

BACK TO BACK THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW CHAIR, ROSE HISCOCK



Back to Back Theatre is delighted to announce the appointment of new Chairperson Rose Hiscock.

Rose Hiscock is the Director Museums and Collections at The University of Melbourne. She has held national leadership roles within collecting and cultural institutions, and her career demonstrates a strong focus on interdisciplinarity. She was previously CEO of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum), Executive Director, Arts Development at the Australia Council and held roles at Museums Victoria. Rose is Chair of Science Gallery International and was responsible for the development of Science Gallery Melbourne. Rose is committed to building an accessible, inclusive and thriving arts sector. She is also a board member of the Melbourne Art Foundation, Fellow of Trinity College Melbourne and former Board member of Chunky Move.

On her appointment, **Rose Hiscock said:** *“I’m thrilled and honoured to step into the role of Chair of Back to Back Theatre. Over the last 30 years Back to Back Theatre has had a profound impact on the community of Geelong and audiences in Australia and around the world. I’ve had a long association with the company and am in awe of its creative heart: the Ensemble comprised of Simon Laherty, Sarah Mainwaring, Scott Price, Nathan Legg, Grace Kenny, Jessica Walker who together with Bruce Gladwin and the artistic team, craft an exceptional creative dialogue.*

I’m grateful to the company’s brilliant staff, my Board colleagues and for the many supporters who help bring Back to Back’s unique theatre-making to the world. In terms of the Board’s future, we plan to grow our current representation of members with lived experience of disability and will be seeking new members in the near future.”

The BACK TO BACK THEATRE **Ensemble said:** *“We are very happy that Rose is the new Chair of the Board at Back to Back Theatre. Rose brings extensive experience in the arts and business. She’s really smart and will help us with the decision making and big picture thinking. Well done Rose, we congratulate you.”*

BACK TO BACK THEATRE **Executive Producer & Co-CEO Tim Stitz said:** *“I’m so delighted Rose has assumed the position of Chair of the Back to Back Theatre Board. She is such an engaged, strategic and excellent human, and incredibly well regarded nationally and internationally. The company will greatly benefit from her leadership, building on a longstanding contribution to the Board. We thank Deputy Board Chair Yoni Prior for being Acting Chair since former Chair Katrina Sedgwick OAM stepped down in October 2024.*

ABOUT BACK TO BACK THEATRE

Based on Wadawurrung Country 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.

We contend 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.

From 2009 to 2025, 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 Venice Biennale, The National Theatre of Norway, 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, we have 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 for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre, the 2022 International Ibsen Award, a Helpmann Award for Best Australian Work, an Edinburgh International Festival Herald Angel Critics' Award, two 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, Bruce Gladwin received the Australia Council for the Arts' Inaugural Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre. The ensemble were awarded the 'Best Ensemble' in the 2019 Green Room Awards.

backtobacktheatre.com

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