



BACK
TO
BACK
THEATRE

2020 Year in Review

Cover image:

Mark Deans as Ratcatcher in Back to Back Theatre's 1992 production, Woodenhead.

Photographer unknown

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge we live and work on the lands of the Wadawurrung people. We pay respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge there is no treaty and that this is stolen land.

We acknowledge the lands of First Nations people everywhere, in Australia and in the world.

We are allies for LGBTQIA+ and indigenous peoples. We recognise the discrimination people from these groups have suffered. We advocate for the inclusion and advancement of all identities in our company and in society.

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CHAIR'S ADDRESS

Dear friends of Back to Back Theatre,

It is, as ever, my honour to present to you our Year in Review.

2020 was a year marked with change, uncertainty and isolation. It was a time of forced pause, and through that pause, reflection. As a company we parked our passports but not our passions as we asked ourselves — how can we continue to make art?

Though it was vastly different from what we foresaw, our 2020 Program was full.

In January we were fortunate to travel safely before borders closed to North America, taking THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES to international audiences for the first time, while simultaneously taking THE DEMOCRATIC SET to community members in Vancouver.

We returned to Geelong and farewelled long-standing Executive Producer and Co-CEO Alice Nash after 17 cherished years. Alice's accomplishment and contributions to the company over her many years cannot be over-stated and I take this moment to once again thank her for her tireless work and passion.

In March the ever-popular CAMP weekend returned, which ran alongside our RESIDENT ARTIST PROGRAM. This series of ruthless art making workshops unknowingly marked the last of our 'in real life' workshops for some time. Soon after we closed our office and studio to become acquainted with the living spaces, families and pets of our colleagues through the now immortalised Zoom screens.

Throughout the year, our artistic teams continued to collaborate remotely, continuing THEATRE OF SPEED and SPEED TRIALS online, and developing ENSEMBLE LED EXPLORATIONS. Our artistic outputs altered in format, but never halted, a testament to this was unveiled with CAMP INTERNATIONAL, an online event that brought together artists and facilitators from all corners of the globe.

Our EDUCATION PROGRAMS continued too with OPEN WORKSHOPS, and residency D-PROGRAM culminating in FIRST RESPONDERS, a series of short animations providing a survival guide to the future from the young people who will form it.

FIRST RESPONDERS joined THE DEMOCRATIC SET, RADIAL and ODDLANDS in our screen-based repertoire, and were presented to audiences from Australia, UK, South Korea and Canada, where ODDLANDS was awarded Best Short Film at the Canadian Diversity Film Festival.

In August we welcomed Tim Stitz to the position of Executive Producer and Co-CEO. Tim stepped into the role with vigour and enthusiasm, and in November the year culminated with an intensive four-week production of our first ever feature length screen-work. SHADOW, a film adaptation of THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES, was supported by an internship program for people with disability in roles in front of and behind the camera and saw our studio and office spaces once again come to life.

We rounded out 2020 with yet another milestone, hailing ensemble member Mark Deans' 30 years with Back to Back Theatre. The images throughout this Year In Review pay homage to Mark Deans, as we celebrate a monumental milestone for a monumental talent.

The relentless drive and passion shown by all those associated with the company continues to be an immense point of pride and satisfaction. An amazing feat in a year of held breath, where we now begin to exhale once more.

In reflecting on the year that was, we recognise the devastating impacts that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on many of our peers and we give our heartfelt condolences to artists and organisations who have been unable to continue with their practice. Thank you all for your contributions to our collective arts community.

To you, the reader of this Year in Review, thank you for being a part of the Back to Back Theatre fibre and for standing alongside us in a year unlike any other we have known. Your unwavering support is never unnoticed, and we are pleased to continue making art with you by our side.

Jann Kinsela
Chair

CEOS' ADDRESS

Invention.

We are a company adept at devising in the unknown. This skill is an asset which has served us well and which will continue to serve us into the future as global circumstances place us all on unsure footing, and an unsure footing is one on which we thrive.

Our task at Back to Back Theatre is to track what creates anxiety and pleasure. We seek to understand where our audience places their attention and their distractions. Our aim is not to close down complexity but to open it, in the hope of intensifying it. We want to know our audience's capacity to be affected.

We develop work collaboratively, over extended timeframes, ensuring deep connection to and understanding of the material we are exploring. Invention is our mission and a value we hold dear across all of our work.

In our processes, we don't assume coherence. To make theatre is to learn how not to know what one is doing and how to go on doing it. Our unknowingness encourages our artists' curiosities and idiosyncratic interests.

Our work is opportunistic, absorptive and cannibalistic. We make mistakes; misunderstandings and inattention are a valid part of the repertoire. Rather than determining how things should be done, we encourage what we believe to be an experiment in social hope, pursuing an artistic quest into the unknown.

Bruce Gladwin

Artistic Director and Co CEO

Tim Stitz

Executive Producer and Co CEO

VALE SONIA TEUBEN

In January 2021, we lost dear friend and long-standing ensemble member, Sonia Teuben. Sonia was a formidable woman in life as she was on stage. Her performances laced with power, humour and empathy; her gift with words uniquely able to connect with the deepest parts of us all.

It has been our great privilege to share in Sonia's talent, life and friendship over the past 28 years, and she will be profoundly missed.

These were Sonia's words from her Imagined Theatres submission in 2017.

I'm a single lesbian looking for a lover. I'm 44. My favourite food is chops. I make art to make money. It's true. So I can have an everyday job. I need people to know that I have a voice and I want to use it. So I do it in the theatre. If you gave me all the money in the world to make a show, I'd shoot myself. I can't work under pressure. I make theatre because I want to break free from the demons inside me.

Theatre changes me as a person, that's what theatre does it changes ya', it is something else, like sliding down a slide. Theatre is about making something special, and rememberable. You have to see it over and over again because every time it is different. You always get excited about the next thing that is going to happen in the theatre. The actors are so soft and beautiful and front-full. And you know that the first line that comes out of their mouth, you won't forget that line throughout the entire play.

What should theatre be like? Never a part two. No interval. Right through an hour show and that's it. Like a rainbow on a sunny day. Bright and happy and warm and short. And they should feel satisfied. It's like an orgasm, alright, you work up to it, and when you have an orgasm you feel satisfied. You work up to it you work up to it you work up to it, and then kaboom, you are seeing more than rainbows. That's what theatre should be like.

Theatre should not be about presidents. He just raves on about Making The World A Better Place, Making The World A Better Place, Making The World A Better Place. Theatre might be about everyday things. Like not just at work. But like, like you are going to work, and you are on the train, and you look up from your phone, and there is someone on the train track with a trolley, and you are screaming at that person to get off the track and yeah, but the train has already gone past.

Theatre should be for the people. For the people to have a voice. And not feel afraid of that. In small metal objects I could never say humour. h...h...yeah, and people laughed. And I wasn't trying to make a comic out of it. I just can't say it. I zone myself into the audience and forget that I am onstage. I was really tired. That is the worst. I get all sooky and that.

