



RE-EMERGE
BETWEEN

MERRIGONG

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our company's name, *'Merrigong'*, reflects the Dharawal word for the Illawarra region's distinctive escarpment, a landmark of supreme cultural importance. This name serves as a constant reminder that our venues rest on unceded First Nations land.

In all that we do, Merrigong Theatre Company seeks to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, and to show respect to all First Nations people who call our region home.



RE-EMERGE
BETWEEN WEBS2E

MERRIGONG
SEASON 2021

ILLAWARRA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



WE ARE COMMITTED TO DELIVERING SAFE & ENJOYABLE PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCES.

In these ever-changing times, you can rest assured that we are operating under the latest NSW public health restrictions and guidelines at all times, and have a range of measures in place to ensure your visit is hygienic, safe and comfortable. You can book season 2021 events with confidence knowing that should any shows be cancelled or rescheduled, you are entitled to a full refund. *#Keeplivealive*



THANK YOU!

Perhaps, as they say, it takes a village to raise a child, but I know for certain that

it takes a whole community to save a theatre company.

On March 18, 2020, theatres around the country were closed by Government order. Overnight, like a tap being turned off, the lifeblood of the performing arts – audiences (and the box office revenue they generate) – disappeared.

Here at Merrigong, we saw the cancellation of more than 500 performances, and a catastrophic drop of more than \$3.5m in annual operating revenue. What happened next? When the seriousness of Merrigong's situation became widely known, an outpouring of support rose up like a wave to carry us safely to the shore:

- More than 350 individuals in the community made tax deductible donations to Merrigong (a registered charity), many of you choosing to convert tickets to cancelled shows into donations. Dozens of people supported the company financially to a level where they are now recognised as 'Inner Circle' donors – see the honour list on page 4;
- The company received significant COVID-related support from all three levels of Government – local, state and federal for both 2020 and 2021;
- Our wonderful sponsors stood by us, continuing their support even though much of the benefits they would normally receive as sponsors could not be delivered;
- And Merrigong staff contributed through several months of reduced pay.

SWITCHING OFF THE 'GHOST LIGHT'

Traditionally, when a theatre will be empty for some time ('dark' in theatre vernacular) a single illuminated light is left on the stage. In practical terms this is for safety, but in theatre lore it is to light the space for the ghosts who inevitably haunt every theatre.

Our 'ghost light' was lit on March 18, 2020, and officially switched off on October 15, 2020 when events were able to restart in all our venues.



These financial sacrifices and contributions, as well as the incredible messages of support and encouragement from you, our audience, have sustained us as a team, and woven a new bond between Merrigong and the community we serve. Witnessing in such a direct way how much you value the theatre, has inspired us to redouble our efforts to better serve our community.

Over the many months of closed venues, we had to fight hard for the survival of our company, our jobs, and to provide opportunities for numerous artists doing it tough. But this dark period also provided us with a rare opportunity to think about what we might do differently when the time finally came to once again invite audiences into our theatres.

The unexpected pause in the normal rhythms of work and life delivered a point of clarity that returning to "business as usual" is neither possible nor desirable. The question burning in our minds at Merrigong over those months was:

How do we do better for our community, our artists and our team?

Back in October 2020, when we switched off our 'ghost light' and tentatively reopened our venues, we answered this question with some commitments (you can find them on our website). All our planning for the future is now infused with these commitments to do better. And now as we share our 2021 Season with you, we hope you'll discern some subtle shifts in the way we intend to work - reinvigorated, with a new sense of the value of what we do, and an even stronger bond with you, our loyal audience.

Simon Hinton

Artistic Director / CEO

(On behalf of the Merrigong team)

OUR 2020 INNER CIRCLE DONORS

Insiders (\$1000+)

Barry Sexton	Ken McKinnon &	The Disability Trust
Elizabeth Elliott & Kevin Marston	Suzanne Walker	Anonymous
Fran & David Curtis	MJ Davies & CJ Gage	
George & Rada Millwood	Pauline & Rodney Doyle	
Jon Moore & Valerie Linton	Roslyn McDonald	
	Steve & Joy Sanders	

Collaborators (\$500-\$999)

Col & Trudy Bruton	Leta Webb	Stan & Sue Griffiths
Dawn Lindsay	Marie Mitchell-Stanley	Stephen & Angela McCrear
David & Judith Ball	Michael & Debra Sims	Tania Brown
Four Star Cleaning	Robin D'Rozario &	Warwick Shanks
Harry & Pamela Bassett	Jodie Parker	William &
James & Jacqueline Chevis	Ron Browne & Ainslie Lamb	Desolie Lovegrove
Kevin & Sue Savage	Shabnam & Simon Hinton	Anonymous x 3

Supporters (\$250-\$499)

Alan & Janene Gibbs	Ingeborg Dostleben	Paul Jennings &
Alan & Sheila James	James Hogg (IOH)	Rhonda Garven
Alison Bell	Jan Harland	Paul Rodriguez
Amy Harper	Jan Keith	Peter & Julie Moloney
Andrew Haesler	Jean Bell	Peter & Margaret Wolfe
Angela Raymond	Jeanette Cox	Peter & Wendy McAra
Ann & Peter Robinson	Jennifer Bott AO	Peter Hyland
Anne Hart	John & Anne Croker	Peter Mowbray
Barbara Cunningham	John & Anne Peedom	Phillip & Ann Hinton
Bradon Ellem	Josh Tierney	Pizzas in the Mist
Bruce & Robyn Porter	Juliet Dingle	Rob & Kristina Gillies
Bruce Walker	Katherine Brown	Robert Edgar
Chris & Jacqui McRobert	Kim Crawford	Ron & Helen Jaray
Dayna Parker	Kristy Wandmaker	Ronald Bladwell
Desmond & Anne Clarke	Leland Kean	Sean McKinnon
Don Matthew	Linda Fuller	Stan & Janette Warren
Doug & Sam Welch	Marilyn Connelly	Stephen & Louise Meyrick
Drew Fairley	Mark & Tracey Coleman	Teresa Vasey
Graeme & Jill Bell	Merilyn Pearson	Wayne Morris
Gregory & Jean Doherty	Michael Pennisi	Anonymous x 5
Hilton & Jan Bloomfield	Monique Davis	

Current as of January 2021

REIMMERSE, SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

The best value way to experience theatre with Merrigong is with a Season Ticket!
Enjoy these great benefits.

The Best Seats

While there isn't a bad seat in the house, becoming a Season Ticket Holder means you get priority access to the best ones. And if you are a returning 2020 Season Ticket Holder, you get first dibs with priority booking until Tuesday 16 February. Get your form in early – we number and process Season Ticket bookings in order of receipt.



Real Flexibility

Life happens, so we offer our Season Ticket Holders one free exchange per show – this can be into another performance of the same show, or any other Season 2021 show (where ticket prices vary, the difference will be charged). Just contact us at least 24 hours before your booked performance.



Free Tickets

Purchase a **10-Show Package** or **The Whole Shebang Season Ticket** and you'll get a 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.



Share with Family and Friends

Treat your loved ones by purchasing unlimited single tickets at discounted prices. These must be purchased at the same time as booking your Season Ticket. You'll be seated together and win their adoration.



Incredible Value

The more shows you see, the more you save! Save up to 40% on single ticket prices. Get the most value with a Whole Shebang Season Ticket and save up to a huge \$321.



Food and 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*. Plus you can book Pre-Show Dining Packages with your Season Ticket for an exclusive discounted price of only \$22.50 (normally \$25). See page 41 for details.



