

MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY SEASON 2018 Front cover (from top, L-R): Katja Handt, costume designer, Lost Boys; Neisha Murphy, local circus artist and Creativity Camp tutor; Jared Crisp, Creativity Camp-er; Ethan Green, Merrigong & Disability Trust Ensemble member; Dhananjaya Karunarathne, local playwright; Heather Holliday, performer – fire and swords, LIMBO; Lachlan Philpott, playwright, Lost Boys; Amer Hlehel, writer & performer, Taha; Shari Sebbens, actor, Black is the New White; Jackson Hawkins, Creativity Camp-er; Jonathan Biggins, writer & performer, The Wharf Revue 2018; Sxip Shirey, composer & musician, LIMBO; Paul Blackwell, actor, The Aspirations of Daise Morrow; Val Fell, long-time volunteer & advocate; Catherine McClements, actor, The Events; Virginia Gay, actor, Calamity Jane; Lucy Crisp, Creativity Camp-er; Richard Higgins, actor and half of The Listies, Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark; Future D. Fidel, playwright, Prize Fighter; Ben Stossel-Knowles, Head Chef, The Social @ IPAC.

Back cover (from top, L-R): **Daniel Tobias**, writer & performer, *The Orchid and the Crow*; **Warwick Shanks**, Season Ticket Holder and Inner Circle donor; **Dayna Huber**, Patron Services Coordinator, Merrigong Theatre Company; **Bridie Hooper**, Circa ensemble, *Humans*.

The name Merrigong is thought to be a derivation of the indigenous word for the Illawarra region's distinctive escarpment.

The company's name acts as a constant reminder that our venues sit on the ancestral land of the Dharawal people. Merrigong Theatre Company acknowledges the Dharawal people as the traditional custodians of this land.

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The theatre is a gathering place.

Over centuries, it has provided a place for communities to see and hear their own stories, for people to reflect on who they are, and who they want to be. And we live on land where that tradition of gathering for storytelling, particularly through song and dance, is much, much, older than the western theatre tradition. For tens of thousands of years, our First Nations people have come together to share such activities. Whether or not we gather in structures built specifically for the purpose (such as our wonderful theatres at IPAC), in temporary venues (such as the beautiful Spiegeltent), in community halls (like The Wollongong Town Hall), or indeed outdoors, on the street, in parks or public spaces, these occasions provide a vital opportunity for us to express who we are and to learn about others, forging our collective sense of community in the process.

For all its power to bring us together, there have been times when theatre has been used as a means of exclusion, of elitism, when the theatre has become a place where the superiority of one group over another has been asserted, and oppression reinforced. So, in the age of 'fake news', of divisive plebiscites and savage social media attacks, it's vitally important that Merrigong, as your local theatre company, reinforces the ability of the theatre to embrace all in our community, to be a place of inclusion, a space where diversity is valued and difference is celebrated. In the coming years, the team at Merrigong will be working even harder to find ways to ensure that our venues, our programs and our audiences better reflect the diversity of the community in which we live. So, from the mix of people you see in our foyers, the range of faces of those seated around you in the theatre, and the diversity of voices and stories on our stages, we want to send a very clear message. At Merrigong, whoever you are, wherever you were born, whoever you love, whatever your ability, whatever your beliefs,

you belong here.

Simon Hinton Artistic Director / CEO

Get more from your experience



Join the conversation and enhance your experience with these great opportunities to learn more about the theatre.

Post-show Q&As

For most shows in our Mainstage Season we offer at least one performance where the audience is invited to stay for a conversation with the cast, and sometimes show creatives too. This is a perfect opportunity to gain deeper insights into a show and how it was made. Dates for performances that include a Post-show Q&A are noted on the 'Year at a Glance' on page 44.

Free cast sheets

We provide a free cast sheet for most Mainstage Season shows. Like a mini-program, cast sheets provide insights into the people behind the work and its creation. Check with our friendly Front-of-House staff when you attend a performance.

Merrigong Talking Points

Learn more about theatre, the arts and the world around us! Everyone is invited to join our eclectic and engaging series of foyer talks, designed to complement our Season. Held after Saturday matinee performances of most Mainstage season shows, Merrigong Talking Points are free and run for approximately one hour. No bookings required.

Check show pages for dates and times.

Pre-show reminders

To make sure you don't miss a thing, we'll send you a ticket reminder 1-2 days before your chosen performance. Please provide your email address when booking.

Perks for you



Season Ticket Holders have a special place in our heart. Join us on a curated, year-long journey of great entertainment, thought-provoking ideas and soul-stirring experiences. Choose a package of 5 – 16 shows and you'll also receive these bonus extras!

The Best Seats

While there's not a bad seat in the house, becoming a Season Ticket Holder means you get priority access to the best seats. And if you are a returning 2017 Season Ticket Holder, you get first 'dibs', with priority booking until Thursday 30 November. Get your form in early – we number and process bookings in order of receipt.

Brilliant Value

The more shows you see, the more you save! Save up to 43% on single ticket prices. You can save up to \$130 on a 5-Show Season Ticket, and a whopping \$498 on a Whole Shebang package (16 Shows)!

Free Tickets

Purchase a 10, 12 or The Whole-Shebang Season Ticket and you'll get an extra free ticket to one of the Mainstage Season shows you're seeing (your choice), so you can share the experience! For returning Season Ticket Holders, refer a friend and you will get a free ticket to a Mainstage Season show of your choice. The new Season Ticket Holder must be at a different residential address to you, and list you on their booking form.

Pay Half Now, Half Later

You don't need to pay upfront. You can opt to pay half now, and the remainder on or close

to 11 April 2018. (Credit card payments only. A \$9.20 handling fee applies.)

Real Flexibility

Life happens, so we offer our Season Ticket Holders one free exchange per ticket – this can be into another performance of the same show, or any other Season 2018 show. (Where ticket prices vary, the difference will be charged.) Please contact us at least 24 hours before your booked performance.

Exclusive Food & Drink Discount

Get rewarded every time you visit, with 10% off your bill at The Social café and bar when you present your exclusive Merrigong Loyalty Card. Cheers!

Help Make Great Theatre

Purchase a 10, 12 or The Whole-Shebang Season Ticket and receive a complimentary invitation to MERRIGONG**X** development showings, and stick around to tell us what you think!

Share with Family & Friends

Treat your loved ones by purchasing unlimited single tickets (many at discounted prices) before they are released to the general public. These must be purchased at the same time as you book your Season Ticket. You'll be seated together, and win their adoration.

"A WONDERFULLY QUICK-WITTED, SHARP-AS-A-TACK AUSTRALIAN ROM COM"

Limelight



Love, politics, and other things you shouldn't talk about at dinner.

A SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

Black is the New White

By Nakkiah Lui

Sydney Theatre Company's sold-out, smash hit, laugh-out-loud romantic comedy comes to Wollongong – and it's bigger, better and blacker than ever!

With a brilliant ensemble cast including Luke Carroll and Shari Sebbens, this is a tale of two opposing houses. At the centre is Charlotte Gibson, a lawyer with a brilliant career ahead of her. As her father says, she could be the next female Indigenous Waleed Aly. But she has other ideas. First of all, it's Christmas. Second of all, she's in love.

Charlotte's fiancé is not what her family expected – he's unemployed, he's an experimental composer... and he's white! Inviting him and his conservative parents to Christmas is a bold move that has all sorts of unintended consequences.

Part Romeo & Juliet, part Meet the Fockers, Black is the New White is a delightfully incisive and entertaining rom-com about two families brought together by love and money. With a toe-tapping soundtrack and an array of eccentric and loveable characters, this is a hilarious, and very Australian play from one of this country's most in-demand writers.

21 – 24 FEBRUARY

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$84

Approx. 2 hrs 30 mins. (incl. interval) Recommended for ages 15+. Contains adult themes, strong language and nudity.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 22 February, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT

Saturday 24 February, 15 mins after the matinee ends

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Saturday 24 February, 1.30pm

LIVE CAPTIONING

Saturday 24 February, 1.30pm

TACTILE TOUR

Saturday 24 February, 12pm

DIRECTOR Paige Rattray

DESIGNER Renée Mulder

LIGHTING DESIGNER Ben Hughes

COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER Steve Toulmin

CAST Tony Briggs, Luke Carroll, Vanessa Downing, Melodie Reynolds-Diarra, Shari Sebbens, Tom Stokes, Anthony Taufa





Immerse yourself in the wild, wild West.

