




BACK TO BACK THEATRE'S 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW







**WE ARE  
AN ENSEMBLE  
OF PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES WHO  
MAKE THEATRE  
WORKS AND  
TROUBLE THE  
WORLD.**

In 2015 Back to Back Theatre undertook 3 international tours including 1 first-time tour to South America, presentations in 3 regional French cities and a special 10 year celebration of our work SMALL METAL OBJECTS in Vienna. We presented 29 performances of major works to 10,424 audience members worldwide. We reached 1,575 community participants through 58 community workshops. We undertook creative development for 3 new works, hosted 7 presentations of 2 new experimental works in Geelong, ventured into blogging, and welcomed 1 new ensemble member. In all our work, we pushed ourselves and others to re-define expectations of possibility in theatre and in the world.



#### Awards

Australia Council Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre, Bruce Gladwin  
Geelong Disability Awards, Finalist, Mark Deans  
Give Where You Live, Inspiration Award, Back to Back Theatre



#### Creative Developments

LADY EATS APPLE  
WE DID DIE LAUGHING  
SUCKER

#### Experimental Laboratories

THEATRE OF SPEED  
ACTING & WRITING FOR FILM & TV  
UNMASTERCLASS



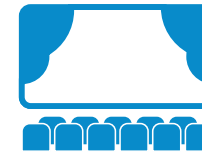
#### International Touring

GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH  
Vooruit, Ghent, Belgium  
Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal  
Le Lieu Unique, Nantes, France  
Espace Malraux, Chambéry, France  
La Filature, Mulhouse, France  
Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires (FIBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Fundación Festival Internacional Teatro a Mil, Santiago, Chile

#### SMALL METAL OBJECTS

Vienna Festival, Vienna, Austria

THE DEMOCRATIC SET  
Screenings, Segal Festival of Theatre & Performance, New York, USA  
Exhibition, PQAU, Prague Quadrennial for Performance Design & Space, Prague, Czech Republic  
Exhibition, Hebbel am Ufer (HAU), No Limits Festival, Berlin, Germany



#### Geelong Presentations

SUCKER by Theatre of Speed  
WE DID DIE LAUGHING by Theatre of Speed at Geelong After Dark  
CAMP Come And Make Performance



#### Advocacy & Leadership

National Disability Insurance Scheme Rollout: Advocating for artistic practice via the NDIS  
Internships & Secondments: Hosting individuals to help them learn

# ABOUT BACK TO BACK THEATRE

Based in the regional centre of Geelong, Back to Back Theatre is an outstanding Australian theatre company of national and international significance.

Driven by an ensemble of actors with disabilities, the company creates new forms of contemporary performance giving voice to social and political issues that speak to all people.

Back to Back Theatre makes work locally and tours it globally. In addition to its professional practice, Back to Back Theatre collaborates intensively with communities throughout Victoria, Australia and beyond. The company is considered one of Australia's most important cultural exports, a leader in its field and a guide to others.

Back to Back Theatre seeks to make theatre that redefines expectations of possibility, that challenges the assumptions we hold about ourselves and about others, resulting in real social change.

The company's aspiration is to make the best theatre in the world.

## GOALS

**Great Art** – Create an exceptional and unexpected body of work that challenges artistic, social and political convention

**Impact, Advocacy & Leadership** – Effect positive social change via audacious artistic practice and sectoral leadership

**Audience & Communication** – With our actors as the voice and public face of the company, strengthen audience and relationships locally, nationally and internationally to maximise reach

**Sustainability** – Build organisational resilience via a culture of acuity and clarity in strategic partnership with others

### THE BACK TO BACK THEATRE ENSEMBLE

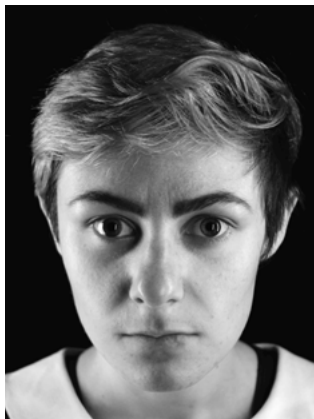
Images: Rhian Hinkley



Brian Tilley



Mark Deans



Romany Latham



Sarah Mainwaring



Scott Price



Simon Laherty



# FROM THE ENSEMBLE

**Brian Tilley, Mark Deans, Romany Latham, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price & Simon Laherty**

Life in 2015 was full of successes and failures. We worked hard on LADY EATS APPLE and we think the show is going to blow people's minds. So this is high up on our list of successes. We interviewed people who have had near death experiences. We're still divided on our beliefs in the afterlife, but we agree there must be something there. Simon says he has to believe if there's any hope of coming back as band manager for Britney Spears. We don't know the exact end point of LADY EATS APPLE, but now we know one is possible.

Romany is quite satisfied with his first year as part of the ensemble and how he has settled in to the group, so this is on the list of successes too. Romany thinks differently to everyone else, but we love difference in opinions.

It was the company's first time to South America in 2015 and it was done well. Simon celebrated 10 years of SMALL METAL OBJECTS in Vienna with a sell out season.

He met the Ambassador at his penthouse for a drink after one of the shows. Bruce and Mark won awards too. We made sure we recognised each other's achievements at company meetings and staff meetings.

We had worker reviews and the opportunity to table some concerns. We worked with the community for CAMP, presented shows with THEATRE OF SPEED and helped Bruce deliver UNMASTERCLASS. It's an important part of our time here, to integrate with the community, to share our knowledge and to meet new people.

Alice took some time off last year. If you didn't know, Alice works at Back to Back; she is the Executive Producer. Generally speaking she is the person who keeps the entire place running, so she makes us possible. Alice is hard working, and she respects other people's worlds. Alice talks to people at parties. She is a great person to talk to about visiting festivals around the world. Simon reckons Alice is higher than Bruce, more important than Bruce. Simon reckons we should sack Bruce and bring Alice into the creative team. It was good to have her back after her holiday.



# FROM THE CHAIR & CO-CEOS

**Jo Porter, Chair**

**Alice Nash, Executive Producer & Co-CEO**

**Bruce Gladwin, Artistic Director & Co-CEO**

At Back to Back Theatre we contend that our operation as a theatre company is beyond expectation of possibility: an affirmation for human potential. The company's existence contributes to the richness and diversity of Australian life and palpably projects Geelong, Victoria and Australia to the world as innovative, sophisticated and dynamic.

Each major new work ambitiously aims to have a minimum of a decade's global touring. In 2015 we marked the 10th anniversary of our iconic, site-specific work *SMALL METAL OBJECTS* at the Vienna Festival, having now presented the work in 34 cities across 15 countries and reaching 25,548 audience members since 2005. We are truly humbled the show has had such enduring impact for audiences worldwide.

2015 saw *GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH* tour to Ghent (Belgium), Lisbon (Portugal), Nantes, Chambéry and Mulhouse (France), followed by a debut tour of South America with seasons in Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Santiago (Chile). In all destinations, we were astounded by the heart of our audiences.

As explorers of narrative complexity, our priority is making challenging works of scale that dissect the unspoken imaginings of society. Exploring our place in time, new works are developed as part of a creative continuum with each responding to the one before. Creative development in 2015 focused on the company's most ambitious work to date, a show titled *LADY EATS APPLE*. Set inside a vast inflatable, *LADY EATS APPLE* examines the awesomeness of our existence and the simultaneous tragedy of our death.