**Excludes vouchers, pre-booked packages and any other offers.*

Pay Half Now, Half Later

You don't need to pay upfront! You can opt to pay half when you book, and the remainder on or close to Thursday 8 April 2021.



See the Future of Great New Theatre

Exciting new work is always being developed! Purchase a **10-Show Package** or **The Whole Shebang Season Ticket** and receive a complimentary invitation to MERRIGONGX development showings.



“There’s a quintessentially Australian spirit that washes over Kenny... irreverent but earnest... self-deprecating but meaningful.”

THE GUARDIAN (for the 2006 film)



An Ensemble Theatre production

KENNY

By **The Jacobson Brothers**

Adapted for the stage by **Steve Rodgers**

**When your work can't get any lower,
your expectations can only soar.**

Adapted for the stage from Clayton and Shane Jacobson's much-loved Australian film, **KENNY** stars the hilarious Ben Wood as the fearless plumber and eternal optimist who looks for the best in every situation – even when his job is literally down the toilet.

A knight in shining overalls, Kenny is proud of his work, despite his Dad's harsh judgements, and the ignorant members of the public who take him for granted. In this classic riff on decency, Kenny's off-beat humour and wide-eyed wonder at life's possibilities are an inspirational reminder that all that glitters is not necessarily gold...

Direct from its Sydney Festival premier season, this big-hearted and hilarious salute to the underdog is both triumphant and poignant.

Director **Mark Kilmurry**

Assistant Director **Warwick Doddrell**

Set and Costume Designer **Simone Romaniuk**

Lighting Designer **Damien Cooper**

Composer and Sound Designer **Nate Edmondson**

Video Designer **Mic Gruchy**

Stage Manager **Erin Shaw**

Costume Supervisor **Renata Beslik**

Cast **Ben Wood**

3 – 6 MAR
IMB THEATRE

\$62 - \$84

Approx. 1hr 25 mins
(no interval)

Recommended for

Ages 12+.

Contains strong language

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 4 Mar, 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point

Sat 6 Mar, 15 mins after
the matinee ends

Audio Description/Captioning

Sat 6 Mar, 1.30pm

Tactile Tour

Sat 6 Mar, 12pm



“A life-affirming night of pure theatrical escapism.”

THE AUSTRALIAN



A Belvoir, Queensland Theatre and Brisbane Festival co-production
in association with Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP)

FANGIRLS

Book, Music & Lyrics by **Yve Blake**

**A witty, wildly energetic musical, filled with all the agony
and ecstasy of teen longing.**

Big and bold, this joyous Australian musical about an unstoppable young girl was a runaway hit at Belvoir St Theatre, making fangirls of every raucous audience in its premiere season. Now, after its much-anticipated Sydney return, this electrifyingly fresh work is set to thrill Wollongong with its hilarious and heartbreaking look at teenage fascination.

Edna is 14 and head over heels in love with Harry - he's beautiful, talented, perfect, but there's just one problem: he's also the star of the world's biggest boyband. Getting Harry's attention might seem impossible, but there's nothing that Edna won't do to prove to Harry that she's the one.

Yve Blake's uproarious work is refreshing and effervescent, with a soaring soundtrack featuring the next generation of rockstars in musical theatre. The IPAC stage will be transformed into an atmospheric stadium pop experience full of visual thrill and spectacle.

Director **Paige Rattray**

Original Music Director and Vocal Arranger **Alice Chance**

Music Producer and Sound Designer **David Muratore**

Dramaturg **Jonathan Ware**

Music Director and Vocal Arranger **Zara Stanton**

Set, Video Content and Costume Designer **David Fleischer**

Video Content Design and Production **Justin Harrison**

Lighting Designer **Emma Valente**

Choreographer **Leonard Mickelo**

Associate Choreographer **Sharon Millerchip**

Sound Designer **Michael Waters**

Lighting Realiser **Renaë Kenward**

Associate Director **Carissa Licciardello**

Cast **AYDAN, Danielle Barnes, Chika Ikogwe, Shubshri Kandiah,**

Ayesha Madon, James Majoos, Karis Oka, Tomáš Kantor,

Shannen Alyce Quan

18 – 21 MAR
IMB THEATRE

\$62 - \$84

Approx. 2 hrs 30 mins
(incl. interval)

Recommended for

Agex 15+.

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 18 Mar, 6.30pm

Fri 19 Mar, 11am

Merrigong Talking Point

Sat 20 Mar, 15 mins after
the matinee ends

Audio Description/Captioning

Sat 20 Mar, 1.30pm

Tactile Tour

Sat 20 Mar, 12pm



MAINSTAGE SEASON

***“A deeply moving work that is both
hopeful and compelling.”***

ARTS REVIEW



An Alternative Facts production

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

By **David Williams** and **Paul Dwyer**
in collaboration with the **Sydney Arts and Health Collective**

**More important than ever:
a play inspired by tragedy, resilience and hope.**

Originally scheduled for our 2020 season, it might be even more timely now to ask: who cares for our carers? Professionals devote their working lives to caring for us, but can a doctor or nurse give us the best possible care if they haven't slept for days? This unflinching, compelling verbatim theatre work explores the inherent challenges of our healthcare industry.

Based on more than 30 in-depth interviews with doctors and nurses about their experiences of training and working in hospitals, **Grace Under Pressure** is a surprising, intimate, and deeply moving theatre experience that reveals the hidden stories of health professionals in their own words.

Ranging from wildly funny to utterly heartbreaking, the stories within **Grace Under Pressure** are performed with a sense of intimacy, immediacy and urgency. From award-winning theatre-maker David Williams (*The Table of Knowledge, Quiet Faith*), this beautifully staged and disarmingly delivered work is a truly unique theatre experience.

Director **David Williams**
Dramaturg **Paul Dwyer**
Lighting Designer **Nick Higgins**
Sound Designer **Gail Priest**
Set and Costume Designer **Isabel Hudson**

Sydney Arts & Health Collective

Mr James Dalton, Dr Claire Hooker, Dr Kimberley Ivory, Professor Paul Macneill, Associate Professor Louise Nash, Dr Jo River, Dr Karen Scott

Cast **Meg Dunn, Tanya Schneider, Sal Sarah, Emily Taylor**

12 – 15 MAY
BRUCE GORDON
THEATRE

\$57 - \$77

Approx. 1 hr 25 mins
(no interval)

Recommended for
Ages 14+.

Contains strong language
and adult themes.

Post-Show Q&A
Thu 13 May, 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point
Sat 15 May, 15 mins after
the matinee ends

Audio Description
Sat 15 May, 1.30pm

Tactile Tour
Sat 15 May, 12pm

**alternative
facts**

Grace Under Pressure was co-commissioned by Seymour Centre and The Big Anxiety, and developed with the support of the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies, University of Sydney. The Big Anxiety was assisted by the Australian government through the Department of Communication and the Arts' Catalyst - Australian Arts and Culture Fund.

“Circa redraw the limits to which circus can aspire.”

THE AGE



Produced by Shaun Comerford and Yaron Lifschitz with QPAC, Screen Queensland, Merrigong Theatre Company and Circa Contemporary Circus by special arrangement with Aardman Animations

SHAUN THE SHEEP'S CIRCUS SHOW

By **Yaron Lifschitz**

Based on the Television Series devised by **Richard Starzak**

Based on an original idea by **Nick Park**

Circa's un-baaa-lievable acrobats in a high-flying adventure for the whole family.

Two worlds gleefully collide when the internationally-acclaimed Australian circus ensemble Circa and Academy Award®-winning studio Aardman, bring Shaun the Sheep to the stage. The thrilling visual spectacle of **Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show** combines the extreme physicality and awe-inspiring feats of Circa and the playful charm of the multi-award-winning TV series.