ONE EYED MAN PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH NEGLECTED MUSICALS AND HAYES THEATRE CO

Calamity Jane

Music by Sammy Fain. Lyrics by Francis Webster. Adapted by Ronald Hanmer and Phil Park. From the stage play by Charles K. Freeman. After Warner Bros. film written by James O'Hanlon.

The hot ticket, must-see hit of Sydney's musical theatre scene rides into Wollongong.

Legendary frontierswoman Calamity Jane is one of the most immediately recognisable figures of the old American West. Her story comes to life in this brilliant, madcap, strippedback live production that shucks off the buckskin and brings a barrelful of dirt and grit to the classic and much-loved musical.

Starring Virginia Gay (TV's *All Saints, Winners & Losers*), this is a theatre experience like no other. From the moment you enter the theatre, you'll be immersed in the world of the Golden Garter Saloon – alive with whores, gamblers, and other colourful characters. Expect an unpredictable and hilarious ride, particularly if you're lucky enough to snap up a special premium seat at one of the onstage saloon tables, where you'll be right in the thick of the fun, and part of the action.

Featuring timeless standards such as 'Just Blew In From The Windy City' and 'Secret Love', this production injects a raucous spontaneity into the world of musical theatre.

7 – 11 MARCH

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$84

Approx. 2 hrs 25 mins. (incl. interval) Recommended for ages 7+.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 8 March, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT

Saturday 10 March, 15 mins after the matinee ends

LIVE CAPTIONING

Saturday 10 March, 1.30pm

DIRECTOR Richard Carroll

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Nigel Ubrihien

CHOREOGRAPHER Cameron Mitchell

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Lauren Peters

LIGHTING DESIGNER Trent Suidgeest

CAST INCLUDES Virginia Gay, Laura Bunting, Anthony Gooley, Rob Johnson, Matthew Pearce, Tony Taylor





"RICH, VIVID... ACUTELY MOVING. SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL" The Times (UK)

With this small pencil I will write the world...



Taha

By Amer Hlehel. Translated by Amir Nizar Zubai.

Coming direct from the Edinburgh and Adelaide Festivals, we're delighted to present the award-winning, lyrical and nuanced story of the life of acclaimed Palestinian poet Taha Muhammad Ali (1931-2011).

In his powerfully moving and humorous verse, the celebrated writer documented hopeful survival after 50 years of loss - loss of his home, his lover, his friends and his shop in Saffuriyeh, Galilee. It is a story that parallels the experiences of a million and a half Palestinians who remained in their homeland after 1948.

Adapted from Adina Hoffman's biography My Happiness Bears No Relation to Happiness and the poet's own works, writer-performer Amer Hlehel has created a tour de force solo performance that skillfully interweaves Taha's singular and exquisite poetry with his compelling life journey.

Performed in English (with a special one-off performance in Arabic), Taha powerfully communicates the sorrow, humour, resilience and tender humanity of an extraordinary man and artist. It is a delight for the mind, and nourishment for the heart.

20 MARCH

SHOALHAVEN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

21 - 25MARCH

BRUCE GORDON THEATRE

\$29 - \$59

Approx. 1 hr 5 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 12+. Contains adult themes.

POST-SHOW O&A

Thursday 22 March, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 24 March, 15 mins after the matinee ends

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Saturday 24 March, 1.30pm

PERFORMED IN ARABIC Sunday 25 March, 5pm

الأحد 25 أذار /مارس

الساعة الخامسة بعد الظهر

TACTILE TOUR Saturday 24 March, 12pm

DIRECTOR Amir Nizar Zubai **DESIGNER** Ashraf Hanna LIGHTING DESIGNER Muaz Jubeh COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER Habib Shehadeh Arabic performance **DIRECTOR** Yussuf Abu Warda **DRAMATURG** Ala Hlehel LIGHTING DESIGN Firas Tarabshi

CAST Amer Hlehel



Heaven can wait... This is one hell of a party.



A STRUT & FRET PRODUCTION

LIMBO

Spiegeltent Wollongong is back! In 2017, Wollongong fell in love with the unmatched atmosphere of the Spiegeltent. In 2018, we'll fill it with heart-stopping illusions, mind-bending manoeuvres, breathtaking dance moves and thrilling live music when *LIMBO* headlines Spiegeltent Wollongong 2018!

Featuring a stunning international cast including Coney Island sword swallower and vintage beauty, Heather Holliday, this record-breaking, award-winning sensation is a celebration of otherworldly proportions.

Presented in the magnificent Aurora Spiegeltent, *LIMBO* will whisk you into a sensual netherworld of dark and dangerous circus-cabaret. Accompanied by a thrilling live score by New York's Sxip Shirey, this intoxicating show has been a hit everywhere from London to Munich, Auckland to Adelaide, Boqotá to Brussels.

Don't miss the show that's so hot, Madonna saw it twice (no, really!). It's sexy, sassy circus cabaret at its finest.

12 APRIL -6 MAY

SPIEGELTENT WOLLONGONG \$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 15 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 12+.

OPENING NIGHT GALA
Thursday 12 April, 8.30pm
Premium Tickets only.

DIRECTOR Scott Maidment
COMPOSER & MUSICAL DIRECTOR Sxip Shirey
SET & LIGHTING DESIGNER Phillip Gladwell
COSTUME DESIGNER Zoë Rouse
CHOREOGRAPHER Hilton Denis

CAST INCLUDES Hilton Denis, Heather Holliday, Nicolas Jelmoni, Eamon McNelis, Antonio Vargas Montiel, Marco Motta, Charlotte O'Sullivan, Sxip Shirey, Mick Stuart







The only death to fear is the death of love.

BRINK PRODUCTIONS

The Aspirations of Daise Morrow

Based on Patrick White's short story *Down at the Dump*, featuring the Zephyr Quartet.

From the mighty pen of Australia's Nobel Laureate, the incomparable Patrick White, comes a timeless story about seizing the day and not letting the bastards grind you down.

Set in the suburb of Barranugli, the Hogbens prepare to bury the notorious Daise Morrow, while next door the Whalleys prepare for an outing to the dump. As Daise walks amongst the mourners, hovering on the cusp of memory and rumour, over the fence two young dreamers take their first tentative steps into love.

A towering literary genius, Patrick White had a well-documented love for the theatre and in this richly theatrical, word-for-word adaptation, the brilliance of his writing is exposed – funny, insightful, brutal, loving, sad and wise.

The wooden-floored expanse of the Wollongong Town Hall will be transformed into a magical earthen-floored space where actors and musicians perform in and around the audience, seated in the round. Accompanied live by the award-winning Zephyr Quartet, *The Aspirations of Daise Morrow* is storytelling rich with music and light, a poignant evocation of the wonders of small beginnings, the complications of compassion, and the grace and majesty of love.

9 – 12 MAY

WOLLONGONG TOWN HALL

\$49 - \$67

Approx. 1 hr 20 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 12+. Contains adult themes and strong language.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 10 May, 11am & 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 12 May, 15 mins after the matinee ends

DESIGNER Michael Hankin
LIGHTING DESIGNER Nigel Levings
LIGHTING REALISER Neil Simpson
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Hilary Kleinig
COMPOSERS Belinda Gehlert, Hilary Kleinig, Jason Thomas, Emily Tulloch

CAST Paul Blackwell, Lucy Lehmann, Genevieve Picot, James Smith and Zephyr Quartet



DIRECTOR Chris Drummond



A MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

Lost Boys

By Lachlan Philpott

Exploring a shocking chapter in our recent history, *Lost Boys* is a fierce and compelling new play by award-winning Australian playwright Lachlan Philpott (*Silent Disco, The Trouble with Harry*), commissioned and developed by Merrigong.

Cy and Robert Murphy are teenagers living a life of sun and saltwater, but as the sun sets, a malevolent culture of homophobia and violence surfaces, with consequences that ripple across generations.

Inspired by real events and told through the eyes of three generations of the Murphy family, *Lost Boys* rips into a dark part of our male-dominated culture, asking how perpetrators of violent crimes live with their unspeakable pasts.

Commemorating lives lost, this deeply affecting and potent new work forces us to examine secrets held for decades, and prejudices still held today. Bearing witness to our times, this is vital and unflinching work from a compelling voice in Australian theatre. It's a story that needs to be told.