Our community programs provided a point of intersection between established and emerging artists, acting as a crucible for new ideas and inter-disciplinary practice. We spread our wings into the screen world, recruiting 17 community participants for *ACTING & WRITING FOR FILM AND TV* and held intense collaborations of *CAMP (COME AND MAKE PERFORMANCE)*, *THEATRE OF SPEED's* elegant *SUCKER* and *WE DID DIE LAUGHING*.

The company acted as a reference point and resource for disability arts practitioners and organisations in Australia and beyond, and we provided essential advocacy, leadership and mentorships to artists with and without disabilities.

Working in the arts in Australia in 2015 was not easy. The funding landscape shifted under our feet: we felt the fragility of experimental artistic practice more poignantly than ever, but we were heartened as artists, private supporters, audiences and politicians across the country affirmed our collective importance to the nation.

As Chair and CEOs of Back to Back Theatre, we extend our admiration and thanks to the ensemble, Board and staff; to our public supporters and private fellow travellers; to community members, carers and families. You are travelling with us to create theatre that is seemingly impossible and we are honoured to have you in our midst.

We thank audiences who bear witness to our work and inspire our future exploration. A theatre show does not exist without an audience, taking place in large part in the wild, hopeful, complex imaginations of those who behold it. We could not be on the world's most important stages without your incredible attention and presence.







# An anxious God.

## LADY EATS APPLE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

### **Creative Development Collaborators**

**Director & Devisor** Bruce Gladwin **Devisors &**

**Performers** Brian Tilley, Mark Deans, Romany Latham, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price & Simon Laherty **Design**

**Collaborators** Mark Cuthbertson, Rhian Hinkley &

Andrew Livingston, Bluebottle **Sound Engineer** Marco

Cher Gibard **Creative Development Artists** Kate Sulan, Robbie Croft & Sonia Teuben

In 2015, we continued the creative development of a major new work, LADY EATS APPLE, which will have its world premiere in 2016. Through LADY EATS APPLE, we aim to harness our primal intuition, to be raw, pure and simple, and to embrace the unpredictable.

In the act of creating LADY EATS APPLE, the cast – who themselves symbolically represent restriction and limitation - advocate for individual empowerment, to have total freedom to examine, question and criticise, to challenge dogmas, norms, rules and institutions.

Located within a vast, awe-inspiring inflatable auditorium, this work transports the audience to the lush scenographic landscapes of the Garden of Eden, a snowstorm in medieval Europe and the frenetic urban jungle. In 2015, with the invaluable support of our neighbours, GPAC (Geelong Performing Arts Centre), we realised the shifting landscapes of the new work.

Major new works at Back to Back Theatre have long gestation periods and LADY EATS APPLE is no exception. The thematic underpinnings of the work began at our 2014 residency at the V&A Museum in London, supported by LIFT and the Keir Foundation. Here we began investigations into Gods no longer worshipped and the Victorians' interest in mediums, including an unexpected overlay with Suffragettes. In 2015 we explored near death experiences, the Ganzfeld effect, binaural hearing and hypnotism.

Through LADY EATS APPLE we are attempting to make something primal that bores into our evolutionary cerebral cortex, that connects us with not just all that live, but all that have lived, that finds the personal within the cosmic.

# *More than ever, long live theatre!*

## GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH TOURING

**Vooruit**

Ghent, Belgium  
7 May – 8 May

**Culturgest**

Lisbon, Portugal  
14 May – 15 May

**Le Lieu Unique**

Nantes, France  
19 May – 20 May

**Espace Malraux**

Chambéry, France  
26 May – 27 May

**La Filature**

Mulhouse, France  
2 June

**Festival Internacional  
de Buenos Aires (FIBA)**

Buenos Aires, Argentina  
25 September – 27 September

**Fundación Festival  
Internacional Teatro a Mil**

Santiago, Chile  
2 October – 4 October



**Devisors** Brian Tilley, Bruce Gladwin, David Woods, Kate Sulan, Marcia Ferguson, Mark Deans, Nicki Holland, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price & Simon Laherty  
**Show Director** David Symons **Performers** Brian Tilley, David Woods, Luke Ryan, Mark Deans, Scott Price & Simon Laherty **Lighting Design** Andrew Livingston, Bluebottle **Design Construction** Mark Cuthbertson  
**Design & Animation** Rhian Hinkley **Composer** Jóhann Jóhannsson **Stage Manager** Alice Fleming **Sound Engineer** Marco Cher Gibard

## GANESH TOUR DIARY

We began at Vooruit, in Ghent, Belgium. This arts complex, built by the Ghent Socialist Movement in 1913, is an outstanding example of excellence in design and programming. The audience's attentiveness gave way to hearty applause at curtain call, leading into a lively discussion in the café after both shows.

Our two shows at the Culturgest Festival in Lisbon, Portugal, were well served by the exceptional sound system and broad proscenium in the Grand Auditorio. The Q&A after the second performance was a standout. Host Franscisco Frazao's understanding of the layered nuance of the text supported questions around the process of devising work. The Australian Ambassador to Portugal, Ms. Anne Plunkett, attended the second performance.

We were quickly swept to our next engagement in an old biscuit factory in Nantes, France. The venue's reputation as a 'factory producing the imaginary' felt like a good match for Back to Back. We were joined by a large number of high school students, so a younger-than-average audience dominated the auditorium for both performances.

A highlight of our season at Espace Malraux, Scène Nationale in Chambéry, France, came at a workshop with a local high school. A student in beautiful yet halting English asked Scott if the members of the ensemble accepted their disability in a positive way, noting both their

professional achievements together with their position outside the 'norm'. Scott responded with pragmatism and eloquence, explaining the pride he has in his work, and how his ability as an artist with a disability is what had brought him to Chambéry in the first place. The potency of the ensemble's influence on perceptions of disability was again highlighted in this context.

We journeyed to La Filature in Mulhouse, France, where GANESH captivated an audience of 527. Monica-Guillouet Gélys, Director and Renaud Serraz, International Artistic Advisor had seen the work in Vienna in 2012 and more recently in Basel in 2014; they spoke of its relevance on the stage now and then, and how pleased they were for it to be at La Filature after all this time.

We embarked on our first tour of South America with a season at Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires (FIBA) at Teater Coliseo, Buenos Aires, where as well as three shows, we presented our first incarnation of our one-day workshop UNMASTERCLASS. We attended a function in our honour at the home of Noel Campbell, Australian Ambassador to Argentina, who then brought guests along to enjoy the last show.

In Santiago, Chile, GANESH was presented in Teatro Municipal de las Condes under the auspices of the Fundación Festival Internacional Teatro a Mil, an extension of Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires. Audiences were attentive and warm with laughter.

A renowned theatre director in the audience said: "I have been trying for 30 years to get a moment of connection on the stage between two actors that can be read by an audience. But you did it there, just in a moment; you did it, between Mark and the tyrannical director. You have renewed my faith in the capacity of theatre to transform. I can keep working."

It seems fitting to end with a handwritten note that was passed to Alice Nash in the foyer in Santiago. It was written – so we were told – by the famous Chilean actress, Calu Rivero. It read:

"Sometimes, and this is one of those stellars, one of those special moments, where theatre performs a miracle and brings together – through a new beauty – soul, heart and ethics. More than ever, long live theatre!"

**Engagement** Post show Q&As in Ghent, Lisbon & Buenos Aires, Meet & Greet in Chambéry & Mulhouse, Welcome Event in Buenos Aires, post show talk in Santiago, UNMASTERCLASS workshops in Buenos Aires & Santiago.