Despite a traumatising tick infestation and daily labours to save the postman from Bitzer's angry attention, Shaun and the flock will entertain the audience through renowned feats of daredevil acrobatics and vibrant choreography.

The entire family will be treated to a visual spectacle and, even more special, Wollongong will enjoy NSW's premiere season! Packed full of Aardman's signature wit and outright hilarity, this is must-see family entertainment full of heart-warming comedy delights.

Director **Yaron Lifschitz**

Costume Designer **Libby McDonnell**

Scenic Designer **Dan Potra**

Composer/Sound Designer **Jethro Woodward**

Lighting Designer **Jason Organ**

Video Director **Craig Wilkinson** (Optikal Bloc)

19 – 23 MAY
IMB THEATRE

\$52 - \$72

Approx. 1 hr 20 mins
(no interval)

Recommended for
Ages 3+.

Post-Show Q&A
Thu 20 May, 11am & 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point
Sat 22 May, 15 mins after
the matinee ends

Audio Description
Sat 22 May, 1.30pm

Tactile Tour
Sat 22 May, 12pm

Relaxed Performance
Sat 22 May, 1.30pm

CIRCA



© and TM Aardman Animations Ltd (2020). All Rights Reserved.
Shaun the Sheep (word mark) and the character Shaun the Sheep © and TM Aardman Animations Limited.

“A level of funny that makes the audience scream at the fabulous too-much-ness of it.”

THE AUSTRALIAN



BB Arts Entertainment & Two Doors Productions

AMERICAN PSYCHO^{THE} MUSICAL

Book by **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa**

Music and lyrics by **Duncan Sheik**

The musical reimaging of a thriller masterpiece.

After it sold out its 2019 season at Sydney's Hayes Theatre, Merrigong originally planned this delightfully dark new musical for Season 2020. Now, the horrifically hilarious work will be sure to impress Wollongong in 2021. Based on Bret Easton Ellis' controversial best-selling novel *American Psycho*, which in turn inspired the hugely successful film, this adaptation is a vividly entertaining satirical portrait of a psycho - with songs!

Patrick Bateman, a young, handsome and wealthy investment banker living in the epicentre of excess during the Wall Street boom of the late 1980s, has impeccable taste and unquenchable desires. A monster of consumption, Patrick takes part in a darker indulgence, and his glitzy, glamorous facade slips away.

Featuring classic '80s hits from Phil Collins, Tears for Fears, New Order and Huey Lewis and the News, all sung live by a powerhouse cast of Australia's finest musical theatre talent, **American Psycho - The Musical** is a pitch black, social satire about the evil that can be done by a man with privilege and power and just how easy it is to get away with it.

Director **Alexander Berlage**

Choreographer **Yvette Lee**

Musical Director **Andrew Worboys**

Cast includes **Ben Gerrard**

14 – 17 JUL
IMB THEATRE

\$62 - \$84

Approx. 2 hrs 30 mins.
(incl. interval)

Recommended for

Ages 16+.

Contains adult themes
and simulated violence.

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 15 Jul, 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point

Sat 17 Jul, 15 mins after
the matinee ends

Audio Description

Sat 17 Jul, 1.30pm

Tactile Tour

Sat 17 Jul, 12pm



Presented by
special arrangement
with Samuel French Inc.

“I entered a beauty pageant once as a teenager and won Best Personality. In a beauty pageant! This is going to be glitzy and glamorous and slightly unhinged.”

MICHELLE LAW



A Belvoir production

MISS PEONY

牡丹小姐

By **Michelle Law**

A 21st Century Australian comedy caught between two generations and two cultures.

Michelle Law's fierce and funny debut play, *Single Asian Female*, was a nationwide smash hit. Now she focuses her razor-sharp eye on the world of beauty pageants in this coming-of-age comedy about what happens when the ghosts of generations past come back to haunt you.

Lily's grandmother was a beauty queen in Hong Kong. She doesn't care that times have changed and that Lily lives in a new country and a new century. She sees that Lily's caught between worlds and wants her to enter the Chinese community beauty pageant, the highly competitive Miss Peony.

She won't take no for an answer. And to makes matters worse, she's a ghost.

Starring a dynamic cast led by Michelle Law, **Miss Peony** is a lavish and loopy exploration of the journey to self-acceptance. This multi-lingual production will feature surtitle translation so that everyone can enjoy the show!

Director **Courtney Stewart**

Set and Costume Designer **Jonathan Hindmarsh**

Lighting Designer **Trent Suidgeest**

Composer **Nicholas Ng**

Sound Designer **Michael Toisuta**

Assistant Director **Nicole Pingon**

Cast includes **Gabrielle Chan, Michelle Law, Mabel Li, Shirong Wu**

25 – 28 AUG
IMB THEATRE

\$62 - \$84

Approx. 2 hrs 20 mins
(including interval)

Recommended for
Ages 15+.

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 26 Aug, 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point

Sat 28 Aug, 15 mins after
the matinee ends

Audio Description/Captioning

Sat 28 Aug, 1.30pm

Tactile Tour

Sat 28 Aug, 12pm

*“A horror movie – but theatre! ...
the feeling of adrenalin, bated breath...
It’s sinister, it’s shocking, it’s affecting.”*

THE MUSIC



A production by The Farm and Performing Lines

THROTTLE

By **The Farm**

Lock your doors...
this live action drive-in thriller is going to be a scream!

A single pane of glass allows us to feel separated from the world outside. It absorbs road rage, and shields us when we sing along to the car stereo. But what happens when that bubble of safety is invaded?

The Farm is a Helpmann Award-winning movement collective, whose physical performances share the fragility and strength of the human condition. In **Throttle**, their mysterious, thrilling and game-changing work, drive-in traditions and dance-theatre come crashing together.

Lit by your car headlights, heard through your car radio and seen through your windscreen, this is an immersive theatrical experience with a difference. This tyre-squealing show will fill Bulli Showground with a spectacle of stunts and thrilling surprise.

Scream with delight, dive under the dashboard, or grip the hand of your fellow passenger and ignite some fun-fuelled passion. Buckle your seatbelts, you're in for a ride.

Creators and Directors **Gavin Webber & Grayson Millwood**

Creators and Original Performers **Kate Harman, Essie Horn,**

Thomas E. S. Kelly & Michael Smith

Lighting Design and Production Management **Chloe Ogilvie**

Sound Design **Luke Smiles**

Sound Associate **Anna Whitaker**

Dramaturg **Julian Louis**

Original Motorcycle Rider **Dan Reardon**

Special Thanks **Mark Howett, Keir Beck** and **AP8 stunt training**

At The Farm, work is made in a collaborative process where everyone brings their expertise without being confined to it. All animals are equal.

21 – 23 OCT
BULLI
SHOWGROUND

\$120 per car

includes up to 5 people per car.

Approx. 1 hr 15 mins
(no interval)

Recommended for

Ages 15+.

Contains strong language
and adult themes

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 21 Oct, 7.15pm

 **LOCATION
ALERT!**

This innovative work will be performed at Bulli Showground, transforming it into a drive-in theatre experience. You watch from your car, with the soundtrack on your car radio. Cars should arrive 45 mins prior to showtime.

**THE
FARM**

**PERFORMING
LINES**

Commissioned and originally
produced by Bleach* Festival

***“One of the funniest plays you’ll ever see about depression
- and possibly one of the funniest plays you’ll ever see, full stop.”***

THE GUARDIAN



A Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA production

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

By **Duncan Macmillan** with **Jonny Donahoe**

Hurt, hope & humour: a resonating celebration of the miracles in life's minutiae.