23 MAY -2 JUNE

BRUCE GORDON THEATRE

\$29 - \$59

Running time TBC

Recommended for ages 16+.
Contains strong language, adult themes and simulated violence.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 31 May, 11am & 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 2 June 15 mins after the

Saturday 2 June, 15 mins after the matinee ends

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Saturday 2 June, 1.30pm

TACTILE TOUR

Saturday 2 June, 12pm

DIRECTOR Leland Kean
DESIGNER Katja Handt
AV DESIGNER Mic Gruchy
LIGHTING DESIGNER Jasmine Rizk
SOUND DESIGNER Daryl Wallis
CAST INCLUDES Jackson Davis, Lucy Heffernan



"BREATHTAKING IN ITS ELEGANCE"

Broadway World



At the very heart of all life is the rhythm of nature itself.

AN AUSTRALIAN DANCE THEATRE PRODUCTION

The Beginning of Nature

By Garry Stewart

From the pioneering Australian Dance Theatre comes a dance and sound work exploring the rhythms in nature.

Humans, and all living forms, exist within a phenomenally complex symphony of overlapping rhythms that constitute life itself. These rhythms are manifested in day and night, the seasons, tidal patterns, migration, weather patterns and the binary of growth and decay.

World-renowned Artistic Director Garry Stewart (*G*, *Be Your Self*) has woven together music and astonishingly powerful contemporary dance to create a compelling work, harnessing the grace and strength of nine extraordinary dancers to explore nature's complex forces.

Acclaimed composer Brendan Woithe has collaborated with consultant Jack Buckskin to develop a spellbinding score that combines electronica, strings and a libretto performed live in the reclaimed and revived Kaurna language, the first language of the Adelaide Plains, home to ADT.

The Beginning of Nature is at times fierce and explosive, at other times graceful and meditative. It's a stunning work that will delight and inspire.

28 – 30 JUNE

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 20 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 12+. Contains partial nudity.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 28 June, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 30 June, 15 mins after the matinee ends

DIRECTOR Garry Stewart

CHOREOGRAPHER Garry Stewart and the ADT dancers

LIGHTING DESIGNER Damien Cooper

COMPOSER Brendan Woithe (KLANG)

COSTUME DESIGNER Davis Browne Design

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE & CULTURE CONSULTANT Jack Buckskin



The most difficult question to answer is always "why?"

A BELVOIR, MALTHOUSE THEATRE AND STATE THEATRE COMPANY SOUTH AUSTRALIA CO-PRODUCTION

The Events

By David Greig

A mesmerising piece of playwriting – generous, compassionate and subtle, *The Events* stars one of Australia's most powerful actors, the brilliant Catherine McClements (TV's *Water Rats, Rush*), joined on stage each night by a choir from our own local community, in an extraordinary blend of theatre and music.

McClements plays Claire, a minister and leader of a community choir that regularly meets in a local town hall. When a young man enters the hall and opens fire, her beloved community – and the ideals that sustain it – is blown apart. In the aftermath, questions are asked and resolutions sought. Could he have been stopped? And how do we live together knowing it can all come apart in a moment?

The hit of the 2013 Edinburgh Festival, *The Events* is award-winning Scottish playwright David Greig's (*Midsummer - A Play with Songs*) response to the violence unleashed by a Norwegian white supremacist in 2011. It is stunningly brought to life in this production from three of Australia's flagship theatre companies. It is a deeply important, poignant and challenging story of hope and healing.

25 - 28 JULY

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 15 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 15+. Contains adult themes and strong language.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 26 July, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 28 July, 15 mins after the matinee ends

AUDIO DESCRIPTION Saturday 28 July, 1.30pm

Saturday 28 July, 1.30pm **LIVE CAPTIONING**

Saturday 28 July, 1.30pm

TACTILE TOUR Saturday 28 July, 12pm

DIRECTOR Clare Watson
SET & LIGHTING DESIGNER Geoff Cobham
LIGHTING DIRECTOR Richard Vabre
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Luke Byrne
COMPOSER John Browne
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER Scott Witt

CAST Luke Byrne, Johnny Carr, Catherine McClements and local choirs









Courageous, ground-breaking, risk-taking.

A CIRCA CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS PRODUCTION

Humans

By Yaron Lifschitz and the Circa Ensemble

Circa might just be the most in-demand Australian arts company in the world right now, and it's easy to see why. Their reputation for fearless, boundary-pushing new circus, which combines physical virtuosity with an expressive humanism, is borne out in every one of their shows.

In this stirring work, ten acrobats take us on a journey through what it means to be human. Exploring the physical limits of their bodies, they question just how much we can take as humans. How much weight can we carry? Who can we trust to support our load? They lead us to reflect on our lives and our loved ones, on the burdens we carry and the physical and emotional strength it takes to overcome them.

In *Humans*, the stage is stripped bare and the vulnerability of these highly skilled acrobats is exposed. Glimpse their humanity as they celebrate how our bodies, our connections, and our aspirations combine to make us who we are. It's a seamless, thrilling and heart-stopping ride.

15 – 19 AUGUST

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 10 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 10+.

POST-SHOW Q&A
Thursday 16 August, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 18 August, 5pm

DIRECTOR Yaron Lifschitz TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Jason Organ COSTUME DESIGN Libby McDonnell



Direct from Europe - a breathtaking nightmare live on stage.

A JAKOP AHLBOM PRODUCTION

Horror

By Jakop Ahlbom

From acclaimed Swedish theatre-maker Jakop Ahlbom comes an immersive visual spectacular that has to be seen to be believed!

Over the last ten years, Ahlbom has developed a trademark theatrical form that unites illusion, mime, movement and music. *Horror* unleashes his unique imagination to create a surreal world of horror, using special effects that have never before been seen in theatres. A homage to the film genre, this show is a technical *tour de force*; expect levitations, vanishings, apparitions, dislocations and a good dose of humour. Bodies disappear into couches, blood spurts up to the ceiling, a dismembered hand crawls – wailing as it goes...

Having thrilled audiences in London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Paris, this spine-tingling and thoroughly entertaining live experience will have you on the edge of your seat!

5 – 8 SEPTEMBER

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 20 mins. (no interval)
Recommended for ages 14+.
Contains adult themes and simulated violence.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 6 September, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT

Saturday 8 September, 15 mins after the matinee ends

DIRECTOR Jakop Ahlbom

DESIGNER Douwe Hibma, Jakop Ahlbom

COSTUME DESIGNER Esmee Thomassen

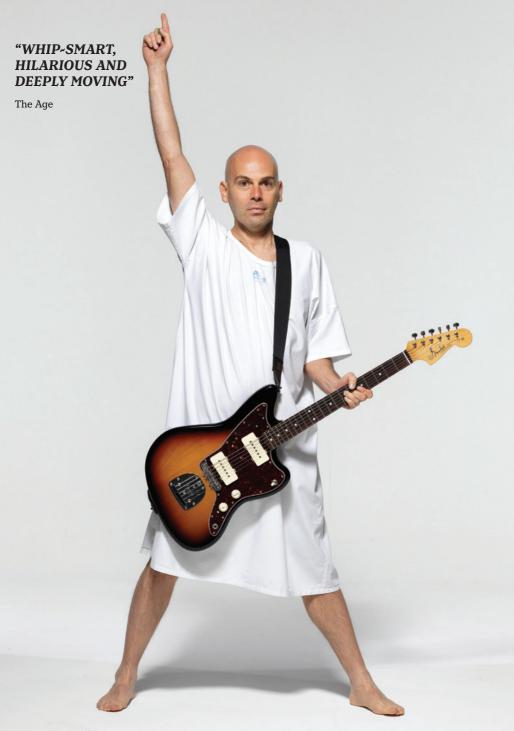
LIGHTING DESIGNER Yuri Schreuders

SOUND DESIGNER Wim Conradi with Bauke Moerman

DRAMATURG Judith Wendel

PRODUCER Wilma Kuite

CAST Andrea Beugger, Luc van Esch, Yannick Greweldinger, Judith Hazeleger, Silke Hundertmark, Sofieke de Kater, Gwen Langenberg, Thomas van Ouwerkerk, Reinier Schimmel



Daniel Tobias. Photo by Andrew Wuttke.

A life-affirming musical comedy about family, faith and survival



A SALVADOR DINOSAUR & CRITICAL STAGES PRODUCTION

The Orchid and the Crow

By Daniel Tobias

Daniel Tobias grew up in a Jewish-atheist household. At the age of 29, he found out he had stage-four testicular cancer, and went searching for God. Any God. Enter Lance Armstrong, seven-time *Tour de France* champion and legendary cancer survivor.