SMALL METAL OBJECTS, Vienna  
Image: Nurith Wagner-Strauss



*I was completely wild about this show.*

## SMALL METAL OBJECTS TOURING

**Devisors** Bruce Gladwin, Genevieve Morris, Jim Russell, Simon Laherty & Sonia Teuben **Performers** Genevieve Picot, Luke Ryan, Simon Laherty & Sonia Teuben **Stage Manager** Alice Fleming **Sound Composer & Designer** Hugh Covill **Sound Engineer** Marco Cher Gibard

Back to Back Theatre presented a sell-out season, seven shows, of SMALL METAL OBJECTS at the Vienna Festival. The work was performed outside a busy train station on the corners of Mariahilferstrasse and Neubaugasse.

As ever, we were welcomed with perfect elegance by the exquisite team of the Vienna Festival, shepherded by our long-standing colleague, Stefan Schmidtke, who had staged the European Premiere of the work at Theaterformen in Hannover in 2007.

A decade ago we set ourselves the playful yet ambitious goal: to tour SMALL METAL OBJECTS for 10 years. The work premiered at the 2005 Melbourne Festival, so the 2015 Vienna Festival marked its tenth anniversary. Since 2005, SMALL METAL OBJECTS has been presented in 34 cities, 15 countries to 25,548 audience members.

*"I was extremely fortunate to get to see SMALL METAL OBJECTS in Vienna a few weeks ago. I still think about it and have told my friends about it. It was a brilliant and moving performance."*

– Audience member, Vienna

Wiener Festwochen  
(Vienna Festival)  
Vienna, Austria  
8 June – 11 June



SMALL METAL OBJECTS, Vienna  
Image: Nurith Wagner-Strauss

### SMALL METAL OBJECTS has travelled to:

Vienna Festival (Austria), Unity Festival (Cardiff, Wales), Seoul Performing Arts Centre (South Korea), Geelong Performing Arts Centre (Australia), The Kennedy Center (Washington DC, USA), Philadelphia Live Arts Festival (USA), Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, TBA Festival (USA), Arnolfini / Bristol Old Vic (Bristol, UK), Kampnagel (Hamburg, Germany), Exodus Festival (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Linz European Cultural Capital 09 (Austria), Singapore International Festival of Arts, Walker Art Center (Minneapolis USA), On the Boards (Seattle, USA), Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, USA), PuSH International Performing Arts Festival (Vancouver, Canada), Harbourfront Centre (Toronto Canada), Under the Radar Festival / Public Theater (New York, USA), The Barbican / TheatreRoyal Stratford East (London, UK), Dublin Theatre Festival (Ireland), Zürcher Theater Spektakel (Zurich, Switzerland), Noorderzon (Groningen, The Netherlands), Kobenhavns Internationale Teater (Copenhagen, Denmark), Paris quartier d'été (France), Theaterformen (Hanover, Germany), Ten Days on the Island (Hobart, Australia), The Capitol (Bendigo, Australia), Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival (Australia), Artshouse (Melbourne, Australia), Brisbane Powerhouse (Australia), Perth International Arts Festival (Australia), Sydney Festival (Australia), Australian Performing Arts Market (Adelaide, Australia), Melbourne International Arts Festival (Australia).

# The cameras are for your own safety.

## ACTING & WRITING FOR FILM & TV CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

**Director** Bruce Gladwin **Guest**

**Artist** Luke Ryan **Ensemble**

Brian Tilley, Mark Deans, Romany Latham, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price & Simon Laherty **Artists-in-Residence** Adam Berry, Allan V Watt, Ben Oakes, Chris Hansen, Grace Rose Turner, Jake Anson, Jess Walker, Josh Haigh, Liam White, Michael Chan, Nicholas Walsh, Nikita Veitch, Noah Zvekic, Robbie Croft, Sonia Teuben, Stephanie Cook & Taylor Powell

In 2015, Back to Back Theatre began an ambitious new screen project, ACTING & WRITING FOR FILM & TV.

We recruited and auditioned 17 Artists-in-Residence to train alongside our ensemble and other industry professionals, developing skills and knowledge in writing and acting for screen. Led by individuals with intellectual disabilities from the Geelong region, this will be our first step in a bigger planned foray into screen worlds.

Our objective to improve employment outcomes for individuals with intellectual disabilities is fundamental to this project, however this initiative also acknowledges the lack of diversity we still have on our screens in Australia, and the importance of representing difference on screen. It also affirms that people with disabilities can work as performing artists, engaging a larger and more diverse audience base.

Back to Back Theatre  
Studio, Geelong  
23 November – 26 November





# THEATRE OF SPEED

WE ARE THEATRE OF SPEED. We are a group of people that make performance. We speak the truth. We don't discriminate. We try and go for something and try not to be afraid. If you're having trouble expressing your emotions, come and we will help relieve you of your stresses.

**Workshop Facilitators** Alisa Tanaka-King, Chris Kohn, Iris Gaillard, James Jackson, Jason Maling, John Howard, Tamara Searle & Wendy Grose  
**Participating Artists** Adam Berry, Ben Oakes, Brian Tilley, James Lewis, Jessica Walker, Laura Berrisford, Mark Deans, Phoebe Baker, Polly Munday, Robbie Croft, Romany Latham, Rose McLachlan, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price, Simon Laherty & Tamika Simpson  
**Artist Support** Leanne Stein  
**Secondments** James Jackson, Jessica Leaming, Kate Stones, Suzanne Inglebrecht & Sherilee Kahui

Theatre of Speed is an experimental centre for young people with disabilities in Geelong, an intensive work and training environment where no other exists. Working with the Back to Back ensemble and leading Australian contemporary performance makers, community participants are partners in an experimental art making laboratory.

Running 46 Wednesdays of every year, Theatre of Speed allows marginalised members of our community to be seen and heard; to have a voice. The laboratory also plays a vital role in the sustainability of Back to Back Theatre's artistic vibrancy, whereby an incursion of artistic talent affords a diversity in creative leadership and a broadening of the company's creative palette.

For many of the participants, Theatre of Speed allows them to shift from the role of child, client, student, disabled person and / or employee, to that of author, actor and social commentator.

In 2015 Theatre of Speed focused on the development and presentation of two new experimental works, WE DID DIE LAUGHING, presented as part of Geelong After Dark, and a three-week season of SUCKER, both performed to Geelong audiences in Back to Back Theatre's studio.

"Being here is really good for me because I want to be an actress one day...It's my life basically...This thing is all about us, all about me. I have this one really good friend here Phoebe, she really inspires me, she and I are really good actors."

— Rose, Theatre of Speed



## *From Paris to Hollywood.*

WE DID DIE LAUGHING by Theatre of Speed

**Director** Jason Maling **Devisors & Performers** Theatre of Speed Artists **Set Design** Mark Cuthbertson **Lighting Design** Kris Chainey **Stage Manager** Elise Brokensha **Technical Support** Pat Scaddan **Secondments** Kate Stone & Iris Gaillard

The starting point for WE DID DIE LAUGHING was a series of sketchy workshops called the 'Suitability Agency'. The group developed intimate public services based on personal obsessions, drawing on their own experiences within the disability sector. They played with rules, bureaucratic mystification and the politics of provision. Over the final three months they pushed these ideas into the much more abstracted territory of dysfunction and change.

WE DID DIE LAUGHING was a one-off durational performance installation incorporating live performance and live film. 300 members of the Geelong community joined us for a wild stroll through the company's studio and office space, encountering surprises at every turn.