Performed in-the-round, with a special seating bank in the Wollongong Town Hall, **Every Brilliant Thing** is an hour of exalting, life-affirming humour. This international sensation throws audience members into the story - as fathers, lovers, friends and allies - following one person's life in the shadow of mental illness.

With his mother in hospital, a young boy constructs a list of little things to help her find a way to happiness. It starts with ice cream, Kung Fu movies, and Christopher Walken impersonations. This raw and interactive work runs the gamut from misery to ecstasy, encouraging laughter and reflection on what makes life worth living.

From the broad #4 "The Colour Yellow", to the detailed #9998 "Watching someone watch your favourite film", this work will remind you that even when faced with tragedy, joy can be found in the smallest things.

Director **Adam Mitchell**

Composer/Sounds Designer **Melanie Robinson**

Cast **Luke Hewitt**

27 – 30 OCT
WOLLONGONG
TOWN HALL

\$39 - \$59

Approx. 1 hr 15 mins
(no interval)

Recommended for

Ages 12+.

Contains adult themes.

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 28 Oct, 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point

Sat 30 Oct, 15 mins after
the matinee ends



BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY OF WA

*“Bold and thought-provoking, sensitive and good to watch...
An important production”*

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD



Eric Avery, Miranda Whisen and Edwin Lee Mulligan. Photo by Jon Green



A Marrugeku production

BURRGAJA YALIRRA / DANCING FORWARDS

Curated by **Dalisa Pigram** and **Rachael Swain**

Conceived and created by **Eric Avery, Edwin Lee Mulligan** and **Miranda Wheen**

Burrbgaja Yalirra / Dancing Forwards is a triple bill of solo works from Marrugeku, the unparalleled performance company dedicated to breaking down the walls between urban and remote, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and between the local and the global. In this production, relationships with land and country are explored, with each stunning and beautiful work challenging our sense of belonging in Australia.

In *Ngalimpa* (you are as much a part of me as I am of you), Edwin Lee Mulligan tells the story of two dingos using a combination of spoken word performance and animation.

Miranda takes *Picnic at Hanging Rock* as its starting point, exploring the stumbling position of settler Australians as they negotiate their relationship with land, country and Indigenous history.

In *Dancing With Strangers*, Eric Avery takes inspiration from the story of his great-great-grandfather, who saw the First Fleet sail past his mother's country, and imagines an alternative history, where two cultures exchange dance, music and language.

Dedicated to Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians working together to develop new dance languages, Marrugeku is at the global forefront of dance. Don't miss this rare chance to experience this bold trifecta of works here in Wollongong.

Ngalimpa

Concept, text and performance **Edwin Lee Mulligan**

Directors **Dalisa Pigram** and **Rachael Swain**

Miranda

Concept, co-choreography and performance **Miranda Wheen**

Director and co-choreographer **Serge Aimé Coulibaly**

Dancing with Strangers

Concept, co-choreography, performance and live music **Eric Avery**

Director and co-choreographer **Koen Augustijnen**

4 – 6 NOV
BRUCE GORDON
THEATRE

\$39 - \$59

Approx. 1 hr 15 mins
(no interval)

Recommended for

Ages 12+.

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 4 Nov, 6.30pm

Merrigong Talking Point

Sat 6 Nov, 15 mins after the
matinee ends

Commissioned by
Carriageworks, Sydney and
Perth Institute of
Contemporary Art



"It's a dream, but it's a memory, too."

THE SIRENS' RETURN



A Merrigong Theatre Company
& The Society of Histrionic Happenings co-production

THE SIRENS' RETURN

By **Anne-Louise Rentell, Barbara Nicholson, Ali Jane Smith** and **Daryl Wallis**

Sometimes the deepest stories lie just beneath the surface.

Performed against the backdrop of industrial Port Kembla, **The Sirens' Return** is a moving and evocative new music theatre work that reflects the spirit of place from the perspective of the women who embody it.

Drawing on oral histories collected from women living across different eras of the steel town, as well as First Nations and western mermaid mythology, **The Sirens' Return** honours the diversity of women's experiences through the emotional power of song.

Celebrated local director Anne-Louise Rentell (*Trash Talk, Dead Man Brake, The Outside Man*) has assembled a high calibre team of creatives and vocalists to bring these stories to life in the uniquely stunning outdoor setting of Port Kembla pool at dusk. With an eclectic score from acclaimed composer Daryl Wallis (*Dead Man Brake, The Outside Man, Landscape with Monsters*) that traverses jazz, blues and pop, this is a once-in-a-lifetime theatrical event not to be missed.

Director **Anne-Louise Rentell**

Musical Director **Daryl Wallis**

Designer **Katja Handt**

Performers **Marlene Cummins, Sonya Holowell, Jean Lewis, Billie Rose Prichard, Kerrie Sweeney, Jennifer Vuletic**

15 – 20 NOV
PORT KEMBLA
POOL

\$39 - \$49

Approx. 2 hrs
(no interval)

Recommended for

Ages 16+.

Contains strong language
and adult themes.

Post-Show Q&A

Thu 18 Nov, 7.30pm

 **LOCATION
ALERT!**

Performed at Port Kembla Pool. The audience will be seated on the tiered, grassed, natural amphitheatre overlooking the stunning Port Kembla beach. Limited accessible seating is available and must be pre-booked.

Headphones will be provided.



“Heartfelt, bittersweet,
and very special”

LIMELIGHT

Toby Francis and Stephanie Caccamo. Photo by Robert Catto

A Darlinghurst Theatre Company production

ONCE

Book by **Enda Walsh** Music & Lyrics by **Glen Hansard & Markéta Irglová**

The heart-breaking smash-hit musical, *Once* again, by popular demand!

In 2019, Darlinghurst Theatre Company's production of **Once** tugged on Wollongong's heart strings and never let go. In 2021, this captivating, life-affirming musical is set to reimagine audiences in the irresistible musicality of Dublin.

The only show on Broadway to have music that won the Academy Award®, Grammy Award®, Olivier Award and Tony Award®, **Once** is a tender love story of a struggling Irish musician on the verge of giving up and a piano-playing Czech immigrant who reminds him how to dream.

Performed by an extraordinary ensemble of actor-musicians and featuring the spell-binding songs from the critically-acclaimed film, including the Oscar-winning 'Falling Slowly', this achingly beautiful, joyously uplifting show strikes an unforgettable chord, speaking to the power of music to connect us all.

11 – 15 AUG
IMB THEATRE

\$69 - \$109

Approx. 2 hrs 25 mins
(incl. interval)

Recommended for

Ages 12+.

Contains strong language

Director **Richard Carroll**

Movement Director **Amy Campbell**

Production Designer **Hugh O'Connor**

Cast to be announced

**DARLING
HURST**
THEATRE
CO

THE STRANGWAYS CABARET

By The Strangeways Ensemble

Spirited hijinks and cutting-edge cabaret.

Curated and performed by the members of Merrigong's resident professional ensemble, **The Strangeways Cabaret** promises to be a joyful celebration of new performance works unlike any other!

Part game show, part vaudevillian caper, this rollicking, rough and ready cabaret night will take audiences on an antics-fuelled ride. Members of the The Strangeways Ensemble will be joined by a stellar range of cabaret, circus, music and comedy performers from the Illawarra and beyond, over three nights in a wonderful, inspiring night of theatrical escapades.