Combining storytelling, theatre, music and comedy to reflect on Daniel's real life (and almost death) experiences, *The Orchid and the Crow* explores faith, sex and identity in a wonderfully witty, generous, and ultimately life-affirming way.

Award-winning creator and performer Daniel Tobias has condensed his life into a smart and scintillating show. Featuring original songs from the award-winning writers of *Die Roten Punkte* and *Keating! The Musical*, *The Orchid and the Crow* is an original, accessible and brilliantly clever story that will strike a powerful chord.

10 - 13 OCTOBER

BRUCE GORDON THEATRE

\$29 - \$59

Approx. 1 hr 10 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 15+. Contains adult themes and strong language.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 11 October, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT Saturday 13 October, 15 mins after the matinee ends

DIRECTOR Christian Leavesley

COMPOSERS Daniel Tobias and Clare Bartholomew with John Thorn, Casey Bennetto and Jherek Bischoff **LIGHTING DESIGNER** Lisa Mibus

SCRIPT CONSULTANT David Quirk

CAST Daniel Tobias





Adrenaline-pumping, full-contact theatre at its best

A LA BOITE THEATRE COMPANY AND BRISBANE FESTIVAL CO-PRODUCTION

Prize Fighter

By Future D. Fidel

Join us ringside for a rare theatrical combo: engrossing storytelling paired with the visceral thrill and energy of boxing!

Isa is a young Congolese boxer blazing an impressive career between the ropes. Gearing up for the national title fight, he soon discovers it's not just his opponents he has to outdo, but the demons from his tortuous past as a boy soldier.

Fleeing the Congo as a child, playwright Future D. Fidel lived in a Tanzanian refugee camp for eight years before being granted refugee status in Australia. Written with the undeniable force of authenticity, *Prize Fighter* is inspired by his own story and those of the people he has known.

Nominated for four Helpmann Awards, this is skillfully realised theatre, full of complexity, energy and surprising delicacy. It's an experience that's not to be missed.

31 OCTOBER – 3 NOVEMBER

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 10 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 16+. Contains adult themes and simulated violence.

POST-SHOW Q&A

Thursday 1 November, 6.30pm

MERRIGONG TALKING POINT

Saturday 3 November, 15 mins after the matinee ends

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Saturday 3 November, 1.30pm

LIVE CAPTIONING

Saturday 3 November, 1.30pm

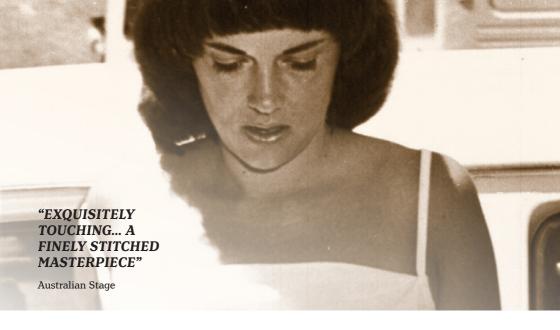
TACTILE TOUR

Saturday 3 November, 12pm

DIRECTOR Todd MacDonald
DRAMATURG Chris Kohn
DESIGNER Bill Haycock
LIGHTING DESIGNER David Walters
COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER Felix Cross
SOUND DESIGN REMIX Busty Beatz
VIDEO DESIGNER Optikal Bloc
MOVEMENT & FIGHT DIRECTOR Nigel Poulton
CAST INCLUDES Margi Brown Ash, Gideon Mzembe







A mother's loss. A nation's obsession.

A MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE

Letters to Lindy

By Alana Valentine

Following an acclaimed premiere season in 2016, we are proud to announce that *Letters to Lindy*, commissioned and produced by Merrigong, returns to our stage, before it embarks on a national tour.

Filled with humour and heartbreak, this stunning work explores the public's relationship with one of 20th Century Australia's most iconic figures. The story captivated a nation. A mother accused of murdering her child, her claim – that the baby was taken by a dingo – denied and discredited by zealous police and a flawed legal system.

Letters to Lindy provides a deep insight into one of the most compelling legal and human dramas of our times. It paints a singular portrait of the wisdom and resilience of a grieving mother, and her 30 year fight for justice.

22 – 23 JUNE

BRUCE GORDON THEATRE

\$29 - \$59

Approx. 2 hrs 10 mins. (incl. interval) Recommended for ages 13+. Contains strong language and adult themes

DIRECTOR

Darren Yap

DESIGNER

James Browne
CO-COMPOSER/

CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Max Lambert and Roger Lock

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Toby Knyvett

CAST

Jeanette Cronin, Glenn Hazeldine, Phillip Hinton, Jane Phegan





A love story that reaches across cultures, across oceans, across time.

AN OPERA AUSTRALIA PRODUCTION

Madame Butterfly

By Giacomo Puccini

It is one of the theatre's greatest love stories. Enchanted by the beauty of the east, the American sailor Pinkerton takes a young geisha for his wife. The innocent Butterfly falls helplessly, hopelessly in love.

But every ship must return to its shore, and Pinkerton returns home, leaving Butterfly behind. Music of impossible beauty traces this story from the lovers' first, rapturous embrace to the intense, powerful finale.

One of Australia's greatest theatrical minds, John Bell, directs this English-language production, complete with beautiful costumes and sets. Hear Opera Australia's wonderful singers perform with a chamber orchestra, along with a children's chorus, drawn from the local community.

22 - 23 AUGUST

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$84

Approx. 2 hrs 25 mins. (incl. interval)
Recommended for ages 8+.

CONDUCTOR

Warwick Stengards

DIRECTOR

John Bell

SET AND COSTUME DESIGNER Jennie Tate

SET AND COSTUMES REALISED BY

Julie Lynch

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Matt Scott

CHOREOGRAPHER

Sachiko Tange

CAST INCLUDES

Danita Weatherstone, Sharon Zhai, Martin Buckingham, James Egglestone, Kristen Leich, Anna Yun, Andrew Moran, Michael Petruccelli, Steven Gallop, Shoumendu Schorniko



A seamless blend of risk, beauty, humor and live music.

Circus Oz: Model Citizens

Celebrating their 40th year Circus Oz explodes back on to our stage, audaciously unpacking the myths of modern Australia in their latest high octane circus show *Model Citizens*, the first creation fuelled by new Artistic Director Rob Tannion.

Model Citizens skilfully fuses the risk and beauty of breathtaking physical improbability with theatricality, choreography and Circus Oz's distinct brand of Australian humour. Stunningly lit, and driven by a sensational live music soundtrack, it will challenge perspective, conventions of scale and concepts of normality.

Oversized everyday objects create an intriguing world for an all-human ensemble to expose circus skills in unconventional ways. Let Circus Oz take you on a visually and emotionally charged journey to explore what it really means to be a model citizen in today's society.

28 – 29 SEPTEMBER

IMB THEATRE

\$29 - \$59

Approx. 2 hrs 20 mins. (incl. interval) Recommended for ages 5+.

DIRECTOR
Rob Tannion
COSTUME DESIGNER
Laurel Frank
PRODUCTION &
PROP DESIGNER
Michael Baxter
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Ania Reynolds





The punchlines keep rolling in.

A SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

The Wharf Revue 2018

Written and created by Jonathan Biggins and Drew Forsythe

Those indefatigable kings of comedy, sorcerers of satire and masters of mockery, Jonathan Biggins and Drew Forsythe are back in the saddle and gearing up for another glorious year of political satire – plenty of antics and plenty more laughs. So, politicians take cover and pundits stand back, because there will be songs, there will be dance, and there will be some very funny impressions.

Join us as we sort the wets from the dries, the leaks from the fakes, and the factions from the fictions, as *The Wharf Revue* again rolls in to town to hit us where it hurts most - the funny bone!

16 - 20 OCTOBER

IMB THEATRE

\$49 - \$79

Approx. 1 hr 30 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 15+. Contains adult themes and strong language.

DESIGNER
Charles Davis
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Andrew Worboys
CAST INCLUDES
Jonathan Biggins, Drew Forsythe



A barrel of laughs, circus tricks and of course...MONKEYS!

A STRUT & FRET PRODUCTION

Barrel of Monkeys

A great opportunity to introduce the young ones in your life to the magic of the Spiegeltent, as it bursts at the seams with some of Australia's greatest acrobats. Watch cheeky monkeys trick, toss and tumble in a riotous physical comedy.



This high-energy circus extravaganza will bring joy to all ages.



17 – 22 APRIL

SPIEGELTENT WOLLONGONG

All tickets \$28
Approx. 50 mins. (no interval)
Recommended for ages 5+.