Theatre needs to come from listening to other people. Listen to their stories. Get a computer full of words, and try to make a script out the words that people say to them. True stories. In-ya-face kind of stories. Stories from the heart and the mind. Stories that are deep down inside of you that you need to produce on stage. Stories that you never forget for a long time.

My taxi driver this morning, he was a single bloke, lives in a house. I asked him questions like 'You got a wife?' he said 'No.' I said 'You got a dog?' he said 'No.' I said 'You got kids?' he said 'No.' I said 'What do you do in life?' He says 'I read books and I drive taxis.' I said 'That must be boring.' He says 'It's not. That's life.' He said to me 'Have a really nice day. You are a very special woman'. I said 'You should really get a cattle dog you seem lonely'.

Theatre is for the rich. The poor. For the loneliness. For the forgiveness.

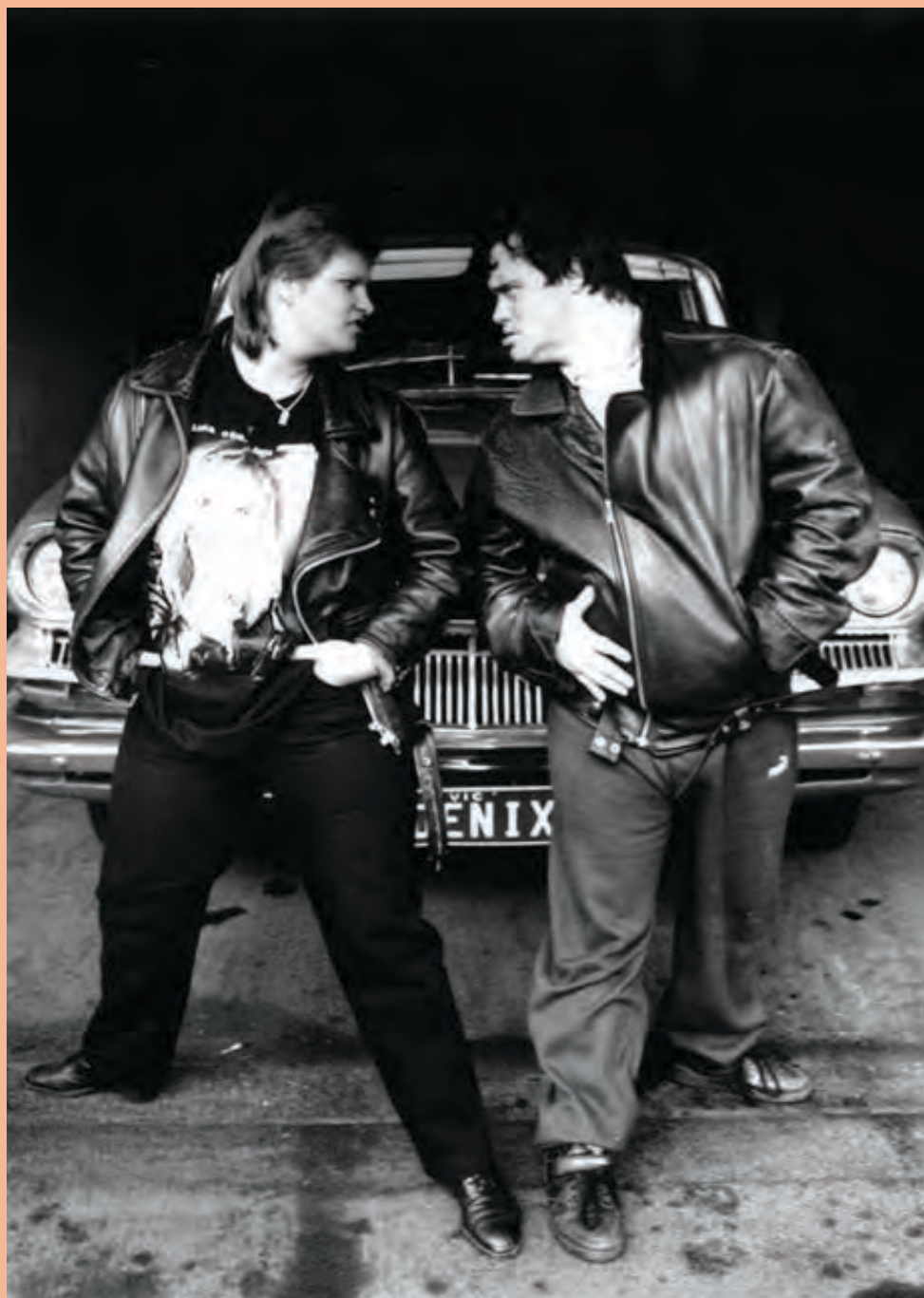


Image:
Sonia Teuben and Mark Deans from Back to Back Theatre's 1996 production, Road Movie.
Photographer unknown

MAJOR WORKS

We make art to risk finding out what we want, to question the assumptions we hold about ourselves and others and to champion our audience's humanity.

We believe invention is the essential tool in the search for meaning and the betterment of our shared experience.

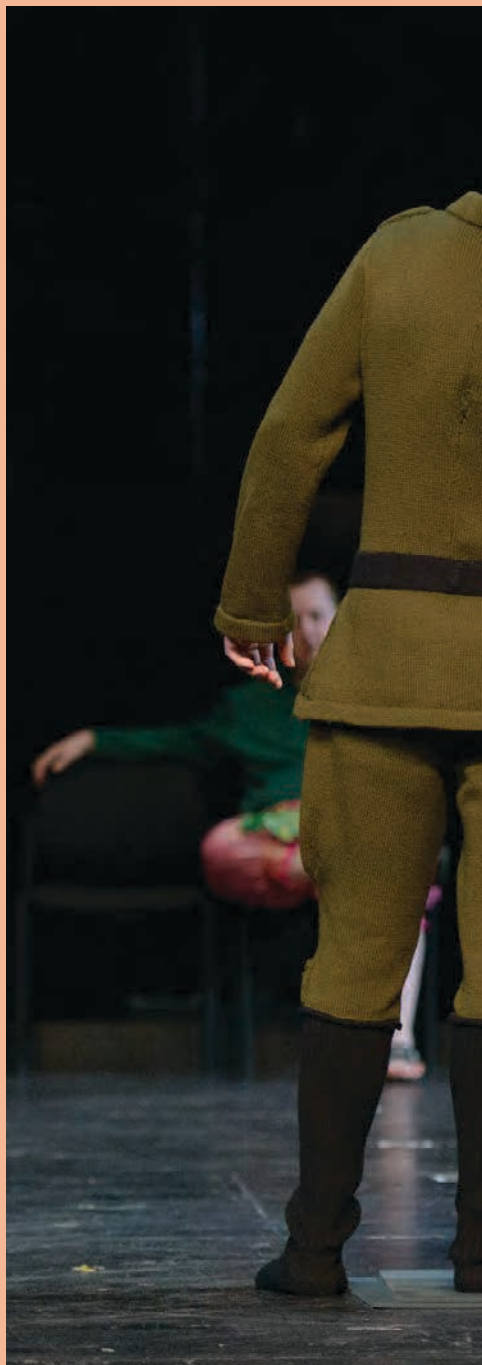
We unapologetically seek to encourage mystery, belief and hope.

