

Back to Back Theatre announces departure of Executive Producer and Co-CEO Tim Stitz in 2025

Executive Producer and Co-CEO Tim Stitz has advised the Back to Back Theatre Board that he will leave the company in mid-2025. Tim has made this decision following the appointment of his partner Petra Kalive as Artistic Director & Co-CEO of State Theatre Company of South Australia (STCSA), and will move with his family to Adelaide.

Acting Chair of the Board Yoni Prior said: *“For the past four years Back to Back has been exceptionally fortunate to have Tim in the role of Co-CEO. Together with Bruce Gladwin, Tim has guided the company through a period of great achievement and tumult. During Tim’s tenure the company has successfully joined the National Performing Arts Partnerships Framework, expanded its screen operations, resumed touring to national and international destinations (most recently Venice, Shanghai & Los Angeles, representing broad re-engagement with Asia, Europe and North America), and supported the development of various new works and wider community engagement. We are immensely grateful to Tim for his time with Back to Back.”*

Back to Back Ensemble member Scott Price said: *“Tim has played an important role at Back to Back Theatre through tough circumstances, and I want to thank him for his contribution, dedication, and hard work.”*

Co-CEO Bruce Gladwin said: *“As my co-CEO for the last four years Tim has expertly managed the company through Covid lockdowns and the unknown territory of re-establishing business as usual. Tim’s skills have brought a great deal of comfort and stability for the staff, and created a healthy and vibrant extended team. I have always found it easy, effective and fun working with him. I’m sad to see Tim go, but congratulate him in supporting Petra’s career. I wish Tim and his family the best in their move to Adelaide.”*

Tim Stitz said: *“Working at Back to Back is one of the greatest highlights of my career. The quality of the company’s work is unparalleled, and I continue to marvel at the rigor and ingenuity the Ensemble, Bruce and wider group of creatives and collaborators bring to the work. I’m immensely grateful to the Back to Back staff and Board, and am honoured to have worked with such a committed, talented and full-of-heart team.”*

Tim’s mid-year departure will allow sufficient time to support a smooth transition and recruitment, and also to oversee the delivery of various 2025 projects. Recruitment for a new Executive Producer & Co-CEO will commence early in the new year.

Tim Stitz joined Back to Back Theatre as Executive Producer and Co-CEO in August 2020. Prior to this Tim held various positions within the arts sector include at the Australian Performing Arts Market (APAM), Arts Centre Melbourne and Creative Partnerships Australia. Tim was Creative Director & CEO of Chamber Made from 2013 – 2018, and was involved in raising \$3.2-million for the rebuild of Melbourne’s iconic La Mama Theatre, following the devastating 2018 fire. Tim is a graduate of the University of Melbourne, an alumnus of the Asialink Leaders Program and the Australia Council Emerging Leaders Development Program, and a passionate advocate for access, inclusion and representation across all parts of the creative industries. Tim is currently a Board Member of Theatre Network Australia.

ABOUT BACK TO BACK THEATRE

Based in the Victorian regional centre of Geelong, Back to Back Theatre is widely recognised as an Australian theatre company of national and international significance. The company is driven by an ensemble of actors who identify as having an intellectual disability or as neurodivergent and is considered one of Australia’s most important cultural exporters.

From 2009 to 2023, the company has undertaken 88 national and 130 international seasons of its work. This includes presentations and screenings at the world's pre-eminent contemporary arts festivals and venues such as the Edinburgh International Festival, London's V&A Museum and the Barbican, Vienna Festival, Holland Festival and Theater der Welt, the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, the Public Theater in New York, Festival Tokyo, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority in Hong Kong, and Buenos Aires International Festival.

Since 2009, the company has delivered community and education workshops to over 34,000 participants, with a focus on artistic excellence and inclusive practice.

Back to Back Theatre has received 23 national and international awards including the 2024 Venice Biennale Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre, the International Ibsen Award, a Helpmann Award for Best Australian Work, an Edinburgh International Festival Herald Angel Critics' Award, two The Age Critics' Awards, a New York Bessie and the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Group Award for our long-standing contribution to the development of Australian theatre. In 2015, Artistic Director Bruce Gladwin received the Australia Council for the Arts' Inaugural Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre.

<https://backtobacktheatre.com/>

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