DIRECTOR Scott Maidment



Merrigong Creativity Camps

Our popular Creativity Camps will be back with more School Holiday theatre fun in 2018.

With the guidance of professional artists and educators, our Creativity Camps are designed to activate kids' imaginations and build self-confidence.

Campers are encouraged to develop their creative story-telling and acting skills, and develop ongoing friendships with other like-minded children.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 16 – 20 APRIL 16 – 20 JULY 8 – 12 OCTOBER

WOLLONGONG TOWN HALL

PRICE \$290

20% discount for additional siblings or when booking all three camps.
Cost includes a ticket to see the scheduled school holiday kids' show at IPAC with the group.

9am – 3pm (incl. lunch break) AGE 5 – 13. Children are placed into groups based on age and confidence.



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"A REAL TREASURE OF A STORY AND THIS PRODUCTION WILL MAKE YOU LOVE ROALD DAHL MORE THAN EVER"

Australian Stage

A SHAKE & STIR THEATRE CO AND QPAC PRODUCTION

Roald Dahl's George's **Marvellous Medicine**

Adapted for the stage by shake & stir theatre co

Adapted from the much-loved book by Roald Dahl, George's Marvellous Medicine is a spectacular live show for the whole family.

On a good day, George can't stand his Grandma. She complains all the time, she's mean and she smells funny. Wanting to put an end to her constant nagging, he creates

a special medicine, greater than any medicine in the history of the world. What he doesn't expect is that this medicine may actually

George's Marvellous Medicine is packed to the rafters with mischief, music, magic and mammoth laughs.

shake&stir

27 - 28**APRIL**

IMB THEATRE

All tickets \$32

Approx. 55 mins. (no interval) Recommended for ages 6+.

DIRECTOR

Ross Balbuziente

DESIGNER

Josh McIntosh

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jason Glenwright

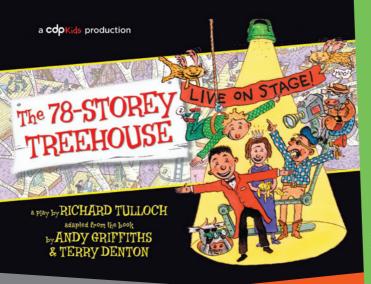
SOUND DESIGNER

Guy Webster

Johnny Balbuziente, Leon Cain, Tim Dashwood, Nelle Lee,

Nick Skubij





The Treehouse just keeps on growing. With yet another 13 levels, it's now got a Scribbletorium, a high-security potato chip storage facility, even an open-air movie theatre!

The creative team behind *The 13-, 26-* and *52-Storey Treehouses* return with the newest, biggest, brightest blockbuster in the series.

"A COOL, CLEVER SHOW THAT ALL YOUNGSTERS WILL LOVE"

Daily Telegraph on

The 52-Storey Treehouse

20 – 21 JULY

IMB THEATRE

All tickets \$39 Approx. 1 hr. (no interval) Recommended for ages 6+. Relaxed Performance Saturday 21 July, 10am

DIRECTOR Liesel Badorrek DESIGNER Mark Thompson LIGHTING DESIGNER Nicholas Higgins SOUND DESIGNER Ross, Johnston

A transformational tale.

A LOOSE CANON ARTS PRODUCTION

Trash Alchemy

By Liesel Badorrek

One man journeys from a bizarre world of advertising and product overload, through polluted yet magical oceans, to the creation of his own trash civilization. The set, props and puppetry of this ingenious show are made entirely from found and recycled materials.

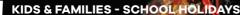
Trash Alchemy is a magnificent quest to change the way we live in the world.

10 - 11 OCTOBER

BRUCE GORDON THEATRE

All tickets \$28 Approx. 1 hr. (no interval) Recommended for ages 7+.

DIRECTOR Liesel Badorrek
CO-CREATOR & PERFORMER
Johnny Nasser
DESIGNER Bryony Anderson
COMPOSER & SOUND
DESIGNER Ross Johnston
LIGHTING DESIGNER
Matt Marshall



The Tragedy of Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark

A Badaptation of the Bard

By The Listies

The rock stars of the children's comedy circuit, The Listies, tackle the classics with this very cheeky, very clever, utterly irreverent riff on *Hamlet*. These maestros of mayhem have pulled apart Shakespeare's classic, and glued it back together with hilarious costumes, loads of silliness and plenty of interactivity.

Hamlet is already full of things kids love in a good story: castles, sword fights and spooky stuff. Add to the mix some super-sonic gags and you have a brilliantly disguised Shakespearean tragedy for everyone aged five and over. That's not all... expect bonus pillow fights, pirates and ninjas. The only thing we can be sure of is that everyone dies at the end – including the audience!

"THE PERFECT WAY TO INTRODUCE A YOUNG PERSON TO THE MAGIC AND CHAOS OF THEATRE"

Arts Hub



10 - 11 AUGUST

IMB THEATRE

All tickets \$32

Approx. 1 hr. (no interval) Recommended for ages 5+. POST-SHOW Q&A Friday 10 August, 11am

CO-CREATED BY Declan Greene,
Richard Higgins & Matt Kelly
DIRECTOR Declan Greene
DESIGNER Renée Mulder
LIGHTING DESIGNER
Verity Hampson
COMPOSER & SOUND
DESIGNER Jed Palmer
CAST INCLUDES
Richard Higgins, Matt Kelly

MERRIGONGX

X = innovative X = independent X = in-development

Want to be part of something new? Join us for MERRIGONGX, our brand new series of eclectic events by artists from our neighbourhood, and from around the nation. You'll see the innovative, the independent, and even a cheeky glimpse of some stuff that's still in development. In 2018, you can look forward to:



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

RAW Comedy 2018

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Up-and-coming comedians in the region take part in Australia's biggest and most prestigious open mic comedy competition. Why not give it a try yourself?

SHOPFRONT ARTS CO-OP

The Carousel

By Pippa Ellams 1 – 3 MARCH

Two sisters embark on the treacherous transition between girlhood and womanhood. Christa wants Jamie to start living. Jamie doesn't want to leave the house. This semi-autobiographical new Australian play explores the boundaries of unconditional love.

MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY

Heart-Shaped Shadow

(Development Showing)

By Mikelangelo

SATURDAY 10 MARCH

Part fable, part family history, part rock'n'roll musical, Mikelangelo digs deep and opens up his vibrant personal world, and how it has been shaped by powerful, visionary women.

MERRIGONG

TEN TONNE SPARROW

The Epic

By Finn O'Branagáin and Scott Sandwich
14 – 15 MARCH

This is the theatre of way-out tales as told by two irreverent and passionate storytellers. It's all the best bits of our historical literature mixed in with bits of pop culture, from the cradle of civilisation to the one about the wooden horse.

ALTERNATIVE FACTS

Quiet Faith

By David Williams
29 – 30 MAY

From award-winning theatre-maker David Williams (*The Table of Knowledge*), comes a journey into the world of the progressively faithful. Generated from interviews with Christian Australians, it offers a heartfelt portrait of how faith can underpin civic life.





MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY

The Siren Project (Development Showing)

By The Society of Histrionic Happenings

SATURDAY 28 JULY

A theatrical and musical reimagining of women's stories from Wentworth Street, Port Kembla.



WOODCOURT ART THEATRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY

Tom William Mitchell

By Mark Rogers
9 - 11 AUGUST

A razor-sharp satire on hyper-mediatised society examines how maybe we're all just a few clicks away from stardom. A piece of new writing for the here and now.

MERRIGONG

All events on sale from Tuesday 14 November.
For more information visit www.merrigong.com.au.

MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY

Made From Scratch

16 JUNE, 8 SEPTEMBER, 24 NOVEMBER

A scratch night for local writers, makers and performers to test their freshest ideas. Got an idea for an act? Want to get up on stage? Contact artistic@merrigong.com.au with your idea.



Our community

Our community is at the centre of all we do. We support a broad range of artists, and create and support arts-based programs with a range of groups within our community. These programs include:



Altogether Drama

Through our long-term partnership with The Disability Trust, we provide people with disabilities the opportunity to work with professional theatre artists. We support weekly drama classes, run weekend intensive workshops and provide a home for the Trust Ensemble group.

Sharing Stories

This intergenerational story-sharing project returns in 2018 to the Wollongong Town Hall. This heart-warming and joyous celebration of our First Nations' community is produced in association with Wollongong City Council.