**Back to Back Theatre Studio, Geelong**  
As part of Geelong After Dark  
8 May

WE DID DIE LAUGHING  
Image: Jason Maling

## *Stick it to the Man.*

SUCKER by Theatre of Speed

**Director** Tamara Searle **Devisors & Performers** Theatre of Speed Artists **Costume & Set Design** Matt Adey **Costume Assistant** Bryn Merideth **Lighting Design** Dans Maree Sheehan **Music** Roland Cox **Dramaturg** James Jackson **Secondment** Jessica Leaming **Artist Support** Leanne Stein

SUCKER is the story of five unlikely renegades who band together to stick it to The Man. It's about having a huge impact with a tiny gesture, standing up for what you believe in, and helping others stand up for what they believe in.

The work began development in 2014 and sprang from Theatre of Speed's interest in exploring the espionage genre. It mutated across time and, as with much new work, it revealed itself completely only in the last month.

Presenting six sell-out performances in the Back to Back Theatre studio, audience members were invited to experience a wordless narrative where dramatic action was the primary means of communicating the work. SUCKER offered another opportunity for Theatre of Speed to excel and grow through their creativity. This moved audiences, and in turn the performers.

**Engagement** Feature of Geelong's International Day of People with a Disability Program, Think Impact Social Impact Surveys distributed after each performance, Think Impact Focus Group with members of Theatre of Speed.

**Back to Back Theatre Studio, Geelong**  
18 November  
25 November  
2 December



# Risks of all shapes, sizes, textures and emotions.

CAMP – COME AND MAKE PERFORMANCE

“From the moment I walked into the foyer I felt a wonderful welcome and a feeling that it’s okay to be exactly as I am and share what I have to offer.”

– CAMP participant

“The warmth and connections with others and myself I will take out into the world with me. Thank you for being in the world.”

– CAMP participant

**Workshop Facilitators** Adele Varcoe, Dan Han, Emma Valente, Ingrid Voorendt, James Pratt, Jessica Bellamy, Joseph O’Farrell, Kate Davis, Lyndel Quick, Nicola Gunn, Peter Houghton, Rob Reid, Tamara Searle & Wendy Grose **Emerging Artists** Daniele Constance, Elmira Forest, Harmonie Downes, Jessica Bradley, Lisa Worthington & Magda Miranda

CAMP is an intensive weekend of delightfully ruthless creative investigations for community members with and without disabilities.

The program provides community members in Geelong and beyond access to exemplary contemporary theatre practice. CAMP enlists artists who are yet to work heavily within the disability context, enabling them to then extend their practice with marginalised communities.

In 2015 CAMP tickets sold out well ahead of schedule. Twelve workshops over two days were offered to 74 CAMP participants with and without disabilities. The cross-pollination of ideas, the underpinning ethos of equality, and the courage to challenge and be challenged imprinted on participants, artists, families and staff in a truly moving way.

Back to Back Theatre  
Studio, Geelong  
18 – 19 April





## My brain is broken.

### UNMASTERCLASS EXPERIMENTAL WORKSHOP APPROACH

**Director** Bruce Gladwin  
**Collaborators** Brian Tilley, Marco  
Cher Gibard & Simon Laherty

Developed in 2015, UNMASTERCLASS is dedicated to randomness, uncertainty and a love of errors in the creation of new theatre. UNMASTERCLASS is a one-day theatre workshop that prioritises being over knowledge and skill, elevates doing over thinking. It's an experience and experiment in relational transformations, a reminder that doing something properly is not always a way of doing it differently.

Three UNMASTERCLASS workshops were offered as part of our tour of GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH to South America with great success, and will continue to be offered in response to community requests, both nationally and internationally.

**Festival Internacional  
de Buenos Aires (FIBA)**  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
27 September

**Fundación Festival  
Internacional Teatro a Mil**  
Santiago, Chile  
30 September – 1 October

*"My brain is broken. I have  
found a new hope for my life."*

– UNMASTERCLASS workshop participant

## 10 seconds of frame.

### THE DEMOCRATIC SET SCREENINGS AND EXHIBITIONS

**Original Concept & Set Design**  
Bruce Gladwin **Original Set Design**  
& **Construction** Mark Cuthbertson  
**Original Videography** Rhian Hinkley

In 2015, films from past incarnations of THE DEMOCRATIC SET were presented at three international festivals, expanding the application and the overall reach of the project.

**Segal Festival of  
Theatre & Performance**  
New York  
Screening, 30 January

**PQAU Prague Quadrennial**  
Prague  
Exhibition, 18 – 28 June

**Hebbel am Ufer (HAU),  
No Limits Festival**  
Berlin  
Exhibition, 5 – 7 November



*It's time to sell your VHS  
collections on eBay.*

ART & SUBVERSION IN A DIGITAL WORLD

In 2015 we set out to complete a wholesale reconfiguration of Back to Back Theatre's digital presence, bringing our electronic communications in line with the creative ingenuity and technical excellence for which the company is known. We now look at the digital realm as a place for experimentation, playfulness and subversion. Our ambition is that each piece of planned communication we publish should have merit as a small piece of art in its own right.

In 2015 we re-branded, launched a new website and a new-look e-newsletter. We explored augmented reality, app development and gaming development. We produced a six-part mini film series, which highlights the scope and authenticity of each of our actors and we committed to a six-part blog series, with each part led by a new member of the Back to Back Theatre ensemble.

In 2015 this began with PRICE.

*This is Scott Price.  
The bad boy. The rebel.*

PRICE

**Price** Scott Price **Director** Tamara Searle **Filmmaker** Rhian Hinkley

In 2015 Scott worked with filmmaker, Rhian Hinkley and director, Tamara Searle, to turn his talent and zeal for digital media into an extension of his artistic practice at Back to Back Theatre, ultimately taking the form of a video blog.

People frequently ask Scott why the company has to make such provocative work, and whether he understands the work. Scott's blog is his attempt to answer those who might misunderstand provocation as merely shock tactics.

Publishing one episode a month in 2016, PRICE looks to challenge the vanilla perceptions people hold about individuals with disabilities and place new and existing online audiences in closer contact with the Back to Back ensemble.

*"I've been interested in digital media since I was about 10 and through PRICE I've expanded myself as an artist. The opportunity for me to interview provocative artists and other leaders in their chosen fields is a beautiful, wondrous thing. It's about helping people with important messages to get their message across."*

– Scott Price, ensemble member

# IMPACT

Back to Back realises that its most positive outcomes come from having actors with disabilities as the driving force behind great art. In 2015, we began collaborating with Think Impact on a research project to help us measure and articulate our impact. While Think Impact began their research, we analysed our reach through the collection of qualitative and quantitative data.

Image: Romany Latham

## 2015 GEELONG IMPACT

**3,410** members of the Geelong community came into contact with Back to Back Theatre, **947** as participants attending **1** of **55** locally based workshops. We presented **7** performances of **2** experimental works to **582** Geelong audience members. We contributed to **34** local events and **4** local networks outside of the theatre, connecting us to an estimated **1,965** new members of the community.

## 2015 GLOBAL IMPACT

**16,874** people around the globe came into contact with Back to Back Theatre, **1,199** of those as participants and **10,424** as audience members attending **1** of **37** performances of **5** works. An estimated **5,335** people came into contact with Back to Back Theatre through our participation in **52** national and international events, **6** network associations and **3** academic papers.



