



LA MAMA


Autumn 2014

The 2013 Green Room Award nominations were announced in February - and what a fantastic year for theatre it was! La Mama nominations include Hayden Spencer for Male Performer (*Tall Man*), Angela Betzien for Writing (*Tall Man*), Maude Davey for Female Performer (*My Life in the Nude*), Adele McCarthy for Sound Design (*Not A Very Good Story*), and Jethro Woodward for Sound Design (*Opera for a small mamma*). Best of luck to all!

We would also like to congratulate two of our most loved family members for being included in this years MTC Neon Season: Nicola Gunn and Angus Cerini.

We are also thrilled to announce an exciting new venture with fortyfivedownstairs. In the first of what we hope will be a continuing program of collaborations, ENCORE gives our audiences a chance to see productions that so many of you missed out on in their initial La Mama seasons. This year, at fortyfivedownstairs, we co-present Maude Davey's provocative *My Life in the Nude*, and Beng Oh's magnificent adaptation of Tabori's *Mein Kampf*.

Come and partake in our diverse theatrical fare at La Mama and the Courthouse, including our dazzling 2014 Cabaret Festival curated by the always amazing Rebecca Etchell.



Liz Jones, CEO. & Artistic Director

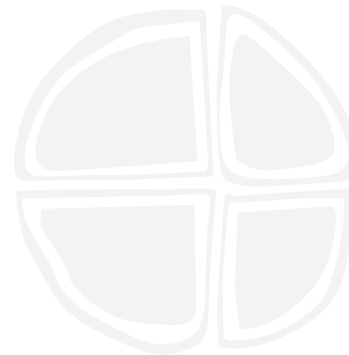
And on behalf of Caitlin Dullard (Company Manager and Creative Producer), Mary Helen Sassman, Bek Berger and Nedd Jones (Marketing and Publicity Coordinators), Rebecca Etchell & Amber Hart (House Managers), Maureen Hartley (La Mama Learning Producer), Fiona Wiseman (Preservation Coordinator), Ella Holmes (La Mama for Kids Curator), Annabel Warmington (La Mama Musica Curator), Amanda Anastasi (La Mama Poetica Curator), Graham Downey (Script Appraiser), and the Committee of Management: Sue Broadway, Caroline Lee, Dur-é Dara, Mark Rubbo, Kerry Noonan, Adam Cass, Richard Watts and Liz Jones.

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Cover image courtesy of **UNSEX ME**  
Image by Sarah Walker

La Mama is nationally and internationally acknowledged as a crucible for cutting edge, contemporary theatre. Valued by artists and audiences alike, La Mama is treasured for its continued advocacy of those seeking to explore beyond mainstream theatre; producing work by theatre makers of all backgrounds and encouraging works that deconstruct and critique form, content and social issues.



AD NAUSEUM (image: Sarah Walker)

*"Odd that such a tiny work can deliver such rich rewards, but perhaps that's what La Mama does best."*

- John Bailey, The Sunday Age

*"A transportative experience for a theatre savvy audience"*

- Robert Reid, Theatre Alive



THE UNSPOKEN WORD IS 'JOE' (image: Sarah Walker)

La Mama's list of Alumni reads like the Who's Who of Australian theatre including such greats as David Williamson, Cate Blanchett, Jack Hibberd, Graeme Blundell, Judith Lucy and Julia Zemiro. La Mama is proud to play a crucial role in fostering the distinguished careers of so many established and emerging Australian artists.

In recent years, La Mama artists such as The Rabble, Daniel Schlusser and Nicola Gunn have gone on to perform at the Melbourne International Festival and MTC's NEON Festival of Independent Theatre. La Mama veteran Jack Charles continues to work across the country, and in 2013, La Mama regular Ben Grant was touring internationally with Robert Lapage.



I KNOW THERE IS A LOT OF NOISE OUTSIDE BUT YOU HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR EYES

(image: Sarah Walker)

*"original, funny, smart, uncomfortable and beautiful"*

- Elly Varenti, The Age

*"... must-see theatre: complex, honest and powerful"*

- Alison Croggon



THE WELL (image: Sarah Walker)



# ZENA LADNER

APRIL 23 - MAY 4

It's London 1977, on the eve of Thatcher's Britain.  
A young Aussie clown on his first trip abroad.