We seek to make theatre that reminds us of sensitivities we might have lost, something beyond words, or unacknowledged.

Image:

Mark Deans in Back to Back Theatre's 2014 production of *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich*.

Photographer: Candy Welz





THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES

Weaving a narrative through human rights, sexual politics, and the projected dominance of artificial intelligence, THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES is a sly theatrical revelation inspired by mistakes, mis-readings, mis-leads and misunderstanding. SHADOW reminds us that none of us are self-sufficient and all of us are responsible.

Following the triumphant world premiere of THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES in late 2019, the production commenced its international excursion with an impressive five-city tour to North America.

Confronting and compelling audiences at Under The Radar Festival, Public Theater in New York, ArtsEmerson in Boston, The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Stanford Live in Stanford University and Wexner Center For The Arts in Columbus, the production was well received and highly regarded. In April, we were honoured to be awarded 'Best Ensemble' at the 2020 Victorian Green Room Awards.

THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES was created for spaces big and small, from the grandest theatrical settings, to small community centres. As national and international travel recommences, we intend to continue touring this work widely to audiences for years into the future.

Devisors	Mark Deans, Michael Chan, Bruce Gladwin, Simon Laherty, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price, Sonia Teuben
Director	Bruce Gladwin
Performers	Michael Chan, Simon Laherty, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price
Composition	Luke Howard Trio — Daniel Farrugia, Luke Howard, Jonathon Zion
Costume Design	Shio Otani
Lighting Design	Andrew Livingston, bluebottle
Screen Design	Rhian Hinkley, lowercase
Sound Design	Lachlan Carrick
Translation	Jennifer Ma
Script Consultant	Melissa Reeves
Creative Development	Michael Chan, Mark Cuthbertson, Mark Deans, Rhian Hinkley, Bruce Gladwin, Simon Laherty, Pippin Latham, Andrew Livingston, Sarah Mainwaring, Victoria Marshall, Scott Price, Brian Tilley, Sonia Teuben
Sound Engineer	Thomas Campbell
Stage Manager	Alana Hoggart
Production Manager	Bao Ngouansavanh
Artist Support	Erin Watson, Nikki Watson
Producers	Alison Harvey, Tanya Bennett
Tour Producer (Nth America)	Alice Fleming
Executive Producer	Alice Nash

“an extraordinary play

— Jesse Green for New York Times

“Into its one remarkable hour “Shadow” manages to pack more insight, wisdom, emotional resonance, and steadily accumulating power than many stage productions achieve in three times that duration.

— Don Aucoin for The Boston Globe

“I cried, laughed, pondered, remembered and then I was the first to stand for the applause.

— Audience Member, USA

“I was completely blown away. The themes of disability discrimination vs disability empowerment, hit me hard. I want to be a part of this show—this company, and I’ll move to Australia if I have to, and I’ll start eating and enjoying Vegemite!

— Audience Member, USA

“I am still sitting with the profound pauses, the vision they gave us of ourselves, a note of warning for the future, and humble request to better ourselves.

— Audience Member, USA

FIRST RESPONDERS

Cam does not want terminators knocking on his front door, but he does want to know “where’s my hover-board at?”. He’s an expert in good and bad, and he is one of our Nelson Park FIRST RESPONDERS.

Originally earmarked for a theatrical outcome in the Back to Back Theatre studio, the FIRST RESPONDERS are a team of young knowledge experts who provide an uncertain public with a survival guide to the future through a series of 90 second animations. Their idiosyncratic understanding of everything from physics to philosophy may be all the human race has to liberate it from fear and misinformation.

Created online in collaboration with schools, students, Back to Back Theatre team members and guests artists, the first series was released via our social media and reached 5,189 viewers.

We look forward to bringing you more in the FIRST RESPONDERS series in 2021.

Director	Ahmarnya Price
First Responders	Ben LeCouteur, Breanna Deleo, Cameron LeCourteur, Jai Storey
Ensemble	Mark Deans, Simon Laherty, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price
Animation	Rhian Hinkley
Music	Kelly Ryall
Artistic Director	Bruce Gladwin
Original Concept	Ahmarnya Price, Rhian Hinkley, Kelly Ryall
Production Manager	Bao Ngouansavanh
Screen Producer	Alice Fleming
Producer	Nikki Watson

THE DEMOCRATIC SET

Disturbingly obvious and tantalisingly strange, THE DEMOCRATIC SET is an experimental residency model for working with communities.

In January 2020 THE DEMOCRATIC SET travelled to Vancouver, to author a tale of the city in collaboration with Newworld Theatre for PuSh! Festival. Created using an assembly of short performances for film, it is an unrestricted and uncensored exploration of ideals of equality and freedom.

Over the course of three days on set, we welcomed 116 performers who brought their stories to life inside of the box: this free space allowed the participants to be pushed, extended or manipulated, culminating in a stunning visual tale of Vancouver in a moment in time.

Original Concept, Design/Direction

Bruce Gladwin

Original Set Design

Mark Cuthbertson

Original Videography

Rhian Hinkley

THE DEMOCRATIC SET VANCOUVER

Director

Ingrid Voorendt

Videographer

Samuel James

Production Manager

Richard Vabre

Producer

Tanya Bennett

Newworld Artist

Marcus Youssef

Creative Producer

Sandra Henderson

Collaborating Artist

Niall McNeil

Composer

Mishelle Cuttler

Prop and Costume Design

Jacqueline Firkins

Assistant Prop and Costume Design

Laura Isabel

Movement Guide

Amber Barton

Production Coordinator

Jamie Sweeney

Venue Technician

Neil Griffith

Community Liaison Officer

Sandra Henderson

FOR NEWWORLD THEATRE

Artistic Director

Chelsea Haberlin

Managing Director

Matt Moreau

Producer

Sandra Henderson

Senior Artist

Marcus Youssef

Communications and Operations Coordinator

Corinna Hagel

ODDLANDS

ODDLANDS sees Des and Tam, members of a clean-up crew in a strange toxic wasteland, stumble upon what may be the last human survivor. These determined but lowly Level 7s will have to decide between saving humanity or saving themselves.

ODDLANDS is a story about two unlikely heroes who manage to find a little hope in the strangest of places. The question is, what will they do when they find it?

Back to Back Theatre took the leap onto the small screen in 2019, with the ODDLANDS TV Pilot airing nationally on ABC TV, and the short film has continued to impress audiences ever since. In 2020, ODDLANDS was screened online and in festival settings nationally and internationally. Returning to its original home at the ABC, ODDLANDS was available for streaming online at iView throughout the month of June, before travelling to South Korea the following month and being shown as part of Disability Arts Week International 2020, facilitated by Korean Disability Arts. To accompany the streaming, Bruce Gladwin and Simon Laherty took part in a concurrent Online Talk Series with Dr Peter Eckersall to provide insight into the artistic process.