Young Playwrights Project

A showcase of Wollongong's youngest playwrights and performers, run in collaboration with The Drama Studio at IPAC. Young playwrights with a 10-15 minute play they would love to see on stage are invited to apply. Scripts are assessed by professional practitioners, and the playwrights selected will work with a mentor to develop their play, which is then performed by young actors from The Drama Studio.

Blue Rose Project

Merrigong Theatre Company is proud to collaborate on an interactive sensory film installation by Beyond Empathy that explores the experience of people who don't use verbal language as their primary way to communicate. The work is made in collaboration with people of all-abilities.

Kids, families and schools

We believe that all young people should enjoy the experience of professional live theatre and we do our best to keep the cost as low as possible, with heavily discounted tickets for all school and vacation care groups. We invite young people, schools and families to explore our venues, experience professional, high-quality theatre and engage in a range of fun activities, workshops, backstage tours, work experience programs and more. For more information or a brochure, please contact education@merrigong.com.au.

Help us make a difference

Support Merrigong Theatre Company

We believe that theatre has the power to enrich lives and strengthen communities. Your support fuels our Made at Merrigong program, which commissions, develops and produces exciting new theatre works vital to our community, and allows us to support a range of independent artists. Your generosity also assists us to deliver a number of community-focused programs, such as our long-term creative partnership with The Disability Trust.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we need your support





How to support us

Donations can be made via the enclosed booking form or online at www.merrigong.com.au/support.

We invite you to contact us about how, together, we can make a difference in our community and the many and various projects that need your help. For further information please call Rachel Dyer on **02 4221 0804** or email **rdyer@merrigong.com.au**.

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Choose the package that's right for you

The Whole Shebang: 16-Show Season Ticket

Save up to 43% or \$498

What's included:

- > Every show in our Mainstage Season (12 Shows) + Add-On Shows (4 Shows)
- > An invitation to MERRIGONGX development showings
- > Premium seating

> 1	Mer	rigon	g Loy	alty	Card
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- > An invitation to Merrigong's Season 2019 Launch, with premium reserve seating
- One extra free ticket for a friend to any Theatre Season show.

ADULT	\$749	CONCESSION	\$669
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12, 10, 7 or 5-Show Season Tickets

Enjoy savings of up to 40%

What's included:

- > Your choice of 12, 10, 7 or 5 Mainstage Season shows
- > An invitation to MERRIGONG**X** development showings (12 and 10 Show packages only)
- > A Merrigong Loyalty Card
- > An invitation to Merrigong's Season 2019 Launch.

	# SHOWS	ADULT	CONCESSION
	12 SHOWS	\$588	\$528
Premium	10 SHOWS	\$530	\$480
Seating	7 SHOWS	\$413	\$371
	5 SHOWS	\$310	\$275
	12 SHOWS	\$504	\$444
Standard	10 SHOWS	\$450	\$400
Seating	7 SHOWS	\$350	\$308
	5 SHOWS	\$260	\$225

Flexi 10 Pack

What's included:

- > A Merrigong Loyalty Card
- > An invitation to Merrigong's Season 2019 Launch.

FLEXI 10 PACK \$490

The Flexi 10 Pack allows you to take advantage of great savings on ticket prices, without locking yourself into any performances, dates or times upfront.

Get one ticket to ten shows, or use all ten tickets on one show. Your choice! Valid for standard seating to any Merrigong Season 2018 show. The Flexi 10 Pack must be purchased by Sunday 14 January, 2018. You can lock in your seats any time from Monday 15 January 2018.

Becoming a Season Ticket Holder is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3

STEP 1
CHOOSE YOUR PACKAGE

From 5 Shows through to The Whole Shebang, there's a package that's right for your needs and budget.

STEP 2 CHOOSE YOUR DATES

Choose your preferred performance dates and time from the handy Year at a Glance on page 44, or on our website.

STEP 3 CHOOSE ADDITIONAL TICKETS

Add tickets for other events, including Add On Shows and Kids & Families events. You can also add any number of tickets for friends, family and loved ones.

Then simply complete the rest of your details on the Booking Form (paper or online) and get it to us!

In person	By Post	Online
Visit us at the Box Office	Post to Illawarra	Via
at Illawarra Performing	Performing Arts Centre,	www.merrigong.com.au
Arts Centre, 32 Burelli St,	PO Box 786,	
Wollongong	Wollongong, 2520.	

We love to help.

Call us between 10am – 4pm weekdays on **02 4224 5999** or email **info@merrigong.com.au**

Merrigong Season 2018 Booking Form

Step 1 Choose your package

Step 2 Choose your performance dates and times

The Whole Shebang: 16 Shows ur best value package! Premium seats to every show in our heatre Season (12 Shows) + Add Ons (4 Shows).			Enter Performance Dates & Times see back cover for details		Add Additional Discounted Tickets		Discounted prices only available at the san time as booking your Season Ticke					
	•	•	•		SHOW	SHOW DATE TIME		PREMIUM	STANDARD SEATING			TOTAL
ADULT PRE	MIUM	(# of pkgs) @ \$7	49		SHOW	DATE	TIME	SEATING	ADULT	CONCESSION	UNDER 30s	IOIAL
CONC/GROU PREMIUM	J P 8+	(# of pkgs) @ \$6	669		Black is the New White			(# of tix) @ \$79	(# of tix) @ \$67	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$49	
nd/or			TOTAL \$		Calamity Jane ¹			(# of tix) @ \$79	(# of tix) @ \$67	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$49	
3 12, 10,	7 or 5	Show Seaso	n Tickets		Taha ²			(# of tix) @ \$54	(# of tix) @ \$44	(# of tix) @ \$39	(# of tix) @ \$29	
	# SHOWS	ADULT	CONC./GROUP 8+	TOTAL	LIMBO ³			(# of tix) @ \$74	(# of tix) @ \$67	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$49	
	12 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$588	(# of pkgs) @ \$528		The Aspirations of Daise Morrow ⁴			NA	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$57	(# of tix) @ \$49	
Premium	10 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$530	(# of pkgs) @ \$480		Lost Boys			(# of tix) @ \$54	(# of tix) @ \$44	(# of tix) @ \$39	(# of tix) @ \$29	
Seating	7 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$413	(# of pkgs) @ \$371		The Beginning of Nature			(# of tix) @ \$74	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$57	(# of tix) @ \$49	
	5 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$310	(# of pkgs) @ \$275		The Events			(# of tix) @ \$74	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$57	(# of tix) @ \$49	
	12 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$504	(# of pkgs) @ \$444		Humans			(# of tix) @ \$74	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$57	(# of tix) @ \$49	
Standard	10 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$450	(# of pkgs) @ \$400		Horror			(# of tix) @ \$74	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$57	(# of tix) @ \$49	
Seating	7 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$350	(# of pkgs) @ \$308		The Orchid and the Crow			(# of tix) @ \$54	(# of tix) @ \$44	(# of tix) @ \$39	(# of tix) @ \$29	
	5 Shows	(# of pkgs) @ \$260	(# of pkgs) @ \$225		Prize Fighter			(# of tix) @ \$74	(# of tix) @ \$62	(# of tix) @ \$57	(# of tix) @ \$49	
nd/or			TOTAL \$		1 If you have selected Calamity Jane, please		ets to			ADDIT	IONAL TIX TOTAL \$	

☐ Premium on-stage tables

☐ Premium theatre seating

part of your Season Ticket.

are General Admission.

2 Taha performance in Nowra may be booked as

performance of LIMBO (Opening Night Gala) if you have selected a Premium Seating package. 4 All tickets for *The Aspirations of Daise Morrow*

3 You may only select the Thursday 12 April

C Flexi 10 Pack Theatre Pass

Secure 10 discounted admissions with standard seating* to any number of Season 2018 shows (including Add-On shows). Lock in performances any time from Monday 15 January. This package is only available until 5pm, Sunday 14 January. PLEASE INDICATE THE NUMBER OF PACKAGES REQUIRED

(# of pkgs) @ \$490	TOTAL \$	
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Free Ticket

The Whole Shebang, 12 & 10-Show Season Ticket purchasers, please nominate your free Mainstage Season show ticket. This free ticket must be booked at the same time as your Season Ticket, and the performance date and time must match one of your performance selections.

Should you require any assistance with filling out your

form, visit the Box Office or phone **02 4224 5999**.

^{*}Premium seating not available with Flexi 10 Pack.