"When I'm offstage, I'm not confident, I'm nervous. But when I'm onstage it's like I lose all that nervousness. And no one's there. It's just like I go into my own world and I can act."

– Jess, Theatre of Speed participant

"Back to Back Theatre means to me a group of individuals, well that are assumed to be having a disability that come together and put on performances that people enjoy. It's quite an honour to be part of Back to Back Theatre. How would I explain the importance to me? Don't know how to explain it – theatre is very important to me, second to my family, is how important it is."

– Ben, Theatre of Speed participant

"What happens here is extraordinary. Back to Back Theatre is about what people can do, not what people can't do."

– Parent of community participant

"I just got back home after witnessing the greatness of GANESH VERSUS THE THIRD REICH. My warmest of thanks to all the creative team behind this project. It really was a blessing and something that needed to be told and in such a respectful and sincere way."

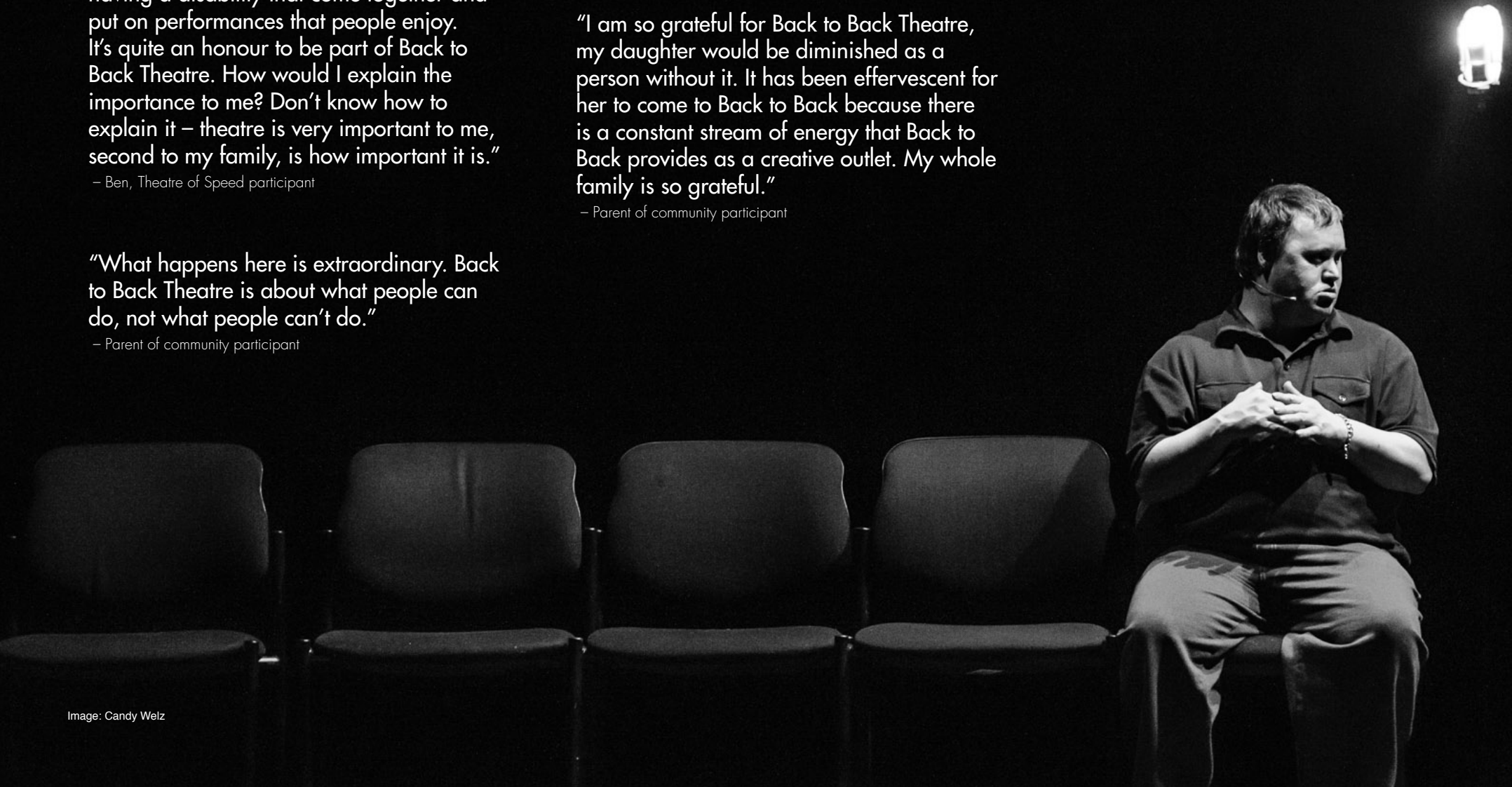
– GANESH audience member, Buenos Aires

"I am so grateful for Back to Back Theatre, my daughter would be diminished as a person without it. It has been effervescent for her to come to Back to Back because there is a constant stream of energy that Back to Back provides as a creative outlet. My whole family is so grateful."

– Parent of community participant

"The Australians are showing the rest of the world what truly integrated theater access should look like with Back to Back Theatre Company."

– P E Holdsworth, Blouin ArtInfo, United Kingdom



## INDUSTRY

### Advice, Advocacy & Support

In addition to all of our activities, we provide approximately 300 instances of support, advice and advocacy to peer organisations and artists each year.

## AWARDS

### Australia Council for the Arts' Inaugural Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre – Bruce Gladwin

We were thrilled that Artistic Director & Co-CEO Bruce Gladwin was named the inaugural winner of the Australia Council Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre. Presented at a ceremony at Carriageworks, Sydney on 19 March, this is the national body's most prestigious award recognising the outstanding achievements and contribution of an Australian artist in their career to date, together with their continued potential contribution in the future.

### Geelong Disability Awards Finalist – Mark Deans

Ensemble member Mark Deans was a finalist in the Geelong Disability Awards for his long-standing contribution to his field. Mark was honoured at an Awards Ceremony at Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC) on 3 February.

### Give Where You Live 2015 Aspiration Award – Back to Back Theatre

Back to Back Theatre was presented with the annual award in recognition of our investment in articulating and communicating our social impact.

## MEDIA

To our knowledge, we featured in 192 national and international media articles over a variety of platforms, not including academic and arts journals and research papers. We were also a major subject in a book by author Matt Hargraves, *Theatres of Learning Disability – Good, Bad or Plain Ugly?* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

## INDUSTRY EVENTS

Here is a selection of key industry events we contributed to in 2015:

- 'Back to Back Theatre in Conversation' presented by the Australian Theatre Forum
- Barwon NDIS Implementation Group's Conference for Disability Service Providers across Victoria
- Community Leadership presentation at Worksafe leadership conference
- Geelong's New and Emerging Community Leadership Program
- Have A Say Conference as part of the VALID Expo
- Hive Lab #3 presented by Adelaide Film Festival in collaboration with the Australia Council of the Arts, Screen Australia, ABC Arts and the South Australian Film Corporation
- Melbourne International Festivals' 30 Year Forum
- National Play Festival
- National Disability Services Australia
- NDIS presentation at Arts Access Victoria Annual General Meeting
- Showcase Victoria presented by Creative Victoria
- TEDx Talk presented by Deakin University
- Theatreworks' Directors Lab presented by Melbourne Festival
- Undercover Arts Festival presented by Arts Access
- Women Directors' program presented by Melbourne Theatre Company

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In 2015 we offset 268.83 tonnes of carbon emissions and invested in the Tasmanian Native Forest Protection Projects.