ODDLANDS was also selected to be part of the Canadian Diversity Film Festival, where it was awarded 'Best Short Film'.

Executive Producers

Producers

Executive Producer & Head of ABC Arts

Adelaide Film Festival Director

Writer / Director

Script Producer

Director of Photography

Production Designer

Costume Designer

Makeup & Hair Designer

Editor

Composer

Artist Support

Debbie Lee, Julie Eckersley

Brendan Campbell, Stephen Corvini, Alice Nash

Mandy Chang

Amanda Duthie

Bruce Gladwin

Warren Clarke

Matthew Temple

Jo Briscoe

Aphrodite Kondos

John Logue

Daniela Rauli

Joff Bush

Nikki Watson

LEAD ACTORS

Tam

Des

Animal

Charles

The Hunter

Mark

The Voice of Civix

Sonia Teuben

Simon Laherty

Jacek Koman

Robin Ramsay

Brian Tilley

Mark Deans

Belinda McClory

SUPPORTING ACTORS

Joshua Armour, Phoebe Baker, Adam Berry, Greg Bird, Lochie Campbell, Michael Chan, Robbie Croft, Felix Figaira, Chris Hansen, Sarah Mainwaring, Francesa Neri, Neville Porter, Scott Price, Tamika Simpson, Jessica Walker, Jillian Waite, Allan V Watt, Liam White, Nicholas Walsh, Nikita Vietch

RADIAL

Playfully re-imagining video art, dance, music and fashion, RADIAL is a collaborative film-making process resulting in a video portrait of a community and landscape in motion.

Led by artists from Back to Back Theatre, RADIAL offers participants an opportunity to collaborate within a clearly defined artistic process resulting in short films from the minds of the participants. Throughout 2020, former iterations of our RADIAL projects from collaborations around the globe continued to tour the world in a reimaged format.

RADIAL Dundee

Norwich Film Festival, Norwich, United Kingdom
Meeting Place, Canberra, Australia
Oska Bright Film Festival, Brighton, United Kingdom
Barnes Film Festival, London, United Kingdom
Detmold Film Festival, Detmold, Germany
Encounters Film Festival, Bristol, United Kingdom

RADIAL Berlin

Meeting Place, Canberra, Australia
Oska Bright Film Festival, Brighton, United Kingdom

RADIAL Theatre of Speed

Meeting Place, Canberra, Australia

- Original Concept
- Original Direction
- Original Videography
- Original Set Construction
- Original Sound Composition

Bruce Gladwin, Rhian Hinkley & Tamara Searle
Tamara Searle
Rhian Hinkley
Mark Cuthbertson
Harry Myers-Covill

SHADOW — FILM ADAPTATION

As our touring plans for the stage version of THE SHADOW WHOSE PREY THE HUNTER BECOMES stalled, our attention was turned to projects that could be completed from the comfort of our own confines. This opened up possibilities for the development of our first feature film, and work on SHADOW the screen project commenced.

The creation of a screen version of SHADOW is an extension of the theatrical work, not merely a filming of the stage version. A Geelong screen-based project rooted in community collaboration, creating genuine employment for people with disability.

An integral part of this project was 35 paid internships for people with a disability in roles both in-front of and behind the camera, working alongside and partnered with a remarkable team of film professionals and flipping the statistics of representation of people with a disability in the screen industry on its head. Through an open call, we brought together interns in roles spanning writing, producing, camera operation, lighting, editing, make-up, costume, acting and more.

Students from Deakin University's film department were brought into the project, and the Deakin University Disability and Inclusion team conducted a comprehensive Research and Evaluation study on the internship program, documenting actual and potential long-term economic and social impact for individuals with disability, mainstream services and the broader community.

Across four weeks, five locations in the centre of the Geelong Arts Precinct became working film sets, including the Back to Back Theatre Studio, the Geelong Arts Centre and the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre. 83 people in total worked on the film including:



“I've learnt that anybody can do anything and there's no limitations. There's no limits.
— SHADOW Intern

“It was 3 extraordinary weeks that will stay with me for a very long time.
— SHADOW Intern

SHADOW COLLABORATORS

Aaron Lucas
Adam Velo
Alana Hoggart
Alice Fleming
Alice Nash
Allan V. Watt
Amy Marks
Anna Pontelandolfo
Annelise Farrer
Annette McGovern
Anthony Hamilton-Smith
Archie Gladwin
Bao Ngouansavanh
Ben Chapman
Ben Kay
Ben Oakes
Breanna Deleo
Brian Lipson
Brian Tilley
Bruce Gladwin
Caitlin Syer
Chris Hansen
Chris Odgers
Dan Wei
Daniel Farrugia
Daniel Munnery
Dans Sheehan
David Williams
Debbie Belfour
Douglas Farquhar
Eden Menta
Elysa McInnes
Erin Pocervina
Erin Watson
Eza Bakker-Graham
Francesca Neri
George Husband
Harry Schaller
Ingrid Voorendt
Iris Walse-Howling
Ivy Hinkley
James Hullick
Jamila Main
Jane Walker
Jeremy Lang
Jessica Cochran
Jessica Walker
John Cumming
Jonathan Zion
Jordana Langridge
Kate Mulqueen
Katherine Branch
Kelly Rose Moore

Kinnon McDermott
Kirstin Honey
Lachlan Carrick
Lauren Wynd
Liam White
Lisa Couper
Llyod Pratt
Louise Gough
Luke Howard
Madeleine Stuart
Mandi Dempster
Manel Lopez
Mark Cuthbertson
Mark Deans
Matt Osborne
Melissa Bath
Melissa Reeves
Meret Hassanen
Meri Leeworthy
Merryn Humphreys
Michael Chan
Michael McMahon
Michael Siu
Nathan Evans
Nicholas Walsh
Nikita Veitch
Nikki Watson
Noah Zvekic
Paul Summers
Paul Summers
Phillip Beasancon
Pippa Wright
Rhian Hinkley
Richard Turton
Robbie Croft
Ryan Schmidtke
Sarah Mainwaring
Sarah Tunn
Scott Price
Simon Laherty
Sonia Teuben
Stephen Loats
Susan White
Tamara Searle
Tamika Simpson
Tanya Bennett
Tao Weis
Tim Stitz
Timothy Smith
Venna Reynolds
Wilson Huang
Zia Sadeqi

COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION

Back to Back Theatre has always placed great value on being in dialogue with our communities, local and global alike, and on hearing and amplifying the voices within it. The importance of this connection has perhaps never been felt as acutely, and by so many, as it was in 2020.