Step 3 Select Add-Ons and Kids & Families shows

				STAN	DARD	UNDER 30s/ CHILDREN	
sноw	DATE	TIME	TIME PREMIUM		CONC/ GROUP 8+	*Under 30s and concession must purchase premium tickets at full price	TOTAL\$
Letters to Lindy			(# tix) _@ \$59	(# tix) (\$49	(# tix) \$44	(# tix) @ \$29	
Madame Butterfly			(# tix) @ \$84	(# tix) @ \$72	(# tix) @ \$67	(# tix) @ \$49	
Circus Oz: Model Citizens			(# tix) @ \$59	(# tix) _@ \$49	(# tix) _@ \$44	(# tix) @ \$29	
The Wharf Revue 2018			(# tix) _@ \$79	(# tix) _@ \$67	(# tix) _@ \$62	(# tix) @ \$49	
Barrel of Monkeys*			-	-	-	(# tix) @ \$28	
George's Marvellous Medicine*			-	-	-	(# tix) @ \$32	
The 78-Storey Treehouse*			-	-	-	(# tix) @ \$39	
Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark*			-	-	-	(# tix) @ \$32	
Trash Alchemy*		-	-	-	(# tix) @ \$28		
* All tickets one price TOTAL \$							

Step 4 Support Merrigong Theatre Company

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to Merrigong Theatre Company. All donations of \$200 or more are recognised as part of Merrigong's Inner Circle. All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible and will be issued with a receipt.

☐ I would like to donate:	MERRIGONG'S INNER □ \$1,000 □ \$500	CIRCLE \$200	□\$100	□\$50	□\$25	
☐ Other amount \$ TOTAL \$ ☐ I would like to be recognised as part of Merrigong's Inner Circle under the following name:						
OR □ I would like to remain anony	mous.					

Step 5 Your contact information

Please note that if you are purchasing more than two Season Tickets, attach a list of names and contact details for each of the Season Ticket Holders. We require all patron's details to issue your Loyalty Cards.

Title: First Name:	Surname:				
Address:	Postcode:				
Email:					
Daytime phone number:	Mobile phone number:				
Concession ID number:	Preferred Row (not guaranteed):				
Special assistance (please indicate below if re- Wheelchair access Hearing assistance Caption	equired) ning Audio description Aisle seat (on left) Aisle seat (on right)				
Title: First Name:	Surname:				
Address:	Postcode:				
Email:					
Daytime phone number:	Mobile phone number:				
Concession ID number:	Preferred Row (not guaranteed):				
Special assistance (please indicate below if re \square Wheelchair access \square Hearing assistance \square Caption	equired) ning \Box Audio description \Box Aisle seat (on left) \Box Aisle seat (on right)				
FIRST-TIME SEASON TICKET HOLDERS I was referred by a friend. My friend's na If your friend is a returning 2017 Season Ticket Holder, t	nme is				
Step 6 Payment details					
Please add all totals from Steps 1 – 4 for total	payment amount TOTAL \$				
Please charge my credit card IN FULL Please charge my card in two instal					
☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Diners Card	☐ American Express				
Cardholder's name:					
Card Number:					
Expiry date:	CCV:				
Signature:					

Step 7 Submit your form

MERRIGONG THEATRE COMPANY

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre 32 Burelli Street, WOLLONGONG, 2500 Fax (02) 4226 9696 PO Box 786, WOLLONGONG, 2520

Email info@merrigong.com.au

This booking form may also be completed online at www.merrigong.com.au

Important Information

Dates for your diary

Season Tickets go on sale immediately following the Season Launch event on Tuesday 14 November 2017.

There is a priority booking period for renewing Season Ticket Holders until Thursday 30 November 2017. Season Tickets then go on sale to the public.

Single tickets for Black is the New White, Calamity Jane and LIMBO go on sale at 10am on Tuesday 5 December 2017. Single tickets for all remaining shows go on sale at 10am on Monday 15 January 2018.

Proof of concession

Discounted ticket prices are available for Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card and MEAA card holders, as well as full-time students. Seniors Card holders may also book Season Ticket packages at the concession price. Proof of concession (such as a signed copy of your concession card) must be included with your booking form, and may also be requested prior to admission to the theatre.

Under 30s

Proof of age is required when purchasing tickets at the Under 30s price. Please note that under 30s tickets are not available online.

Age recommendations

While we provide age recommendations for shows, parental discretion is advised.

Transaction fees

A per transaction fee of \$6.95 applies to phone and internet bookings. No transaction fees are payable for counter purchases, or for Season Ticket Packages.

Pay half now, half later

If paying by credit card, you can choose to pay half of your Season package when booking. We'll charge your card for the remaining 50% on or close to Wednesday 11 April, 2018. (A \$9.20 handling fee applies).

Exchanging tickets

Season Ticket Holders can swap each ticket in their package once, for free, into another performance of the same show, or a performance of any other show in Merrigong's 2018
Season. Where performance prices vary, the difference will be charged. Please contact us at least 24 hours before your booked performance. Unlimited additional exchanges are permitted at an exchange fee of \$4.80 per ticket, per exchange.

Refunds

Tickets cannot be refunded after purchase except if an event is cancelled, rescheduled or significantly relocated as outlined in the Live Performance Australia Ticketing Code of Practice. For more details, visit www.liveperformance.com.au.

Assistance

If you have mobility concerns, require special seating or assistance to make your theatre visit more enjoyable, please indicate this on your booking form, or advise Box Office at the time of booking.

Premium seating

Premium seating allocations and row numbers in this brochure only apply during priority booking period for Season Tickets until Monday 4 December 2017 and are subject to change after this date.

Groups

If you would like to be seated with friends, please make sure you get your Season Ticket booking forms in together (in the same envelope if possible). Please include the names and contact details of all people in the group.

Family of 4 tickets

Please note that there is a maximum of 2 adults per Family of 4 ticket.

Content warnings

Productions may include smoke effects, strobe effects, nudity, strong language, loud sound effects, simulated violence or adult themes. Where we have information about the production, we have included warnings. At the time of performance we will also provide notice in the foyers of our theatres and on our website. Please check with our Front of House staff if you have any concerns.

Accessibility



Mobility assistance

Seats in our theatres are held for patrons who use wheelchairs or have other mobility concerns. Please advise the Box Office at the time of booking if you wish to access these.



Companion card

Companion card holders are entitled to tickets at our Concession rate, plus your companion's entrance is free. These can only be booked in person or by phoning the Box Office. Please ensure that you present your companion card when you collect your tickets.



Hearing assistance
The IMB Theatre has an FM system for hearing augmentation. The Bruce Gordon Theatre has an induction hearing loop compatible with T-switch hearing aids. Receivers can be obtained free of charge from the box office prior to performances.



Live captioning

Select performances are captioned for patrons who are deaf or hearing impaired. Captions are displayed on screens at the side of the stage. Please check the seat map or mention live captioning when booking to ensure you are in the best position to make use of this service.

The following Season 2018 performances will be live captioned:

Black is the New White Sat 24 Feb, 1.30pm Calamitu Jane Sat 10 Mar, 1.30pm The Events Sat 28 Jul, 1.30pm Prize Fighter Sat 3 Nov, 1.30pm



Audio description Select performances

are audio described for the benefit of patrons with low or no vision. Actions, expressions and gestures are described by professional describers trained by Vision Australia to bring out the true imagery in a performance. Patrons who have low vision or are blind will hear the description through headsets. Please advise the Box Office at the time of booking if you wish to utilise this service, and whether you will be attending the accompanying tactile tour.

The following Season 2018 performances will be audio described:

Black is the New White Sat 24 Feb, 1.30pm Sat 24 Mar, 1.30pm Lost Bous Sat 2 Jun, 1.30pm The Events Sat 28 Jul, 1.30pm Prize Fighter Sat 3 Nov, 1.30pm

Tactile tours

Prior to audio described performances, patrons who have low vision or are blind (and their friends) have the opportunity to participate in a 30-minute tactile tour of the set. Being amongst the scenery can assist to establish the scene and allow for a deeper theatrical experience.

Large-print cast sheet

Large-print, plain text copies of cast sheets for Mainstage Season shows are available on request with 5 days prior notice. Please contact the Box Office.

Relaxed Performances

Relaxed performances are designed to welcome people who will benefit from a more relaxed performance environment. including people with an Autism Spectrum Condition, Asperger Syndrome, sensory and communication needs, young patrons who are toilet training, adults who need to move or for a range of real life reasons. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and movement and some small changes made to the light and sound effects. Preliminary visits of your seat are available upon request. A social story will be made available to patrons.