Whilst working at Carnaby St toy shop, Bill is out of  
his depth when seduced by an exotic older woman.

Written by  
Bill Marshall

Directed by  
Jacob Oberman

Performed by  
Julia Foenander, Michael Loder, Peter Rowley and Sophie Sardi

An Ordinary Madness Group production

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

Approx 65 minutes

La Mama Theatre



# PATIENT 12

APRIL 23 - MAY 11

Did anyone from your family serve in World War 1?  
Was their name James, Andy, Freddie or Leo?

Kevin Summers' intriguing new play follows  
the lives of four young men who were there  
and the people who loved them.

Written by  
Kevin Summers

Directed by  
Don Mackay

Performed by  
Jason Buckley, Dennis Coard, Will Ewing, Colin Macpherson,  
Joel Parnis, Jenny Seedsman and Heidi Valkenburg

Designed by  
Sophie Woodward

Lighting design by  
Bronwyn Pringle

Stage Manager  
Chris Martin

Production supported by The Cybec Foundation

Selected for VCAA 2014 Theatre Studies Playlist

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Matinees: Wed 1pm | Thu 11am

Approx 90 minutes

La Mama Courthouse

THE  
Cybec  
FOUNDATION



# THE PARRICIDE

MAY 7 - MAY 25

Set against a background of violent unrest, *The Parricide* exposes the torment of a writer forced to choose between rebellion and repression, passion and love.

RE Ross Trust Award Winner

Shortlisted, Rodney Seaborn Playwrights' Award

Written by Diane Stubbings

Directed by Karen Berger

Dramaturgy by Dave Letch

Performed by Lyall Brooks, Nick Simpson-Deeks, Gabriel Partington, Olivia Monticciolo and Zoe Ellerton-Ashley

Set and costume design by Christine Urquhart

Produced by Alicia Benn-Lawler

Image by Jack Murray / MU Inc.

Selected for VCAA 2014 Drama Playlist

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm  
Matinees: Wed 1pm | Thu 11am

Approx 100 minutes

La Mama Theatre

# DEATH AT INTERVALS

MAY 14 - MAY 25

A country celebrates the miracle that death has been vanquished until the realisation that there is no end to suffering.

Has death taken a holiday or a permanent vacation?

The magic realism of puppetry brings the story to life.

Directed by  
Rod Primrose

Performed by  
Colleen Burke and Lachlan Plain

Designed by  
Colleen Burke

Based on a novel by  
José Saramago

Adapted by  
Colleen Burke and Rod Primrose

Music by  
Dave Evans

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

Approx 60 minutes

La Mama Courthouse



# THE CUTTING BOYS

MAY 28 - JUNE 8

Inspired by an horrific true story, *The Cutting Boys* is an uncompromising new work about two young men dangerously disconnected, that delivers its hits with the ferocity of a sledgehammer.

Please note: this production contains material that may upset or disturb.

Originally presented as part of Explorations 2010.