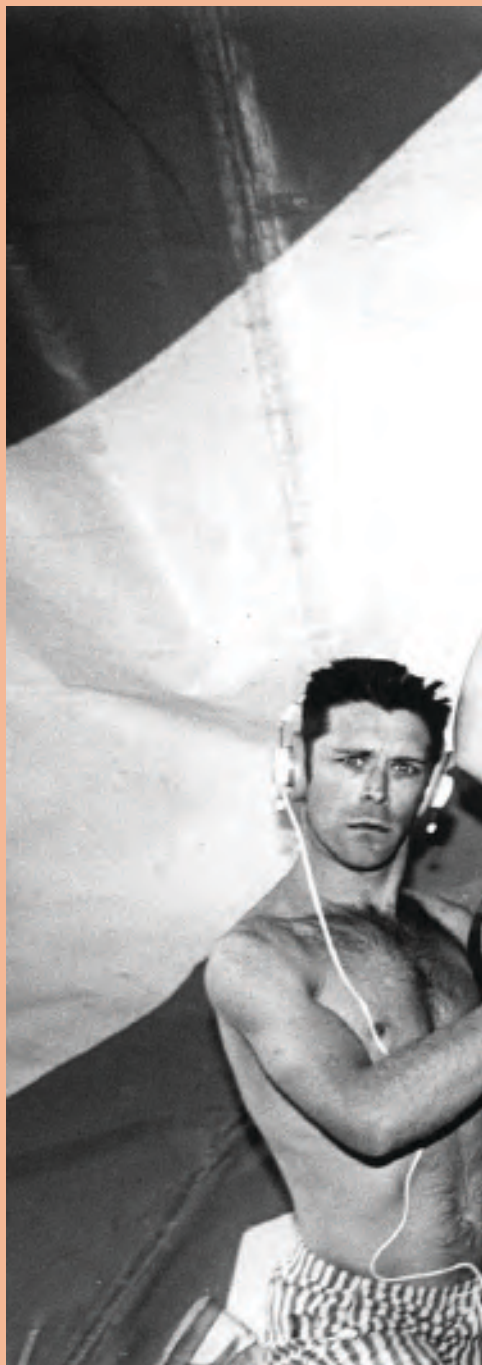
Our COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION programs continued to find innovative ways to unite with our communities, to bring a sense of participation, purpose and togetherness through the exploration and expression of art.

Our job as theatre makers is to nourish our audience.

We believe that creativity can connect us.

Image:

Photographer: Bruce Gladwin





CAMP

(COME AND MAKE PERFORMANCE)

CAMP (COME AND MAKE PERFORMANCE), Back to Back Theatre's annual weekend of theatre and art making workshops for people with and without disabilities, returned in March.

CAMP 2020 sat on a knife's edge, mere days before Back to Back Theatre implemented a self-imposed office closure and, with the rest of the country soon to follow, all precautions were taken in the delivery of what was, unbeknownst to us all, to be the last of our 'in person' undertakings for the 8 months to follow.

Stringent distancing rules, rigorous safety precautions, and an abundance of hand sanitiser were employed, all the while ensuring that the creative outlets and inhibition free practice of CAMP was nurtured.

CAMP featured a line-up of leading contemporary artists, delivering a range of workshops spanning theatre, comedy, visual arts, music making, lighting workshops and more. For the second consecutive year, a full day workshop was offered on Sunday exclusively to high school aged students.

CAMP 2020 Guest Artists

Ahmarnya Price, Amelia Ducker, Caroline Daish, Chris Dunstan, Harry Myers-Covill, James Pratt, Kate Sulan, Leisa Shelton, Madeline Stewart, Maude Davey, Richard Vabre, Romi Kupfer, Tessa Leong, Tom Middledich

CAMP 2020 Curator

Ingrid Voorendt

2

Days

5

Locations

13

Workshops

14

Guest artists

73

CAMP participants

46

CAMP participants
who identified as having
lived experience
of a disability

12

Bottles of hand sanitiser

14

Red tracksuit-wearing
staff/volunteers/support

*“I left this workshop, not only with some beautiful images,
but with the desire, in my creativity and arts practice,
to be a better maker.*

— CAMP Participant

CAMP INTERNATIONAL

CAMP International arrived as a response to the desire of the artistic community to continue to work and continue to work together, and was widely embraced by enthusiastic art makers near and far.

We took our CAMP (COME AND MAKE PERFORMANCE) methodology, applied a 2020 lens, and took the workshops online, offering people with and without disability who loved, or were curious about performance making, the opportunity to join us.

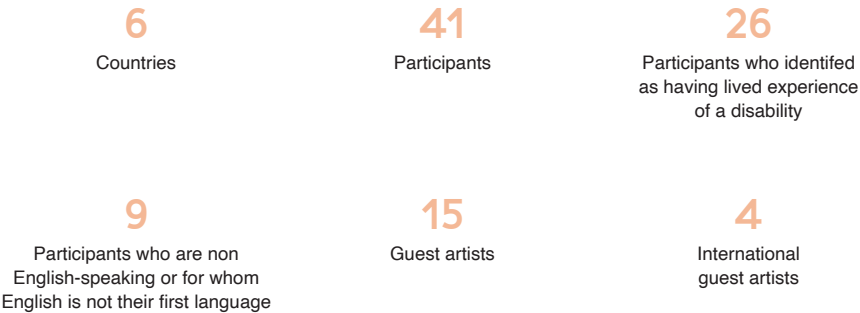
CAMP International knew no geographical boundaries; it gave participants the opportunity to work alongside Back to Back's ensemble of actors who co-author the company's touring shows, while experiencing the practices of a diverse range of contemporary artists from around the world.

Over the course of each Friday throughout October, we were joined by 56 participants from 6 countries including the Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany and Scotland, exploring workshops spanning sound composition and dance, writing, visual art and movement workshops. CAMP International offered something for everyone to join Back to Back Theatre from anywhere in the world.

CAMP International 2020 Guest Artists

Ahmarnya Price, Alana Hoggart, Caroline Daish, Harry Myers-Covill, Ingrid Voorendt, Kate McIntosh, Leisa Shelton, Marcus Yousseff, Paea Leach, Robert Croft, Scott Price and Tamara Searle, Sophie O'Brien, Sarah Mainwaring, Zoë Barry
Ingrid Voorendt

CAMP International 2020 Curator



“It was a fine moment for me, as a dancer and human in the world, to connect with people who were streaming in from everywhere who believe that creativity, movement and the body—in beauty and just as it is—are immensely important things to be valued and nurtured.”
— CAMP International Guest Artist

THEATRE OF SPEED

THEATRE OF SPEED (TOS), the company's long-running, experimental laboratory for theatre-making, which engages young community members and a number of Back to Back Theatre's ensemble continued to run 44 weeks of the calendar year, successfully moving to online delivery.

Five Guest Artists joined TOS throughout the year working across varied artforms spanning solo and group performance, autobiographical performance, writing and dance. SPEED TRIALS also ran online for a second year, offering opportunities for those curious about the company an opening to engage.

In true TOS style the challenge of the uncharted, online landscape was embraced with gusto and an unwavering commitment to artistic enrichment; one of their collective outcomes has been aptly named, UNMUTE, an invitation to enter a radically diverse selection of interior worlds and theatrical forms, to experience the passions, curiosities and perspectives of THEATRE OF SPEED. UNMUTE encompasses mythology, time travel, darkness, hoping, and other coping mechanisms for change.