The following Season 2018 performances will be relaxed performances:

The 78-Storey Treehouse Sat 21 Jul, 10am

For more information or assistance, please contact the Box Office on 02 4224 5999.

Year at a Glance

MAINSTAGE SEASON

Black is the New White

Wed 21 Feb, 7.30pm Thu 22 Feb, 6.30pm **Q6A** Fri 23 Feb, 7.30pm Sat 24 Feb, 1.30pm **AD TT C** Sat 24 Feb, 7.30pm

Calamity Jane

Wed 7 Mar, 7.30pm Thu 8 Mar, 6.30pm **QEA** Fri 9 Mar, 7.30pm Sat 10 Mar, 1.30pm c Sat 10 Mar, 7.30pm Sun 11 Mar, 1.30pm Sun 11 Mar, 7.30pm

Taha

Performed in English Wed 21 Mar, 7.30pm Thu 22 Mar, 6.30pm *QeA* Fri 23 Mar, 7.30pm Sat 24 Mar, 1.30pm *AD TT* Sat 24 Mar, 7.30pm

Performed in Arabic Sun 25 Mar, 5pm

طه

الأحد 25 أذار/مارس الساعة الخامسة بعد الظهر

Nowra

Performed in English Tue 20 Mar, 8pm

LIMBO

Thu 12 Apr, 8.30pm (Opening Night Gala)
Fri 13 Apr, 8.30pm
Sat 14 Apr, 8.30pm
Sun 15 Apr, 4pm
Tue 17 Apr, 8.30pm
Wed 18 Apr, 8.30pm
Thu 19 Apr, 8.30pm
Fri 20 Apr, 8.30pm
Sat 21 Apr, 6.30pm
Sat 21 Apr, 8.30pm
Additional performances
from 22 Apr - 6 May to be
announced early 2018

The Aspirations of Daise Morrow

Wed 9 May, 7.30pm Thu 10 May, 11am **Q6A** Thu 10 May, 6.30pm **Q6A** Fri 11 May, 7.30pm Sat 12 May, 1.30pm Sat 12 May, 7.30pm

Lost Boys

Wed 23 May, 7.30pm P
Thu 24 May, 7.30pm P
Fri 25 May, 7.30pm
Sat 26 May, 7.30pm
Wed 30 May, 7.30pm
Thu 31 May, 11am QGA
Thu 31 May, 6.30pm QGA
Fri 1 Jun, 7.30pm
Sat 2 Jun, 1.30pm AD TT
Sat 2 Jun, 7.30pm

The Beginning of Nature

Thu 28 Jun, 6.30pm *qeA*Fri 29 Jun, 7.30pm
Sat 30 Jun, 1.30pm
Sat 30 Jun, 7.30pm

The Events

Wed 25 Jul, 7.30pm Thu 26 Jul, 6.30pm **QGA** Fri 27 Jul 7.30pm Sat 28 Jul, 1.30pm **AD TT C** Sat 28 Jul, 7.30pm

Humans

Wed 15 Aug, 7.30pm Thu 16 Aug, 6.30pm *qea* Fri 17 Aug, 7.30pm Sat 18 Aug, 7.30pm Sun 19 Aug, 5pm

Horror

Wed 5 Sep, 7.30pm Thu 6 Sep, 6.30pm **QEA** Fri 7 Sep, 7.30pm Sat 8 Sep, 1.30pm Sat 8 Sep, 7.30pm

The Orchid and the Crow

Wed 10 Oct, 7.30pm Thu 11 Oct, 6.30pm *QeA* Fri 12 Oct, 7.30pm Sat 13 Oct, 1.30pm Sat 13 Oct, 7.30pm

Prize Fighter

Wed 31 Oct, 7.30pm Thu 1 Nov, 6.30pm *Q&A* Fri 2 Nov, 7.30pm Sat 3 Nov, 1.30pm *AD TT C* Sat 3 Nov, 7.30pm

ADD-ON SHOWS

Letters to Lindy

Fri 22 Jun, 7.30pm Sat 23 Jun, 1.30pm Sat 23 Jun, 7.30pm

Madame Butterfly

Wed 22 Aug, 7.30pm Thu 23 Aug, 7.30pm

Circus Oz: Model Citizens

Fri 28 Sep, 7pm Sat 29 Sep, 1pm Sat 29 Sep, 7pm

The Wharf Revue 2018

Tue 16 Oct, 7.30pm Wed 17 Oct, 7.30pm Thu 18 Oct, 6.30pm Fri 19 Oct, 7.30pm Sat 20 Oct, 1.30pm Sat 20 Oct, 7.30pm

KIDS & FAMILIES

Barrel of Monkeys

Tue 17 Apr, 10am Wed 18 Apr, 10am Wed 18 Apr, 12pm Thu 19 Apr, 10am Thu 19 Apr, 12pm Fri 20 Apr, 10am Sat 21 Apr, 10am Sun 22 Apr, 10am

George's Marvellous Medicine

Fri 27 Apr, 10am Fri 27 Apr, 12.30pm Sat 28 Apr, 10am Sat 28 Apr, 12.30pm

The 78-Storey Treehouse

Fri 20 Jul, 12.30pm Fri 20 Jul, 3pm Sat 21 Jul, 10am R Sat 21 Jul, 12pm Sat 21 Jul, 3pm

Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark

Fri 10 Aug, 11am *q&A* Fri 10 Aug, 6.30pm Sat 11 Aug, 10am Sat 11 Aug, 2.30pm

Trash Alchemy

Wed 10 Oct, 10am Wed 10 Oct, 2.30pm Thu 11 Oct, 10am

Merrigong Creativity Camps

16 - 20 Apr 16 - 20 Jul 8 - 12 Oct

MERRIGONGX

RAW Comedy 2018

Thu 15 Feb, 8pm

The Carousel

Thu 1 Mar, 7.30pm Fri 2 Mar, 7.30pm Sat 3 Mar, 1.30pm Sat 3 Mar, 7.30pm

Heart-Shaped Shadow

(Development Showing) Sat 10 Mar, 11am

The Epic

Wed 14 Mar, 6.30pm Thu 15 Mar, 11am **Q&A**

Quiet Faith

Tue 29 May, 7pm Wed 30 May, 11am Wed 30 May, 7pm

The Siren Project (Development Showing)

Sat 28 Jul, 11am

Tom William Mitchell

Thu 9 Aug, 7.30pm Fri 10 Aug, 7.30pm Sat 11 Aug, 1.30pm Sat 11 Aug, 7.30pm

Made From Scratch

Sat 16 Jun, 7.30pm Sat 8 Sep, 7.30pm Sat 24 Nov, 7.30pm

P Preview
Q&A Post show Q&A
AD Audio described for
the benefit of patrons
who have low vision or

are blind

- 77 Pre-show Tactile Tour available on request for the benefit of patrons who have low vision or are blind
- c Live Captioned
- R Relaxed performance

See page 43 for access services and information

Thank You

Merrigong Theatre Company's major funding partners



Merrigong Theatre Company manages IPAC and Wollongong Town Hall on behalf of its major funding partner, Wollongong City Council.



Season 2018 Supporters

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Accommodation Partner AV & Technical Services Partner Hospitality Partner Partner – Young People's Program

MERCURY



96.5 WAVE FM









Supporters of shows in our 2018 Season





The producers of the following shows have been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory board:

Black is the New White, The Beginning of Nature, Lost Boys, Humans, The Orchid and the Crow, Prize Fighter, Letters to Lindy, Madame Butterfly, Circus Oz: Model Citizens, The Wharf Revue 2018, Quiet Faith, George's Marvellous Medicine, The 78-Storey Treehouse, Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark



The following shows have been assisted by the New South Wales Government through Create NSW:

Black is the New White, Lost Boys, Letters to Lindy, Madame Butterfly, The Wharf Revue 2018, Heart-Shaped Shadow, RAW Comedy 2018, The Epic, The Siren Project, Tom William Mitchell, Made From Scratch, Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark, Trash Alchemy, The Events













Calamity Jane

Taha

The Aspirations of Daise Morrow, The Beginning of Nature The Aspirations of Daise Morrow











ARTOUR

The Beginning of Nature

Humans, Prize Fighter, George's Marvellous Medicine Prize Fighter, George's Marvellous Medicine







VITALSTATISTIX



The Orchid and the Crow, Madame Butterfly, Model Citizens



Quiet Faith















Madame Butterfly

Trash Alchemy





Merrigong Theatre Company is a trading name of Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Ltd.

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