2 – 4 SEP
THE MUSIC
LOUNGE

\$25 - \$30

Approx. 2 hrs
(incl. interval)

Recommended for

Ages 16+.

Contains strong language
and adult themes

Creators and Performers

**Malcolm Allison, Ethan Arnold,
Jordan Bowater, Ethan Green,
Rachel Head, Phillip Prentice,
Christian Tagliaferro**



ADD-ON SHOW

a BEE STORY



An ARC Circus & Cluster Arts production

Internationally recognised local acrobat and dancer Robbie Curtis (ex Circa, Cirque du Soleil, Circus Oz, the Australian Ballet) brings this celebration of native flora and fauna to Wollongong to remind us how to work together in any sticky situation!

Fly along with Queen Bee and Worker Bee in their intricate world as they rebuild a home after their hive is destroyed by bushfire. A kaleidoscopic blend of circus, acrobatics, dance and live music, this gravity-defying and educational show buzzes with heart, honey and messages of sustainability and community.

Creator, Director and Performer **Robbie Curtis**
Co-Creator and Performer **Liz McRae**

12 – 13 APR
**BRUCE
GORDON
THEATRE**

All tickets \$29
Approx. 45 mins.
(no interval)

Recommended for Ages 3+.
Relaxed Performance
Tue 13 Apr; 10am



A **Bee Story** was developed as part of Merrigong Theatre Company's Artists' Program, MERRIGONGX.

David Walliams THE MIDNIGHT GANG



A CDP Kids Production

A play by **Maryam Master**

Based on the bestselling novel by **David Walliams**

The team behind *The 13-, 26-, 52-, 78- and 91-Storey Treehouses* bring David Walliams' bestselling book to life on stage! Twelve-year-old Tom unexpectedly finds himself lonely and lost in St Crook's Hospital, and at the mercy of evil Matron. Tom feels like he'll never leave, but his fellow young patients have other ideas... Join the Midnight Gang and go on some amazing adventures in a celebration of friendship, love and the power of the imagination.

Director **Susanna Dowling**

Playwright **Maryam Master**

Designer **Isla Shaw**

Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall**

Sound Designer **James Brown**

Costume Supervisor **Marg Howell**

Cast to be announced

**30 JUN –
1 JUL
IMB THEATRE**

All tickets \$33

Approx. 1 hr: (no interval)

Recommended for Ages 6+.

Relaxed Performance

Thu 1 Jul, 10am

cdpKids

The Midnight Gang by David Walliams, published by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.
Illustrations © Tony Ross 2016 / Lettering of author's name © Quentin Blake,
2010 / Licensed by HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.



A Red Line production

Written by **Robin Goldsworthy**

Adapted from the **JUST** book series, written by **Andy Griffiths**
and illustrated by **Terry Denton**

The magical stage production of Andy Griffiths' acclaimed book series **JUST** didn't happen in 2020 – so we had to make sure this madcap show finally came to Wollongong for the young and young at heart. Vividly and hilariously bringing the books to life with everything from invisibility pills and mudmen, to vomiting dogs and death defying balloon rides, this won't be for the faint farted. Or the fainthearted. A love letter to the powers of imagination and just unmissable!

Director **Blazey Best**

Set and Costume Design **Maya Keys**

Composition and Sound Design **Clemence Williams**

Lighting Design **Veronique Bennett**

27 – 28 SEP
IMB THEATRE

All tickets \$33

Approx. 1 hr. (no interval)

Recommended for Ages 7+.

Relaxed Performance

Tue 28 Sep, 10am





PETE

the Sheep

A Monkey Baa Theatre Company production

Based on the book by **Jackie French** and **Bruce Whatley**

Adapted for the stage by **Eva Di Cesare, Sandra Eldridge & Tim McGarry**

Monkey Baa's award-winning musical returns to Wollongong! Imaginatively told by four performers playing shearers, dogs and sheep, this hilarious comedy explores the challenges and rewards of being an individual whilst being part of the flock. Based on Jackie French and Bruce Whatley's quirky and quintessentially Australian picture book, with *The Wharf Revue's* Phil Scott & Jonathan Biggins providing foot-tapping music and comedic direction, ***Pete the Sheep*** is a lively and mischievous musical for young audiences and their adults.

Director **Jonathan Biggins**

Assistant Director **Eva Di Cesare**

Composer and Lyricist **Phil Scott**

Set and Costume Designer **James Browne**

Lighting Designer **Matthew Marshall**

Cast to be confirmed

1 – 2 OCT
BRUCE
GORDON
THEATRE

All tickets \$33

Approx. 50 mins. (no interval)

Recommended for Ages 4+.

Relaxed Performance

Sat 2 Oct, 10am



MERRIGONG CREATIVITY CAMP

Popular interactive theatre, performance
and design workshops.

Under the guidance and supervision of professional performing and teaching artists, children take a journey of creative exploration. Designed to activate kids' imaginations and build self-confidence in a fun, educational environment, this is a great space for Campers to develop ongoing friendships with other like-minded children.

5 – 9 JUL
27 SEP – 1 OCT

**WOLLONGONG
TOWN HALL**

\$290 (5 days)

9am – 3pm (incl. lunch break)

20% discount for additional siblings or
when booking both camps.

For ages 5 – 13. Children will be placed
into groups based on age and confidence.

FOR SCHOOLS & YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Playwrights Project. Photo courtesy of The Drama Studio



We believe that all young people should experience live theatre! We invite young people to explore our venues, experience professional, high-quality theatre and engage in a range of fun activities, workshops, backstage tours, and more.

School Group Bookings

A discounted school group price of \$23 per student (for groups of eight or more) is available for all school day matinee and selected evening performances. For each group of eight or more students, a supervising teacher can attend for free.

Student Group Season Tickets

Even bigger savings are available for groups of eight or more students seeing multiple shows, with show prices starting at just \$18.

Price per student:

3 Shows for \$60

5 Shows for \$90

Passport to Performance

Substantial ticket subsidies are available through our Passport to Performance program, with tickets from as little as \$6 per student (for groups of eight or more). Subsidies may be available for public schools with a high FOEI score, or for school groups with additional requirements.

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 performed by young actors from The Drama Studio.

The Drama Studio

The Illawarra Performing Arts Centre is home to The Drama Studio, a dynamic drama school established in 1988, and run by Fiona Gabb-Finley. The Drama Studio offers drama classes for school students from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

For more information visit

merrigong.com.au/community-education
or email education@merrigong.com.au.

MERRIGONGX ARTISTS' PROGRAM

innovative • independent • in-development

MERRIGONGX places artists and their practice at the centre of our community. From in-house creative developments to full-blown public presentations of new work, and everything in between, MERRIGONGX provides independent artists with financial, technical, marketing and artistic resources to help them keep creating.

In 2020, the MERRIGONGX program provided support for 36 artists and independent local companies.

Keep your eyes peeled as we invite audiences to engage with some of these new works throughout 2021. Other artists will be working 'under wraps' on projects you can't see just yet, but that will come to fruition in future years.

For more information visit
merrigong.com.au/merrigongx

MERRIGONGX 2021 ARTISTS

PRODUCTIONS

APPLESPIEL

Presentation of a deep dive into the modern apology, *Sorry, Sorry, Sorry*.

KIRBY MEDWAY AND SOLOMON THOMAS

Presentation of *UFO*, the new live-cinema sci-fi work performed on a 1:8 miniature golf course.

LILY HAYMAN

Presentation of *Fledgling*, the stage adaptation of the intimate & expansive novel 'Flight of Birds'.

TEN TONNE SPARROW

Presentation of Tom Hogan and Elana Stone's musical tragic comedy, *Mount Hopeless*, based on the expedition of Burke & Wills.