THEATRE OF SPEED

SPEED TRIALS

Guest Artists

Visitors / Open workshops

Ben Oakes, Benjamin Mills, Breanna Deleo, Jessica Walker, Julia Kennedy, Kristie Brockett, Laura Berrisford, Liam White, Mark Deans, Nikita Veitch, Phoebe Baker, Robbie Croft, Sarah Mainwaring, Simon Laherty, Scott Price, Tamika Simpson, Jack Oates, Jai Storey, Mike Duckett, Rose McLachlan, Ahmaranya Price, Alana Hoggart, Bao Ngouansavanh, Bron Batten, Caroline Daish, Shian Law, Alice Boscheinen, Autumn Skuthorpe, Boram Lee, Geelong Grammar School, Kate McDowell, Korean Disability Arts and Culture Centre, Rawcus

PACK OF WOLVES

The avid interest in writing from a number of THEATRE OF SPEED participants saw the formation of pilot program PACK OF WOLVES in 2020.

A series of online workshops facilitated by pack-leader and Guest Artist Maude Davies, PACK OF WOLVES encourages members to develop their writing practice, share their work and listen to the work of others, and to receive and offer feedback.

PACK OF WOLVES

Alex Mills, Ben Oakes, Breanna Deleo, Chris Hansen, Jessica Walker, Liam White, Maude Davies, Nikita Veitch



Image:
Mark Deans in Back to Back Theatre's production of COW.
Photographer: Jeff Busby

EDUCATION

As students, schools and families found themselves grappling with online learning and focused on essential curriculum, we were fortunate to connect with schools and teachers who are strong advocates for the arts and continue to work with young people throughout 2020.

While some programs were delayed others continued, evolved and flourished in the digital realm. D-PROGRAM, an extended residency with Nelson Park School based on the prescient theme 'a guide to surviving the future' began with a series of conversations and drawings in person. It evolved to become FIRST RESPONDERS, a series of 90 second animations.

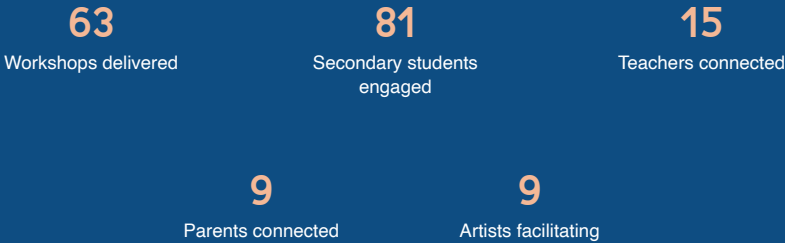
We delivered OPEN WORKSHOPS to Year 8 Students from Geelong High on The Art of Storytelling, and were joined by students completing Geelong Grammar School's International Baccalaureate for Theatre Studies to focus on process, collaboration, devising and contemporary approaches to theatre making.

We welcomed two students for WORK EXPERIENCE, and were invited to join the Performing Arts Teacher Network, a group dedicated to the sharing of resources and ideas to help engage students in the arts while the COVID19 restrictions are in place.

Curation
Community and Education Producer
Collaborating Artists

Ahmarnya Price, Ingrid Voorendt, Tamara Searle
Nikki Watson
Ahmarnya Price, Amelia Ducker, Harry Myers-Covill,
Ingrid Voorendt, Kelly Ryall, Liam White, Rhian Hinkley
Jack Oats, Breanna Deleo

Work Experience

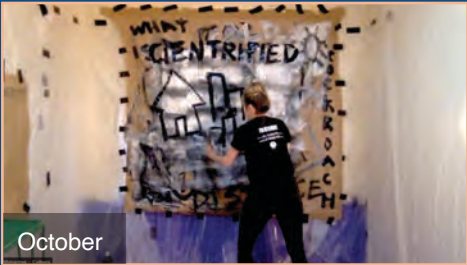
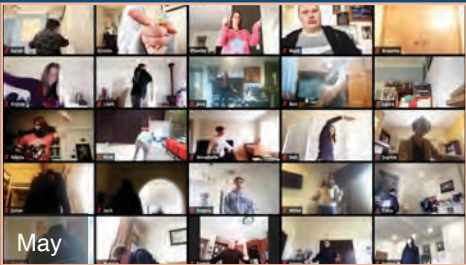
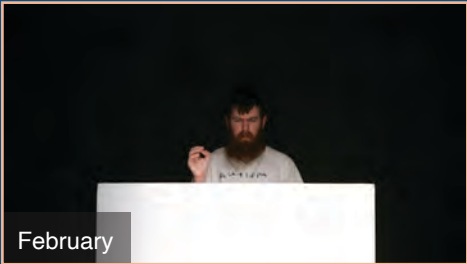


“Although we didn't find it academic, and about dramaturgy and theory, we learnt about life experiences and doing theatre in the real world, learning to be tolerant and patient, and I think that is more beneficial than sitting down and learning about theory.”
— Geelong Grammar School student



Image:
Mark Deans at Ashby Hall, circa 1995.
Photographer unknown

WHERE WE WENT



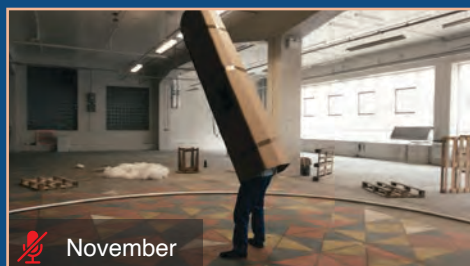
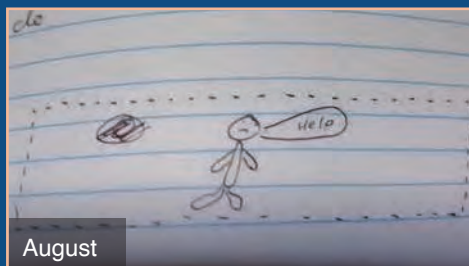
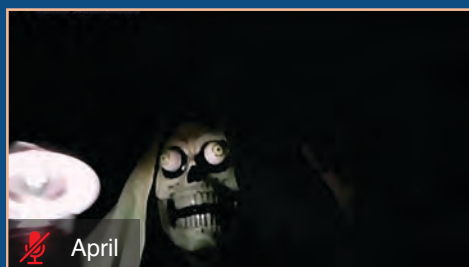

Mute


Stop Video


Invite

 12
Manage Participants

Images:
Jan: The Democratic Set, Vancouver. Tim Matheson Feb: APAM I Asia Topa, Melbourne. Zan Wimberley
May: Theatre of Speed, online. Kirstin Honey Jun: RADIAL Dundee, Barnes Film Festival. Rhian Hinkley
Sep: First Responders, online. Rhian Hinkley Oct: CAMP International, online. Kirstin Honey



Share Screen



Chat



Closed Caption



Breakout Rooms

Mar: CAMP, Geelong. Kirstin Honey Apr: EPOCH I Theatre of Speed, online. Kirstin Honey
 Jul: KDAC Talk Series, Korea. Jeff Busby Aug: Theatre of Speed I Speed Trial, online. Kirstin Honey
 Nov: RADIAL Dundee, Norwich Film Festival. Georgia Whyte Dec: SHADOW Film, Geelong. Tao Weis

EXPOSURE

In a year of physical disconnect where the world leaned away from physical touch and towards digital interactions, it was not surprising to have seen our online presence grow.