Written and Directed by  
Daniel Lammin

Performed by  
Nicholas Colla, Nigel Langley and Ilana Charnelle Gelbart

Produced by  
Anastasia Ryan

Lighting design by  
Brendan Jellie

Sound design by  
James Hogan

Image by  
Phoebe Taylor

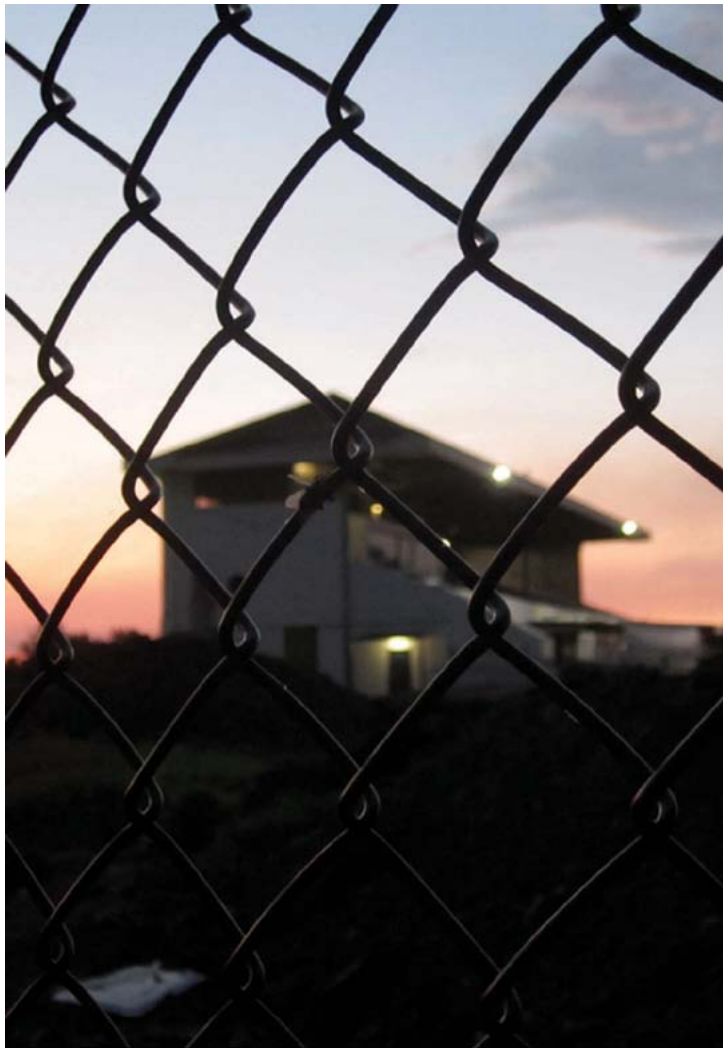
Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

Approx 90 minutes

La Mama Theatre







# LOVE TAPS

MAY 29 - JUNE 8

A love tap is the bit of a nudge you give your opposite number behind play that makes him fall down stunned but not damaged, just to show him who's the man - and you hope like hell the umpire isn't looking.

AFL hero Jesse Cosgrave is about to deal his coach and two best mates one heck of a love tap: he is coming out as a gay role model on 60 Minutes.

Written by  
Anna Lall

Directed by  
Shannon Woollard

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

Approx 60 minutes

La Mama Courthouse



# UNSEX ME

JUNE 11 - JUNE 15

Daughter of a theatre legend and a prima ballerina, award-winning actress Mark Wilson dissects her own story and her next job: being directed by her father as Lady Macbeth.

Grand performances, whispered confessions, and booming self-mockery combine as she prepares, promotes and performs the role of her life.

Written and performed by Mark Wilson

Set and costume design by Amaya Vecellio

Creative producer: Tobias Manderson Galvin

A production of MKA: Theatre of New Writing

**ARTS  
VICTORIA**



MKA: Theatre of New Writing is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

Approx 55 minutes

La Mama Courthouse



# WHEN THE CREAM SINKS TO THE BOTTOM

JUNE 12 - JUNE 22

In her book *BLACK SUN*, Julia Kristeva challenges the view that melancholia is strictly a pathology to be treated - an approach that supports the *raison d'être* of this piece.

This movement based performance by the Lloyd Jones On-song-ball continues an interest in enigmatic performance: a quest for challenging theatre with integrity, but without *fear or favour*.

Devised and directed by  
Lloyd Jones Ensemble

Participants include  
Jo Anne Armstrong, Pippa Bainbridge, Jessica Cherry, Robyn Clancy  
Amber Hart, Maureen Hartley, Justine Jansz, Howard Wilkinson,  
Elnaz Sheshgelani, Liz Jones, Aurora Darby, Tim Ferris, Gregory Fryer,  
Hoda Afshar, Lara Kose, Hannah La Rosi, Chris Molyneux, Caitlin Murphy  
Adam Simmons, Hannah Spracklan-Holl, Raymond Triggs, Scott Welsh  
Peter Murphy, Margherita Peluso, Adrian Prosen and Meika Clark (technician)

Wed - Sat 7pm | Sun 5.30pm

Approx 60 minutes

La Mama Theatre

(High Expectations Dive as Delusional Hope Surfaces)





# La Mama Cabaret Festival: MAY AND ALIA DO PIRATES! [of Penzance]

JUNE 18 - JUNE 29

It's the chance they've been waiting for.

The rest of the cast are missing in action (it's possible someone forgot to call them...) and now there is no other option. May and Alia are going to have to perform the whole of 'Pirates of Penzance' BY THEMSELVES.

A low-fi homage to the cheesy, over-the-top silly-ness of Gilbert and Sullivan's original masterpiece.