THE STRANGWAYS ENSEMBLE

The continued development of work by our much-loved professional ensemble.



DEVELOPMENT SHOWINGS

AUSTINMER DANCE THEATRE

Presentation of the emerging choreographic festival, *uNCOILED*, Illawarra's first-ever curated contemporary dance residency.

αXis BY CIRCUS MONOXIDE

Development of an exciting new circus work *The Construct* by Artistic Director Zebastian Hunter in collaboration with Producer Linda Catalano (Quiet RIOT).

CATHERINE MCKINNON

Development of the award-winning novel, *Storyland* for the stage.

DREW FAIRLEY

Ten weeks stranded on a cruise ship inspires the development of his new play commission, *As Luck Would Have It*.

KIRLI SAUNDERS

Returning to Country and Community after forcible removal, commissioned by PWA, *Going Home* is a First Nations work.

YEN YANG

Development of *A Practical Guide to Self Defense*, following his unlikely transformation from pacifist into a 'brutal, fighting machine.'

PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS 'UNDER WRAPS'

ALICIA BATESTINI

Development of the moving new circus/performance work, *Elsie for Vestri*.

DARYL WALLIS

A personal meditation and dialogue between Yosemite National Park and Sydney's Royal National Park in this development of a new multimedia/musical work, *The Hour of Land*.

EMMA SAUNDERS

Development of an outdoor, en masse, site-specific dance work.

FLIGHTPATH THEATRE

Development of *Fault Lines*, a new work engaging local community.

FRUMPUS

The all-female ensemble's development of *Landed*, combining the provocative, grotesque and humorous slap-stick.

JANE FULLERTON-SMITH

The irreverent journey of reinvention, revitalisation and resurrection whilst actively avoiding middle age and a prescribed holiday in a pretty pink room, in the development of *Fiona Hiscock Browne – A Memoir (The Unmedicated Version)*.

KAY PROUDLOVE

The Illawarra indie-folk singer-songwriter's development of the new musical work, *Dear Diary*.

LHALESKA URDANIVIA

Development of the confessional poetry & new multi-media performance work, *In Her Hands*.

NEISHA MURPHY

Development of the new circus work, *ChaChi*, from a vibrant director and variety entertainer.

ROCKING HOIST

Science fiction and absurdism collide in the development of a new theatre work, *The Fireplace at the End of the World*.

COMMUNITY IS AT THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING WE DO



Our goal is to build and sustain strong and meaningful relationships with individuals, groups and organisations across our local community, to meet our aims for inclusivity, diversity, access and opportunity. We partner with a range of local organisations to develop specific arts-based programs, and provide subsidised community rates and event support for the use of our spaces. These include:

The Disability Trust

Proud community partners since 2006, the Altogether Drama program provides people with disabilities opportunities to work with professional theatre artists.

The Smith Family

Through Australia's largest national education-oriented children's charity, scholarships are provided for children to attend our Creativity Camps (proudly supported by Peoplecare).

Beyond Empathy

Merrigong supports Beyond Empathy's team of artists, mentors, community workers, and leaders with strong connections to First Nations communities, through a partnership that provides young people in need with access to the theatre.

Vision Australia

Provides access services including Audio Descriptions of performances and on-stage Tactile Tours available to patrons for selected shows.

SCARF Refugee Support

Merrigong supports their social inclusion and befriending programs for refugee entrants, including tickets to theatre shows that generate opportunities for social, recreational and educational activities.

The Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra

Merrigong supports MCCI's program for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to help them to build the confidence to become leaders and role models in their communities.

Woolyungah Indigenous Centre

Merrigong works with Woolyungah Indigenous Centre to host interns from the University of Wollongong to improve student opportunities for career development and employment in the arts.

CHAMPION THE ARTS IN OUR REGION

From theatre to music, from circus to comedy, live performance is a dynamic force for bringing communities together, employing an entire industry of performers, producers and support staff.

Your support is more important than ever.

Merrigong Theatre Company is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to delivering events that are relevant and impactful to the diverse people in our region. With our stages and seats closed for most of 2020, the generosity of patrons with a passion for performance has become even more crucial for the work we do with artists, community groups and young people.

Your support makes a real difference to what we can achieve.

Connect with like-minded arts advocates when you join our INNER CIRCLE

Make a donation of \$250 or more and you will receive 12 months of recognition, special invitations to events, and updates on our programs.

Our Inner Circle donors are recognised at three levels of support:



**Inner Circle
Supporter**
\$250 - \$499



**Inner Circle
Collaborator**
\$500 - \$999



**Inner Circle
Insider**
\$1000+

For further information

Please call Edie Watt, Marketing and Development Manager
on **02 4224 5999**
or email ewatt@merrigong.com.au

FIND THE PACKAGE FOR YOU!

THE WHOLE SHEBANG: 12 OR 11 SHOW SEASON TICKET

Our best value package. **Save up to \$321**

WHOLE SHEBANG – 12 Shows

ADULT \$585

CONCESSION \$530

WHOLE SHEBANG – 11 Shows (excludes **Once**)

ADULT \$498

CONCESSION \$448

What's included:

- All 10 Shows in our Mainstage Season + Add-On Shows (with or without **Once**)
- Premium Seating
- A Merrigong Loyalty Card
- An invitation to Merrigong's Season 2022 Launch, with premium reserve seating
- One extra free ticket for a friend to any Mainstage Season Show
- Invitations to MERRIGONGX development showings.

10, 7 OR 5 SHOW SEASON TICKET

The more you buy, the more you save. **Save up to 30%.**

PREMIUM SEATING

#SHOWS	ADULT	CONCESSION
10	\$550	\$500
7	\$427	\$392
5	\$330	\$305

STANDARD SEATING

#SHOWS	ADULT	CONCESSION
10	\$470	\$420
7	\$364	\$329
5	\$280	\$255

What's included:

- Your choice of 10, 7 or 5 Mainstage Season Shows
- A Merrigong Loyalty Card
- An invitation to Merrigong's Season 2022 Launch.

For 10-Show Packages only

- One extra free ticket for a friend to any Mainstage Season Show
- Invitations to MERRIGONGX development showings

FLEXI 10 PACK

Keep it flexible

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. Use them however you like!

Valid for standard seating to any Merrigong Mainstage Season 2021 show.

The Flexi 10 Pack must be purchased by Monday 1 March, 2021.

You can lock in your seats any time from Tuesday 2 March, 2021.

FLEXI 10 PACK

\$570

What's included:

- A Merrigong Loyalty Card
- One invitation to Merrigong's Season 2022 Launch.

MERRIGONG SEASON 2021 BOOKING FORM

Should you require any assistance with filling out your form, visit the Box Office or phone **02 4224 5999**.

STEP 1 Choose your package

THE WHOLE SHEBANG

Our best value package! Premium seats to every show in our Theatre Season (10 Shows) plus one or two Add-Ons.

12 SHOWS (INCLUDING ONCE)		TOTAL
ADULT PREMIUM	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$585	
CONC/GROUP 8+ PREMIUM	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$530	
TOTAL \$		

11 SHOWS (WITHOUT ONCE)		TOTAL
ADULT PREMIUM	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$498	
CONC/GROUP 8+ PREMIUM	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$448	
TOTAL \$		

10, 7 OR 5 SHOW SEASON TICKETS

	# SHOWS	ADULT	CONC./ GROUP 8+	TOTAL
Premium Seating	10 Shows	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$550	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$500	
	7 Shows	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$427	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$392	
	5 Shows	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$330	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$305	
Standard Seating	10 Shows	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$470	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$420	
	7 Shows	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$364	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$329	
	5 Shows	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$280	___ (# of pkgs) @ \$255	
TOTAL \$				

FLEXI 10 PACK

Secure 10 discounted admissions with **standard seating** to any number of Mainstage Season 2021 shows.