Engagement with our content was at an all-time high, testament to the power of the voice of our ensemble and its ability to transcend format.

5,762

Audience members

25,733

Visits to the Back to Back Theatre website

9,534

Followers across our social media platforms

7,678

Video views on Vimeo...
That's 26 days, 4 hours, 3 minutes, 47 seconds

67

Media articles nationally and internationally

8

Reviews



Image:
Mark Deans during Visiting Artists Week 2017.
Photographer: María José Duran Napolitano

FINANCE

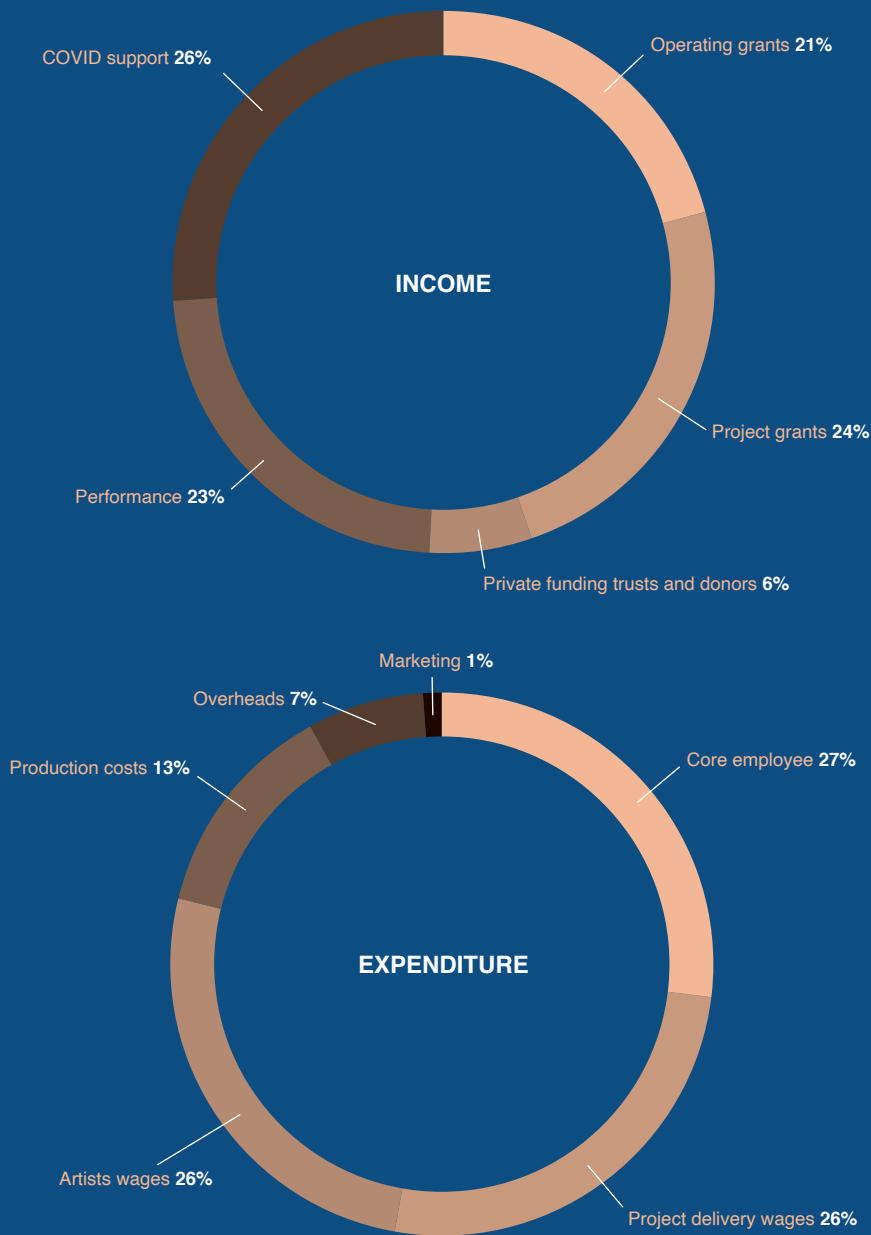




Image:
Mark Deans in Back to Back Theatre's production of COW.
Photographer unknown

ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP

NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Australian Writers Guild
Committee for Geelong
Geelong Community Theatre Network
Geelong Performing Arts Network
G21 Arts & Culture Pillar
Live Performance Australia
National Disability Services (NDS)
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
Arts Working Group
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
Quality and Safeguards Commission
Performing Arts Teachers Network
Rights Information & Advocacy Centre Incorporated
(RIAC)
Social Enterprise Network Victoria (SENVIC)
Theatre Network Australia (TNA)

SELECTED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM)
Gathering at Asia TOPA
Australian International Documentary Conference
(AIDC) 'Collective Intelligence' Panel
City of Greater Geelong International Day of People
with a Disability
Committee for Geelong's Forum on the Future
of Geelong's Creative Economy
Deakin University What's the Diff
Korea Disability Arts Council (KDAC) Disability Arts
Week
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) TV
Performing Arts Connection Australia (PAC) Australian
Performing Arts Exchange (APAX) 2020
Zürcher Theater Spektakel 2020 Festival

RESIDENT ARTIST PROGRAM

Autumn Skuthorpe
Kate McDowell

WORK EXPERIENCE / INTERNS / SECONDMENTS / MENTORSHIPS

Aaron Lucas
Adam Velo
Allan V Watt
Amy Marks
Annette McGovern
Ben Chapman
Ben Oakes
Breanna Deleo
Caitlin Syer
Chris Hansen
Dan Wei
Douglas Farquhar
Eden Menta
Erin Pocervina
Eza Bakker-Graham
Francesca Neri
Harry Schaller
Iris Walshe-Howling
Jack Oats
Jamila Main
Jeremy Lang
Jessica Cochran
Jessica Walker
Kinnon McDermott
Liam White
Michael Siu
Nathan Evans
Nicholas Walsh
Nikita Veitch
Noah Zvekc
Phillip Besancon
Robbie Croft
Sarah Waterfield
Tamika Simpson
Zia Sadeqi



Image:
Mark Deans in Back to Back Theatre's 2013 production of Super Discount.
Photographer: Jeff Busby