In addition to the climate change benefits, the projects help to protect and restore Tasmania's valuable native forests, which provide a habitat for a number of endangered species including the wedge-tailed eagle, spotted quoll and the Tasmanian devil.

## NDIS TRANSITION & ADVOCACY

We worked hard in 2015 to set precedents for the NDIS and the arts.

Back to Back Theatre is a resident within the Barwon trial site and from the project's inception we have advocated on a national level for access to NDIS funds for artists and community members to pursue artistic practice. In 2015 we presented at NDIS conferences, participated in NDIS forums, panels and monthly meetings with regional colleagues, and hosted and participated in NDIS workshops. We spent 400 wo/man hours ensuring that arts practice (not just at Back to Back, but all kinds of art practice) can be supported via the NDIS.

## SECONDMENTS, MENTORSHIPS & ATTACHMENTS

Back to Back Theatre opens its doors to students with and without disabilities from secondary and tertiary institutions. We offer formal and informal mentorship to emerging and midcareer artists, producers and theatremakers as well as aspiring arts administration professionals. We worked with 13 secondments in 2015.

## NETWORKS & MEMBERSHIPS

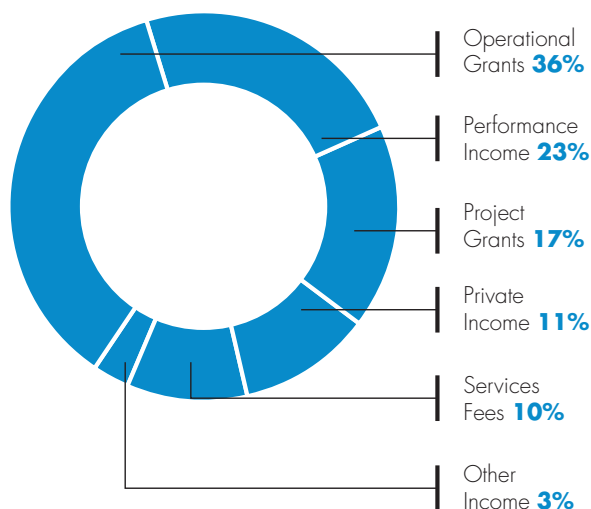
We participated in the following formal networks and programs in 2015:

- BADEN (Barwon Australia Disability Enterprise Network) (NDIS Development)
- BIG (Barwon Implementation Group) (NDIS Development)
- Committee for Geelong
- G21
- GRAND (Geelong Region Action Network for Disability) (NDIS Development)
- Greener Live Performance
- NDIS & The Arts National Working Group (NDIS Development)
- Theatre Network Victoria
- Leaders for Geelong Program
- Williamson Community Leadership Program

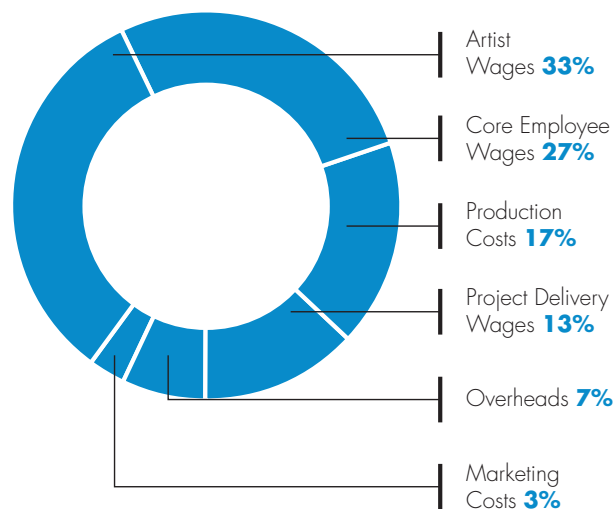


# FINANCE

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## VITAL PRIVATE & CORPORATE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

In addition to public support, Back to Back Theatre has established relationships with the world's most important arts presenters, creating widespread networks for collaboration, endorsement and advocacy. Impressively, these partnerships generally provide around 40% of Back to Back Theatre's annual budget.

Nevertheless, making up the shortfall rests on our active engagement with government, corporate and philanthropic supporters.

To fully facilitate the level of excellence, opportunity and diversity the company aspires to provide, Back to Back Theatre joins forces with individuals, corporate and community supporters.

In 2015, individual private supporters donated \$61,063 to Back to Back Theatre. There were 46 donors, contributing an average donation of \$1,327.

We also received support from Corporate Community Partners totaling \$35,000. This figure does not include the immense contributions of our pro-bono partners also noted in this Review, who provide essential services, advice and ballast to our endeavors.

# PEOPLE

## ENSEMBLE

Brian Tilley  
 Mark Deans  
 Romany Latham (from 2 February 2015)  
 Sarah Mainwaring  
 Scott Price  
 Simon Laherty

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Jo Porter, Chair  
 Yoni Prior, Deputy Chair  
 Jean Jansen, Treasurer (to 3 July)  
 Ben Slater, Treasurer (from 3 July; general member from 13 April)  
 Bobbie Hodge, Secretary  
 Mark Deans, Ensemble Representative  
 Ben Kay (from 7 December)  
 Jann Kinsela  
 Katrina Sedgwick (from 10 August)  
 Patrick Over (to 12 October)  
 Peter Bridges (to 10 August)  
 Phillip Keir (from 12 October)  
 Rose Hiscock  
 Shaun Cannon

## STAFF

Alice Nash, Executive Producer & Co-CEO  
 Alison Harvey, Producer  
 Alice Fleming, Associate Producer (Acting) (from 2 March to 10 July)  
 Bruce Gladwin, Artistic Director & Co-CEO  
 Cecelia Cooper, Finance Officer (from 9 June)  
 Dans Maree Sheehan, Production Manager (from 2 March)  
 Julie Fryman, Project Coordinator  
 Laura McIlrath, Executive Assistant (Acting) (from 12 January to 27 March)  
 Maria Griffin, Executive Assistant (from 23 March)  
 Melinda Clarke, Development Manager (Corporate Partnerships & Individual Giving)  
 Nikki Watson, Community Programs Coordinator  
 Pauline Cady, Development Manager (Government, Trusts & Foundations)  
 Rebecca McIntyre, Marketing Manager  
 Simon Abrahams, Strategic Initiatives Manager (Acting) (from 28 January to 17 April)  
 Tamara Searle, Artistic Associate  
 Yuhui Ng-Rodriguez, Marketing Assistant (to 21 December)



## THEATRE OF SPEED

Adam Berry  
Ben Oakes  
Brian Tilley  
James Lewis  
Jessica Walker  
Laura Berrisford  
Mark Deans  
Phoebe Baker  
Polly Munday  
Robbie Croft  
Romany Latham  
Rose McLachlan  
Sarah Mainwaring  
Scott Price  
Simon Laherty  
Tamika Simpson

## GUEST ARTISTS & COLLABORATORS

Adele Varcoe  
Alice Fleming  
Alisa Tanaka-King  
Andrew Livingston  
Bernadette Sweeney  
Bryn Meredith  
Chris Kohn  
Dan Han  
Daniel Schlusser  
David Symons  
David Woods  
Emma Valente  
Elise Brokensha  
Genevieve Picot  
Ingrid Voorendt  
Iris Gaillard