This package is only available until Monday 1 March 2021.

Lock in performances any time from Tuesday 2 March 2021.

Please indicate the number of packages required.

___ (# of pkgs) @ \$570	TOTAL \$	
-------------------------	-----------------	--

STEP 2 Choose your performance dates and times

CHOOSE YOUR PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES

ADD **ADDITIONAL** DISCOUNTED TICKETS & PRE-SHOW DINING PACKAGES

SHOW	DATE	TIME	PREMIUM <small>*No conc. Or U30s discounts available with Premium Seating</small>	STANDARD			PRE-SHOW DINING	TOTAL
				ADULT	CONC./ GROUP 8+	UNDER 30s/ CHILDREN		
KENNY			___ (# tix) @ \$79	___ (# tix) @ \$67	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
FANGIRLS			___ (# tix) @ \$79	___ (# tix) @ \$67	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
GRACE UNDER PRESSURE			___ (# tix) @ \$72	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# tix) @ \$57	___ (# tix) @ \$57	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
SHAUN THE SHEEP'S CIRCUS SHOW			___ (# tix) @ \$67	___ (# tix) @ \$57	___ (# tix) @ \$52	___ (# tix) @ \$52	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
AMERICAN PSYCHO THE MUSICAL			___ (# tix) @ \$79	___ (# tix) @ \$67	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
MISS PEONY			___ (# tix) @ \$79	___ (# tix) @ \$67	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# tix) @ \$62	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
THROTTLE* <small>(see below)</small>			___ (# tix) @ \$44* (see below)				N/A	
EVERY BRILLIANT THING			___ (# tix) @ \$54	___ (# tix) @ \$44	___ (# tix) @ \$39	___ (# tix) @ \$39	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
BURRBGAJA YALIRRA / DANCING FORWARDS			___ (# tix) @ \$54	___ (# tix) @ \$44	___ (# tix) @ \$39	___ (# tix) @ \$39	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
THE SIRENS' RETURN			N/A	___ (# tix) @ \$44	___ (# tix) @ \$39	___ (# tix) @ \$39	N/A	

Note = these discounted prices are only available at the same time as booking your Season Ticket. **TOTAL \$**

*BOOKING TICKETS FOR THROTTLE:

If you have included **Throttle** in your season ticket, this gives you access to watch the show from your own vehicle – Season Ticket holders are being asked to ensure that at least two Season Ticket Holders watch together in one vehicle. Closer to the event date we will be in contact to confirm which Season Ticket Holders are attending together.

Should you wish to add a ticket for a non-Season Ticket Holder to attend with you in your vehicle, you can do so in the Additional Tickets section above. These tickets are only available as part of the Season Ticket booking process.

A total maximum of five people are allowed in any one car (all patrons in a Season Ticket Holders' car will need to hold an individual ticket).

HOW TO BOOK YOUR SEASON TICKET

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, EXTRA TICKETS & PRE-SHOW DINING

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

You can add tickets for friends, family and loved ones too.

STEP 3 OPTIONS TO ADD MORE

Add tickets for other events, including Add-On Shows and Kids & Family events.

LAST STEPS

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

- **In person** Box Office at Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, 32 Burelli St, Wollongong.
- **By post** Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, PO BOX 786, Wollongong, 2520
- **Online** merrigong.com.au
- **By email** info@merrigong.com.au

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

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

STEP 3 Select Add-Ons, Kids & Family shows and Pre-Show Dining

SHOW	DATE	TIME	PREMIUM <small>*No conc. Or U30s discounts available with Premium Seating</small>	STANDARD			PRE-SHOW DINING	TOTAL
				ADULT	CONC/ GROUP 8+	UNDER 30s/ CHILDREN		
ONCE			___ (# tix) @ \$99	___ (# tix) @ \$84	___ (# tix) @ \$79	___ (# tix) @ \$69	___ (# ppl) @ \$22.50	
THE STRANGEWAYS CABARET			___ (# tix) @ \$30	___ (# tix) @ \$25			N/A	
A BEE STORY*				___ (# tix) @ \$29			N/A	
THE MIDNIGHT GANG*				___ (# tix) @ \$33			N/A	
JUST LIVE ON STAGE*				___ (# tix) @ \$33			N/A	
PETETHE SHEEP*				___ (# tix) @ \$33			N/A	
							TOTAL \$	<input type="text"/>

* All tickets one price

STEP 4 Support Merrigong Theatre Company

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to Merrigong Theatre Company. All donations of \$250 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 CIRCLE

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25

Other amount \$ TOTAL DONATION \$

For donations \$250 and over:

I would like to be recognised as part of Merrigong's Inner Circle under the following name:

OR I would like to remain anonymous.

INTRODUCE A FRIEND WITH A FREE TICKET

The Whole Shebang and 10-Show Season Ticket purchasers, please nominate your free ticket to a Mainstage Season Show. The 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.

STEP 5 Your contact information

If you are purchasing more than two Season Tickets, please attach a list of names and contact details for each person. 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):

I prefer an: Aisle seat (on left) Aisle seat (on right)

Special assistance (please indicate below if required)

Wheelchair access Hearing assistance Captioning Audio description

Title: First Name: Surname:

Address:

Postcode: Email:

Daytime phone number: Mobile phone number:

Concession ID number: Preferred Row (not guaranteed):

I prefer an: Aisle seat (on left) Aisle seat (on right)

Special assistance (please indicate below if required)

Wheelchair access Hearing assistance Captioning Audio description

FIRST-TIME SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

I was referred by a friend. My friend's name is

If your friend is a returning Season Ticket Holder, they'll receive a free ticket to the Mainstage Season 2021 show of their choice.

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 credit card in two instalments: 50% on booking + 50% on or close to 8 April 2021 (plus a \$9.20 handling fee at the time of booking).

Mastercard Visa American Express

Cardholder's name:

Card Number:

Expiry date: CCV:

Signature:

STEP 7 Submit your form

Merrigong Theatre Company at Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

32 Burelli St, PO Box 786 Wollongong NSW 2520 Fax: (02) 4226 9696 Email: info@merrigong.com.au

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Key dates for your diary

Season Tickets on sale:

Tue 9 Feb 2021

Priority Booking for renewing Season Ticket Holders:

Tue 9 Feb – Tue 16 Feb 2021

Single Tickets on sale:

*Except KENNY and FANGIRLS,
on sale from late 2020*

Tue 2 Mar 2021

Proof of concession

Discounted ticket prices are available for Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Australian Writer's Guild 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 Thursday 8 April 2021 (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 2021 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.

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

These tickets can be used for anyone under 30, not just children, and up to two adults in the group.

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.

Blankets

Everyone experiences air conditioning differently. If you get cold in the theatre we have blankets on hand to make sure you keep warm and enjoy the experience. Please ask our friendly front of house staff if you would like a blanket.

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 in this brochure. However, at the time of performance we will also provide notice in the foyers of our theatres and on our website including any additional information. Please check with our Front of House staff if you have any concerns.

Safety

Our venues and events are operating under COVID Safety measures in accordance with NSW Health guidelines. This includes capacity limits set by NSW Health, the use of face masks, digital check-ins, and additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces in theatres and foyers.