OUR SUPPORTERS

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



PROJECT PARTNERS



COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PARTNERS



CORPORATE PARTNERS



OUR DONORS

Alex Bowen
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Callum Morton

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& Philip Cornwell

Chris Pierce

Christine Silvestroni

Claire Luwei Kang

Damaris Treasure

Damien Collis

Dashiell Gantner
& Anna Foley

David Gagliardi

Edwina Light

Ellen Dennis

Ellen Fox

Elysa McInnes

Frank Macindoe

Gael Wilson

Geoffrey Conaghan
& Mathew Erbs

Greg Joffe

Gus & Lyn Nossal

Helen Long

Helga Svendsen

James McCaughey
& Ellen Koshland

Jan James

Jann Kinsela

Jennifer Kerr

Jenny Schwarz

Jessica Wilson

Jim & Edie Barton

Jimmy Buck

Jo Porter & Michael Nossal

John & Lorraine Bates

John Mant

Joyce Honey

Justice Elizabeth Fullerton

Karilyn Brown

Kate Betts

Kate Nossal & Myles Neri

Katherine Branch

Katrina Alford

Katrina Sedgwick

Kim Tompkins

Liz Grainger

Lea Thorpe

Leigh O'Neill

Lou Oppenheim

Lynette Gillman

Matthew Temple

Meg Wardlaw

Melinda Chapman

Melinda Clarke

Melissa Stark

Meredith Martin
& Amelia Scurry

Michael Parry

Michael Rolfe

Myer Family Foundation

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Patrick Over

Percy Baxter Charitable Trust

Peter Marshall
In Loving Memory
of Victoria Marshall

Peter Bridges

Peter Isaacson Foundation

PJ Rose

Richard & Fiona East

Ronald Kinsela

Rose Hiscock

Rosemary Forbes
& Ian Hocking

Sally Maes

Sean Jameson

Simon Abrahams

SJ Chapman

Space Vivian

Sue Howell

Susan Goodman

Tanya Smith

Tariq Smith

Tilly Boleyn

Tegan Lang

The Angior Family Foundation

Thom Calma

Todd Murphy

Tom Gutteridge

Tony Grybowski

Vicki Pryce

Wendy Lasica

Winifred & John Webster
Charitable Trust Fund

Yoni Prior

OUR PEOPLE

ENSEMBLE

Michael Chan (to February)
Mark Deans
Sarah Mainwaring
Scott Price
Simon Laherty

BOARD

Barb Dennis (to September)
Ben Kay
Ben Slater, Treasurer
Callum Morton
Jann Kinsela, Chair
Katrina Sedgwick, Secretary
Meg Wardlaw
Rose Hiscock
Sarah Mainwaring, Ensemble Representative (from May)
Scott Price, Ensemble Representative (to April)
Tony Grybowski (from October)
Yoni Prior, Vice Chair

STAFF

Ahmarnya Price
Alice Fleming
Alice Nash
Bao Ngouansavanh
Bruce Gladwin
Ellen Fox
Elysa McInnes
Erin Watson
Ingrid Voorendt
Jane Millett
Katherine Branch
Kirstin Honey
Lisa Couper
Melissa Stark
Merryn Humphreys
Nikki Watson
Paul Summers
Susan White
Tamara Searle
Tanya Bennett
Tim Stütz
Tony Grybowski

Acting Artistic Associate (to June)
Screen Producer
Executive Producer and Co CEO (to March)
Production Manager
Artistic Director and Co CEO
Partnerships Manager (to April)
Marketing and Development Coordinator
Company Manager
Artistic Associate
Project Manager
Director of Marketing and Development
Community Programs Coordinator
General Manager
Partnerships Manager
Finance and Operations Administrator
Community and Education Producer
Partnerships Manager
Finance Manager
Artistic Associate
Senior Producer
Executive Producer and Co CEO (from August)
Interim Executive Director (April to September)

GUEST ARTISTS AND COLLABORATORS

Alana Hoggart
Amelia Ducker
Bao Ngouansavanh
Breanna Deleo
Brian Tilley
Bronwyn Batten
Caroline Daish
Chris Dunstan
Daniel Schlusser
David Woods
Harry Myers-Covill
Jackson Castiglione
Jai Storey
James Pratt
Jason Christopher Maling
Kate McIntosh
Kate Sulan
Kelly Ryall
Lara Thoms
Leisa Campbell
Louise Gough
Madeleine Lidbetter
Marcia Ferguson
Mark Cuthbertson
Maude Davey
Meret Hassanen

Nicole Anne Holland
Paea Leach
Rhian Hinkley
Richard Vabre
Robert Erskine Croft
Romi Kupfer
Samuel James
Shannon Quinn
Shian Law
Shio Otani
Sophie O'Brien
Sue Angelovski
Tessa Leong
Thomas Campbell
Thomas Middleditch
Wendy Gregory-Walker
Zoë Barry

THANK YOU

Alicia Brown
Amanda Browne
Amanda Henshaw
Anar Shar & Jamie Neo
Andrew Earl
Anna Nieuwenhuysen
Anne Louise Rentall
Annette Madden
Archie Gladwin
Associate Professor Angela Dew
Brendan Campbell
Catherine Tuner
Chris Barker
Cynthia Scherer
Deakin University
Debbie Lee
Dr Amy Antonio
Dr Kevin Murfitt
Fatima Mawas
Fiona Duncan
Gabrielle Nagle
Gail Rodgers
Geelong High School
Geelong Library
Hannah Torrance
Helen McKenzie
Hyoseon Kim
Ivy Hinkley
James McCaughey
Jana Blair
Jeannie Hodges
Jenny Speed
Kate Lynch
Kaye Weeks
Kelly Clifford
Kerry Farrance

Korean Disability Arts and Cultural Centre
Luke Jacobson
Lydia Sharpin
Martin Paten
Mary Ann Rolfe
Michael McMahon
Monica Wellington
Nancy Black
Nelson Park School
Patsie Frawley
Professor Gillian Triggs
Robert Tripolino
Robin Ramsay
Rupert Reid
Sandy Shaw
Sarah Bartak
Sarah Penhall
Scott Bowman
Shaun Miller
Sherona Parkinson
Sophine X Chai
Strangeways Ensemble
Studio 92
Tara Lynch
Thomas Lynch
Tim Matheson
Tony Nagle
Sherona & Travis Parkinson
Ulbardino Mantelli
Vanessa Browne
Victoria Jones
Wendy Gregory-Walker

SUPPORT BACK TO BACK THEATRE

Supporting Back to Back Theatre helps us develop, stage and tour major new works, provide arts-based community programs, and to advocate for the power of inclusive art and equal rights for people with disabilities.

Back to Back Theatre Inc (ABN 95 834 241) is a registered Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Donations can be made by direct EFT transfer or online via www.backtobacktheatre.com/donate

Direct EFT transfer to Back to Back Theatre Inc.

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Acc: 325511

Have you considered leaving a gift in your will to Back to Back Theatre? For a confidential discussion regarding your legacy, please do get in touch.

CONTACT

Melissa Stark

Partnerships Manager

03 5221 2029 or

melissa@backtobacktheatre.com

BACK
TO
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