James Jackson  
James Pratt  
Jason Maling  
Jeff Busby  
Jessica Bellamy  
John Howard  
Joseph O'Farrell  
Justin Batchelor  
Kate Davis  
Kate Sulan  
Kris Chainey  
Leanne Stein  
Lin Tobias  
Luke Ryan  
Lyndel Quick  
Matt Adey  
Marco Cher Gibard  
Mark Cuthbertson  
Nicola Gunn  
Nicki Holland  
Pat Scaddan  
Peter Houghton  
Rhian Hinkley  
Rob Reid  
Robbie Croft  
Roland Cox  
Sarah Walker  
Shio Otani  
Sonia Teuben  
Todd Murphy  
Wendy Grose

## SECONDMENTS, MENTORSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

Amelia Tuttleby

Chris Dunstan  
Hannah Li Rosi  
Iris Gaillard  
James Jackson  
James Madsen Smith  
Jessica Leaming  
Kate Stones  
Preethy Mathew  
Rhiannon Petersen  
Sherilee Kahui  
Suzanne Inglebrecht  
Todd Murphy

## CAMP EMERGING ARTISTS

Daniele Constance  
Elmira Forest  
Harmonie Downes  
Jessica Bradley  
Lisa Worthington  
Magda Miranda

## CAMP PARTICIPANTS

Alisa Tanaka-King  
Andy McKinnon  
Anna Thomson  
Anthony Knowle  
Belinda Mahony  
Brian Tilley  
Cherie Kearney  
David Maney  
Daniel Constance  
David Waldie  
Debbie Zukerman  
Francesca Neri  
Gemma Falk

Grace Rose Turner  
Heather Morris  
Harmonie Downes  
Iris Gaillard  
Jenny Bowden  
Jess Evans  
Jessica Brady  
Jessica Walker  
Jonathan Graffam  
Josh Farenbach  
Joshua Haigh  
Kasey Gambling  
Katrina Welsby  
Kayah Guenther  
Kelly Clifford  
Laura Burzacott  
Lisa Worthington  
Madison Holmes  
Magda Miranda  
Mario Liburdi  
Mark Deans  
Michaela Cantwell  
Michel Labosse  
Pam Roy  
Pamela Heath  
Phoebe Baker  
Pippa Swanwick  
Polly Munday  
Prue McKimme  
Robbie Croft  
Romany Latham  
Rose McLachlan  
Ruby Fitzgerald  
Samara Hersch  
Sarah Mainwaring  
Scott Price  
Shea MacDonough

Simon Laherty  
Tamika Simpson  
Thomas Forsyth  
Tiesha Ita-Ulima  
Victoria Marshall  
Virginia Calabrese  
Wendy Davidson  
Zac Chester

## FILM & TV ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Adam Berry  
Allan V Watt  
Ben Oakes  
Chris Hansen  
Grace Rose Turner  
Jake Anson  
Jess Walker  
Josh Haigh  
Liam White  
Michael Chan  
Nicholas Walsh  
Nikita Veitch  
Noah Zvekic  
Robbie Croft  
Sonia Teuben  
Stephanie Cook  
Taylor Powell

# THANK YOU

**Each year a generous collection of people from varied worlds, provide assistance to the company. We would like to thank wholeheartedly:**

Aileen Croghan  
Alisa Tanaka-King  
Almut Mölk  
Amanda Muschamp  
Amanda Panayotou  
Andreas Walter  
Andy Miller  
Angharad Wynne-Jones  
Angus Smallwood  
Annie Frazier  
Art Gusto  
Arts Project Australia  
Austin Paterson  
Australian Embassy Argentina  
Australian Embassy Portugal  
Australian Embassy Vienna  
Bernadette Haldane  
Berni Sweeney  
Bethany Simons  
Bettina Wais  
Bev Hamilton  
Bill Coleby  
Bluebottle  
Brad Keating  
Prof. Brenda Cheridnichenko  
Brett Dunlop  
Bruno Ferrand  
Caitlin McMorro  
Cameron McNaughton  
Caris Harper  
Carlo Goyvaerts  
Carmen Romero  
Carolina Arandia  
Carolina Prieto  
Carolyn Cliff

Cathy Truong  
Cecelia Kuska  
Cheryl Lambert  
Chris Hartigan  
Chris Kohn  
Chris Taylor  
Christian Sheehan  
Christine Falkas  
Cindy Vandermerken  
Claire Wilcock  
Claudia Purschke  
Collette Brennan  
Corinne Gaillard  
Courthouse Youth Arts  
Cynthia Scherer  
DAL Café  
Dan Simmonds  
Dario Loperfido  
David Everist  
David Harvey  
David Symons  
Debbie Welsh  
Dieter Timmerman  
Dimitra Dernikou  
Don Shaw  
Dorothee Roux  
Duncan Esler  
Elizabeth Schack  
Elodie Lepérou  
Emilie Fichter  
Emma Bennison  
Evelyn Campbell  
Fenn Gordon  
Filipe Folhadela  
Florian Barberger  
Francine Mitchell  
Francisco Frazão  
Gill Hill  
Gillian Papadopoulos  
Gino Tapia  
Helen McKenzie  
Henri-Francois Monnier

Iris Gaillard  
Iris Raffetseder  
Jaclyn Birtchnell  
James Jackson  
Jamie Smith  
Prof. Jane den Hollander  
Jane Millett  
Jason Maling  
Javiera Garfias  
Jeff Busby  
Jens Laureyns  
Jessica Leaming  
Jill Smith  
John Howard  
John Michie  
Jon Mamonski  
Jose Luis Fiorruccio  
Joy Arab  
Judith Blankenberg  
Julie Barnes  
Julie Cotter  
Julie Graham  
Justin Batchelor  
Justyn Rowe  
Karine Bellanger  
Kate Stones  
Katia Arfara  
Kaz Paton  
Kelly Clifford  
Leanne Stein  
Lefteris Karabilas  
Les Frazier  
Lesley Lightfoot  
Libby Mears  
Lisa Ffrench  
Lisa Havilah  
Lisa Murphy  
Luciana Zylberberg  
Luisa LaFornara  
Luke McNamara  
Marcel Bugiel  
Marco Cher Gibard

Margaret Bourke  
Margaret Linley  
Maria Margarida Costa  
Maria-Pia Bureaux  
Mariana Cardoso de Lemos  
Mariana Castellucci  
Mariella Valitutti  
Marie-France Curdy  
Marion Potts  
Mark Ball  
Mark Cuthbertson  
Marta Cardoso  
Martin Montaner  
Martina Forster  
Mary Ann Rolfe  
Matthew Morse  
Matt Adey  
Matt Cox  
Matthieu Goeury  
Mercedes Saloña  
Monica Guillouet Gelys  
Natacha Guillemot  
Nele De Cocker  
Nicole Beyer  
Noelia Svoboda  
Nora Abadia Perez  
Pablo Calderon  
Paige Whyte  
Pamela Ruiz  
Paola Hevia  
Pat Scaddan  
Patrick Gyger  
Pauline Ansel  
Paulo Ramos  
Paz Canessa  
Peter Eckersall  
Peter Neilson  
Rachel Spengler  
Rebecca Casson  
Renaud Serraz  
Rhian Hinkley  
Rocio Valdez

Rodrigo de la Fuente  
Roland Cox  
Rosemary Malone  
Rosemary White  
Ruth Gormley  
Ruth Pryce  
Sadat John Hussain  
Sandy Furnee  
Sara Standaert  
Sarah Hans  
Sebastian Castro  
Sheridan Bott  
Shoshana Polanco  
Simon Abrahams  
Sophie Travers  
Stan & Mel Corner  
Stefan Schmidtke  
Suzanne Ingelbrecht  
Sylvia Admans  
Think Impact  
Tim Orton  
Tim van Nooten  
Van Locker  
Vanessa Michel  
Victoria Jones  
Vincent Gallemand  
Vincent Schmitt  
Vittoria De Stefano  
Wendy Grose



# OUR SUPPORTERS IN 2015

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Australia  
Council  
for the Arts



Back to Back Theatre receives funding assistance from the Australian Government via the Disability Employment Assistance Program.

