates 95 years of fearless and unforgettable storytelling in 2020 with an uplifting and provocative program of experiences including two world premieres, one Australian premiere and the return of a family favourite.

La Boite Artistic Director and CEO **Todd MacDonald** said Season 2020 embodied the daring, passion and deep connections the theatre company was renowned for.

"This is an exhilarating season; full of heart, critical voices and beautiful stories for audiences," Mr MacDonald said.

"La Boite is the oldest continuously running theatre company in Australia and it is our privilege in 2020 to welcome some of Brisbane's finest performers and theatre-makers – as well as a powerful generation of emerging artists – into the Roundhouse Theatre.

"The 2020 season is a bear hug for your soul; a collection of stories about who we are, delivered with joy, optimism and a healthy dose of rage."

The season starts with brand-new work *The Neighbourhood*, a companion piece to La Boite's critically acclaimed 2017 offering *The Village*.

The intimate story-telling experience is written and performed by asylum seekers, refugees and migrant Australians and transports audiences across countries, borders and oceans in search of home.

The *Neighbourhood* tracks seven individual, real-life journeys and is presented in partnership with Multicultural Australia and Empire Theatres Toowoomba, with the powerful production playing the regional venue following its La Boite premiere.

Also making its world premiere is *Brothers Book Club*, a hilarious and unflinchingly honest work written and performed by The Mamas Boys, a collective of artists from Logan, Queensland.

A group of mates meet at Book Club once a month to study, support and roast one another. These boys are best friends, but when one former member returns to Book Club, tensions surface and the brothers' worlds begin to unravel.

Directed by **Claire Christian**, this new Australian work explores the themes of masculinity, adolescence, brotherhood and family and was developed with funding through the Queensland Government's Queensland Arts Showcase Program and in partnership with Brisbane Festival, HOTA Home of the Arts and Arts Centre Melbourne.

Season 2020 delivers a searing critique of capitalism when *St Joan of the Stockyards* blazes on to the stage in a theatrical battle cry for modern day activists and anarchists.

Based on Bertolt Brecht's reimagining of the Joan of Arc myth, the Australian premiere of this provocative work is translated by multiple award-winning playwright **Mark Rogers** and directed by **Sanja Simić**.

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT ARUGA

Claire Bonney

Account Manager

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

P: 0432 713 421

E: claire@aruga.com www.aruga.com.au

Adam Brunes

Co-Founder

9/33 Vulture Street West End QLD 4101

P: 0421 233 609

E: adam@aruga.com www.aruga.com.au

BOOKINGS:

Tel: 07 3007 8600 | www.laboite.com.au

MORE INFORMATION

www.laboite.com.au



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



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AT THE HEART OF SEASON 2020 IS AUTHENTIC
STORYTELLING THAT SHOWS US WHO WE ARE

The gripping tale of a doomed martyr railing against harsh economic reality marks the continuation of La Boite's creative partnership with Queensland University of Technology, which delivered *Romeo and Juliet* (2019) and *Lysa and the Freeborn Dames* (2018).

The Little Ones Theatre Company will present a queer re-telling of *The Happy Prince*, one of **Oscar Wilde's** most beloved and tender stories.

This production, fresh from a critically acclaimed Sydney season, is imbued with a sense of hope and immortality, mirroring Wilde's unfaltering belief in the strength and power of love and empathy.

The fable about the connection that blossoms between a statue and a swallow is an ode to the power of romance in a torturous world and is directed by **Stephen Nicolazzo** with unforgettable performances by **Catherine Davies** and **Janine Watson**.

La Boite partners with The Windmill Theatre Co to present the magical family production, *Grug*.

Featuring Ted Prior's immensely popular storybook character, *Grug* will enchant and delight not just young audiences, but their young-at-heart parents and grandparents.

HWY, La Boite's annual festival of contemporary theatre, returns with performances, workshops, masterclasses, forums, readings and conversations over two weeks in March.

For the first time, La Boite will extend *HWY* by programming additional events throughout the year to complement the mainstage season.

Season 2020 continues La Boite's commitment to further the diversity of human experience with post-show *HWY Chatterbox* experiences, artist development programs, creative and engagement opportunities for young people and emerging artists and a comprehensive educational program.

"At the heart of Season 2020 is authentic storytelling that shows us who we are," Mr MacDonald said.

"This season tackles issues that impact us on both an intimate and global scale and poses the question: 'What do we need to do to change the world?'"

To celebrate the La Boite 2020 season launch, all single tickets are available at \$35 for the next 35 days, offer ending on Friday 25 October. La Boite 2020 season passes are also now available.

View the full program and purchase season passes at laboite.com.au

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CONTACT ARUGA**Claire Bonney***Account Manager*

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A STORY OF PEOPLE, PASSION, PURPOSE AND PLACE

ABOUT LA BOITE

La Boite is a story of people, passion, purpose and place. La Boite holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of artists and audiences in Australia. As Australia's longest-running professional theatre company, La Boite has represented the adventurous and alternative for more than 90 years.

In 2019, under Artistic Director Todd MacDonald, La Boite Theatre Company continues to develop and present vital new Australian work in our home venue, Australia's only purpose-built theatre-in-the-round the Roundhouse Theatre, and throughout Australia through our touring and partnership programs. We work with a diverse cross section of artists and audiences to passionately represent and connect with the community we live in.

We are committed to collaboration, which starts and ends with our artists. Our Artist Development Programs span from commissions and workshops through to dedicated developments of new works, as well as participation in our annual HWY Festival. Our Youth & Participation programs cultivate the next generation of performers in the Queensland Arts Industry.

We actively seek out collaborations with exciting partners to create new work and expand the possibilities of form. In the past, La Boite has presented work with Brisbane Festival, shake & stir theatre co, Circa, Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Griffin Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, Dead Puppet Society, The Farm, Playlab and QUT Creative Industries.

LA BOITE SEASON 2020

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD	PREVIEW 8 FEB / 10 - 29 FEB, 2020
LB HWY	4 - 18 MAR, 2020
ST JOAN OF THE STOCKYARDS	PREVIEW 23 MAY / 25 MAY - 13 JUN, 2020
GRUG	24 JUN - 4 JUL, 2020
THE HAPPY PRINCE	PREVIEW ~ JUL / 20 JUL - 8 AUG, 2020
BROTHERS BOOK CLUB	PREVIEW 29 & 31 AUG / 1 - 19 SEP

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