When you visit, it is really important that you are feeling well, and prepared to adhere to the safety practices of our venues. If you're experiencing any COVID symptoms, even if they are very mild, please stay home and contact us prior to your event, and we will arrange a refund or exchange. Check your ticket for more information and ticket terms.

For the latest safety information, visit merrigong.com.au/your-visit/covid-19.

The Social

eat. drink @IPAC

\$25 Pre-Show Dining package Pre-book and save!

Our great value Pre-Show Dining Packages feature a selection from our delicious show time à la carte options, served with a house drink of your choice.

Menus are updated regularly and include at least one vegetarian and one gluten-free option.

Open weekdays and pre-show.

Phone: **02 4224 5932**

merrigong.com.au/thesocial

Terms & conditions apply. See website for details.



SAVE 10%

Book as part of your Season Ticket
and receive for the discounted price
of only **\$22.50.**

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

For companion card holders, your companion's ticket 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 and Main Auditorium, Wollongong Town Hall have an induction hearing loop compatible with T-switch hearing aids. Prior to IPAC performances, receivers can be obtained from box office, free of charge.

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.

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.

Tactile tours

Prior to audio described performances, patrons who have low vision or are blind (and their accompanying 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 business days prior notice. Please contact the Box Office.

Relaxed Performances

Designed to welcome people who benefit from a more informal performance environment for a range of real life reasons, including young children and people living with Autism. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and movement and small changes may be made to the light and sound effects.

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

OUR SUPPORTERS

Merrigong Theatre Company major funding partners



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



Young People's Program Partner



Season 2021 Supporters



MEDIA PARTNERS

ACCOMMODATION PARTNER

Supporters of shows in our 2021 Season



The producers of the following shows have been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory board: *FANGIRLS*, *Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show*, *Miss Peony*, *Throttle*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Burrgaja Yalirra*, *Pete the Sheep*



The producers of the following shows have been assisted by the New South Wales Government: *KENNY*, *FANGIRLS*, *Miss Peony*, *Throttle*, *Burrgaja Yalirra*, *Once*, *The Sirens' Return*, *The Strangeways Cabaret*, *JUST! Live on stage*, *The Midnight Gang*, *Pete the Sheep*



The producers of the following shows have been assisted by the Queensland Government: *FANGIRLS*, *Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show*, *Throttle*



The presentation of the following shows have been assisted by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative: *Grace Under Pressure*, *Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show*, *Throttle*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Sirens' Return*, *Once*



The Sirens' Return



Grace Under Pressure



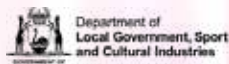
Shaun the Sheep's Circus Show



Every Brilliant Thing



Throttle



Every Brilliant Thing, *Burrgaja Yalirra*



Pete the Sheep, *Throttle*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

MAINSTAGE SEASON

KENNY

Wed 3 Mar, 7.30pm
Thu 4 Mar, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 5 Mar, 7.30pm
Sat 6 Mar, 1.30pm **AD, C, TT, TP**
Sat 6 Mar, 7.30pm

FANGIRLS

Thu 18 Mar, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 19 Mar, 11am **Q&A**
Fri 19 Mar, 7.30pm
Sat 20 Mar, 1.30pm **AD, C, TT, TP**
Sat 20 Mar, 7.30pm
Sun 21 Mar, 5pm

GRACE UNDER PRESSURE

Wed 12 May, 7.30pm
Thu 13 May, 6.30pm, **Q&A**
Fri 14 May, 7.30pm
Sat 15 May, 1.30pm **AD, TT, TP**
Sat 15 May, 7.30pm

SHAUN THE SHEEP'S CIRCUS SHOW

Wed 19 May, 7.30pm
Thu 20 May, 11am **Q&A**
Thu 20 May, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 21 May, 7.30pm
Sat 22 May, 1.30pm **AD, TT, R, TP**
Sat 22 May, 7.30pm
Sun 23 May, 1pm
Sun 23 May, 5pm

AMERICAN PSYCHO THE MUSICAL

Wed 14 Jul, 7.30pm
Thu 15 Jul, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 16 Jul, 7.30pm
Sat 17 Jul, 1.30pm **AD, TT, TP**
Sat 17 Jul, 7.30pm

MISS PEONY

Wed 25 Aug, 7.30pm
Thu 26 Aug, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 27 Aug, 7.30pm
Sat 28 Aug, 1.30pm **AD, C, TT, TP**
Sat 28 Aug, 7.30pm

THROTTLE

Thu 21 Oct, 7.15pm **Q&A**
Fri 22 Oct, 7.15pm
Fri 22 Oct, 9.45pm
Sat 23 Oct, 7.15pm
Sat 23 Oct, 9.45pm
Cars should arrive 45 mins prior

EVERY BRILLIANT THING

Wed 27 Oct, 7.30pm
Thu 28 Oct, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 29 Oct, 7.30pm
Sat 30 Oct, 1.30pm **TP**
Sat 30 Oct, 7.30pm

BURRBGAJA YALIRRA /DANCING FORWARDS

Thu 4 Nov, 6.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 5 Nov, 7.30pm
Sat 6 Nov, 1.30pm **TP**
Sat 6 Nov, 7.30pm

THE SIRENS' RETURN

Mon 15 Nov, 7.30pm
Tue 16 Nov, 7.30pm
Wed 17 Nov, 7.30pm
Thu 18 Nov, 7.30pm **Q&A**
Fri 19 Nov, 7.30pm
Sat 20 Nov, 7.30pm

ADD-ON SHOWS

ONCE

Wed 11 Aug, 7.30pm
Thu 12 Aug, 6.30pm
Fri 13 Aug, 7.30pm
Sat 14 Aug, 1.30pm
Sat 14 Aug, 7.30pm
Sun 15 Aug, 5pm

THE STRANGWAYS CABARET

Thu 2 Sep, 8pm
Fri 3 Sep, 8pm
Sat 4 Sep, 8pm

KIDS AND FAMILIES

A BEE STORY

Mon 12 Apr, 10am
Mon 12 Apr, 12.30pm
Tue 13 Apr, 10am **R**
Tue 13 Apr, 12.30pm

THE MIDNIGHT GANG

Wed 30 Jun, 12.30pm
Wed 30 Jun, 6pm
Thu 1 Jul, 10am **R**
Thu 1 Jul, 12.30pm

JUST! - LIVE ON STAGE

Mon 27 Sep, 10am
Mon 27 Sep, 12.30pm
Tue 28 Sep, 10am **R**
Tue 28 Sep, 12.30pm

PETE THE SHEEP

Fri 1 Oct, 10am
Fri 1 Oct, 12.30pm
Sat 2 Oct, 10am **R**
Sat 2 Oct, 12.30pm

MERRIGONG CREATIVITY CAMPS

5 – 9 Jul
27 Sep – 1 Oct

Q&A Post-show Q&A

AD Audio described for the benefit of patrons with low or no vision

TT Pre-show Tactile Tour available on request for the benefit of patrons with low or no vision

C Live Captioned

R Relaxed Performance

TP Merrigong Talking Point



CONNECT WITH US

32 Burelli St, PO Box 786, Wollongong, NSW 2520

02 4224 5999 info@merrigong.com.au merrigong.com.au



[merrigongtheatreco](https://www.youtube.com/merrigongtheatreco)



[@merrigong](https://www.facebook.com/merrigong)



[@merrigong](https://twitter.com/merrigong)



[@merrigongtheatreco](https://www.instagram.com/merrigongtheatreco)

MERRIGONG
THEATRE
COMPANY

ILLAWARRA
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTRE

WOLLONGONG
TOWN HALL

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

ABN: 87 590 935 138