Back to Back Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through its philanthropic and social investment agency for the cultural sector, Creative Partnerships Australia.

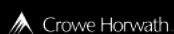
## PROJECT PARTNERS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## CORPORATE COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## DONORS

Alcoa  
 Alex Bowen & Catherine Sullivan  
 Ann Scally  
 Back to Back Theatre's Committee of Management  
 The Berrisford Family  
 Bobbie Hodge  
 Bruce Pollack  
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 Edie & Jim Barton  
 Eileen Berry Media  
 Elizabeth Spreen  
 Emily Sexton & John Bailey  
 Frank Costa  
 Frank Macindoe  
 Gael Wilson  
 Helena Ng  
 House of Cards Espresso Café  
 Janet Brown  
 Jann Kinsela  
 Jenny Schwarz  
 Jo Porter & Michael Nossal  
 John & Lesley Nickson  
 Karilyn Brown  
 Kate Nossal & Myles Neri  
 Kate Richardson  
 Kim Tompkins  
 Lisa Chung  
 Mary Harber  
 Nicki Bloom & Geordie Brookman  
 Nicole Beyer  
 Patrick Over  
 Rick McPhee  
 Robin Ramsay  
 Rose Hiscock  
 Shaun Cannon Family  
 Simon Abrahams  
 Susan Hungar  
 Trawalla Foundation  
 Anonymous (7)

# JOIN US

Over the next 10 years, Back to Back Theatre seeks to build support that will enable its operations to transcend the unpredictable nature of public support.

Financial gifts given at any level are generous expressions of solidarity and make an important contribution to Back to Back Theatre's commitment to shaping the world. However it is major gifts – truly transformational gifts – that enable Back to Back Theatre to leave a visible and valuable legacy in the hearts and minds of audiences across the world.

Back to Back Theatre seeks support from and collaboration with private individuals and organisations who share its vision for the future. Together, you can travel with us, creating work of exceptional artistic calibre, giving voice to important social and political issues, and inspiring a shift in perception through contemporary performance.

## Contact us to find out more.

Back to Back Theatre Inc (ABN No. 95 834 484 241) is a Registered Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

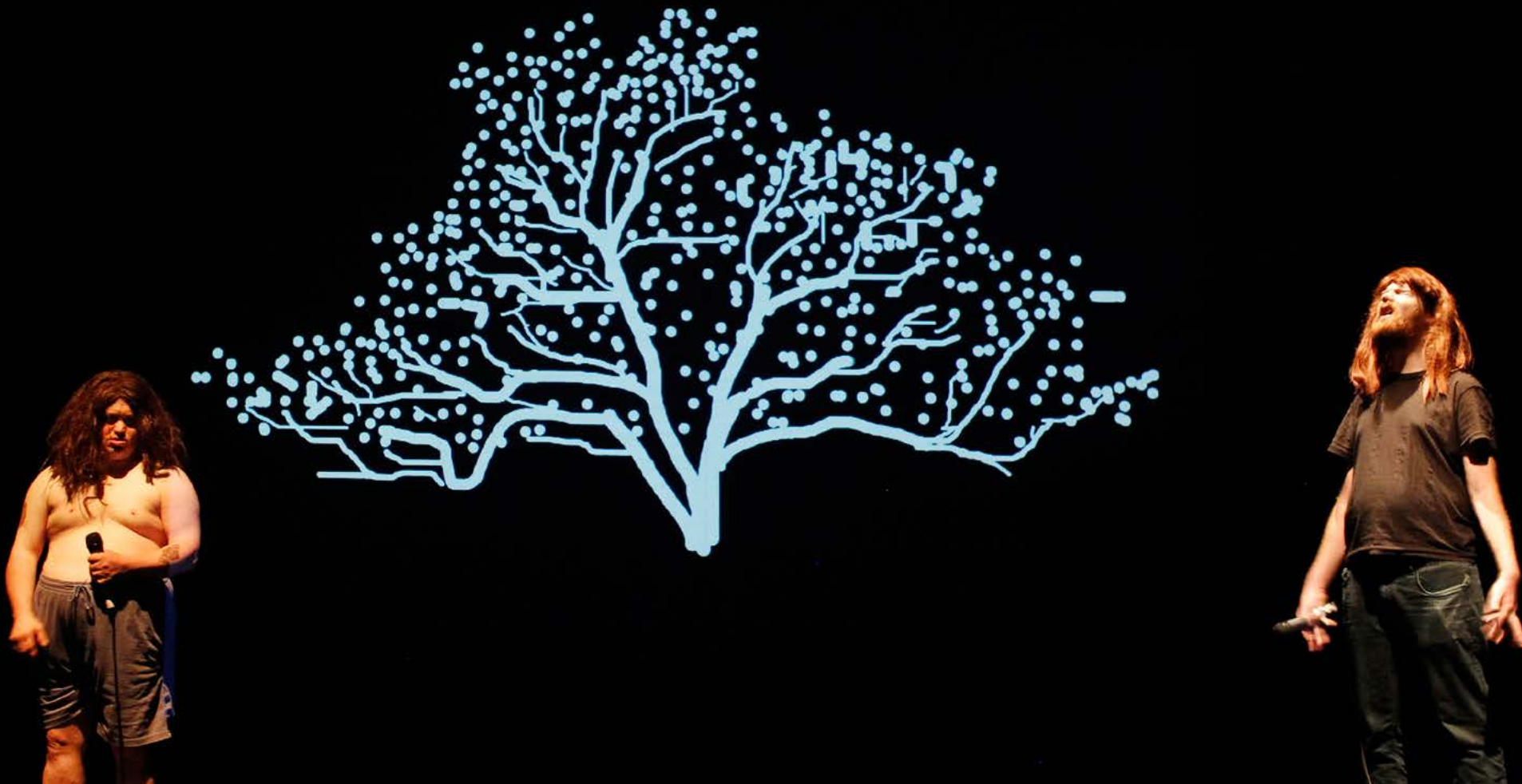
Donations can be made via the SUPPORT page on our website, or by calling us on (03) 5221 2029.

**[BACKTOBACKTHEATRE.COM/SUPPORT/DONATE](http://BACKTOBACKTHEATRE.COM/SUPPORT/DONATE)**



Image: Jeff Busby





## CONNECT

Street Address:  
**60 Little Malop St, Geelong VIC 3220**

Postal Address:  
**PO BOX 1257, Geelong VIC 3220**

Telephone: **+61 3 5221 2029**

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Back to Back Theatre is an Australian Disability Enterprise and is independently assessed each year to the six National Disability Service Standards. We provide specialised supported employment for people with disabilities for the creation and performance of contemporary theatre. Back to Back Theatre's Quality Assurance System is audited by an independent auditor.

Back to Back Theatre acknowledges that we meet on the land for which the Wadawurrung people are the traditional owners and custodians.

BACK  
TO  
BACK  
THEATRE