*"irresistibly daggy.. a winning mix of pantomime, slapstick, skilled vocal parody, and competitive vaudevillian clowning."*  
- The Age

Created and performed by  
May Jasper and Alia Vryens

Directed by  
Eva Johansen

Music and composition by  
Tim Beresford and Gabriel Lu

Adapted from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*

Wed, Fri, Sun 7pm | Thu, Sat 9pm

Approx 55 minutes

La Mama Courthouse



# La Mama Cabaret Festival: SONGS FROM THE MOVIES

JUNE 19 - JUNE 29

Hollywood comes to Melbourne for an evening of classic songs, comedy and trivia to test your movie knowledge.

Walk along the red carpet, order a vodka martini, and settle in for a night of glamour as Emily leads you on a journey through gems, old and new, from the silver screen.

Written and directed by  
Emily Yarrow and Peter Callow

Performed by  
Emily Yarrow

Set design by  
Rebecca Etchell

Wed, Fri, Sun 9pm | Thu, Sat 7pm

Approx 55 minutes

La Mama Courthouse



# THE ART OF FUCKING

JUNE 25 - JULY 6

Think Gen Y are a bunch of lazy whinging privileged inarticulate shallow douchebags? It's crossed our minds too, even though we're talking about ourselves.

What happens when life throws you a serious curve ball but you are unable to talk about it? This group of young people find themselves in a situation which will lead you to re-examine your ideas of Gen Y and our ability to navigate and tell our own story. It's pretty f\*cked.

Written by  
Phoebe Anne Taylor

Directed by  
James Shaw

Performed by  
Kristina Benton, Hannah Bolt, Siobhan Connors,  
Lisa Divissi, Isabel Hertaeg and Phoebe Anne Taylor

Wed, Sun 6.30pm | Thu, Fri, Sat 7.30pm

Approx 90 minutes

La Mama Theatre



*Mein Kampf*

"A beautifully directed and performed production of an outrageously funny and confronting play. Don't miss."

- Alison Croggon

"A rare opportunity to see this incredibly funny play performed."

- Rebecca Harkins-Cross, The Age



*My Life in the Nude*

"... beautiful, moving and affirming."

- Anne-Marie Peard, Sometimes Melbourne

"I would gladly have sat there another hour and be dazzled by Maude Davey's tales. A great show not to be missed."

- Myron My, Theatre Press

La Mama and fortyfivedownstairs present

# ENCORE

JULY 2 - JULY 27

A new creative partnership between La Mama and fortyfivedownstairs, ENCORE will give audiences a chance to see two of La Mama's finest 2013 productions - *Mein Kampf* and *My Life in the Nude* - for a return season in July at fortyfivedownstairs.

With both productions selling out in 2013, we're thrilled to see these shows given another life in 2014, with nearly as many people turned away as were squeezed in during their original La Mama season.

fortyfivedownstairs has established itself as one of Melbourne's most renowned and multi-faceted creative hubs. As an unfunded and not-for-profit organisation, it continues to support independent, experimental and thought-provoking art forms.

Through ENCORE, La Mama and fortyfivedownstairs are committed to delivering must-see theatre and extending the lives of incredible productions.

## SEASONS

*Mein Kampf*

July 2 - July 13

*My Life in the Nude*

July 16 - July 27

## TICKET PRICES

\$38 Adult | \$32 Concession

\$65 Adult ENCORE combo  
\$60 Concession ENCORE combo



fortyfive  
downstairs

La Mama and fortyfivedownstairs present ENCORE:

# MEIN KAMPF

JULY 2 - JULY 13

Winter. Vienna 19 ~ (Frau) Death stalks the streets. A young Hitler arrives from Braunau seeking fame and fortune as an artist. Meanwhile in a flophouse on Blood Street, Shlomo Herzl, a Jew, struggles with his magnum opus, *Mein Kampf*. Chaos ensues.

La Mama and fortyfivedownstairs proudly present a return season of George Tabori's acclaimed farce, a dizzying and demented play that blends multiple comic genres and humour both high and low.

Written by George Tabori

Directed by Beng Oh

Performed by Sarah Bollenberg, Mark Samuel Bonanno, Steve Gome, Samuel Macdonald, Glenn van Oosterom and Stephania Pountney

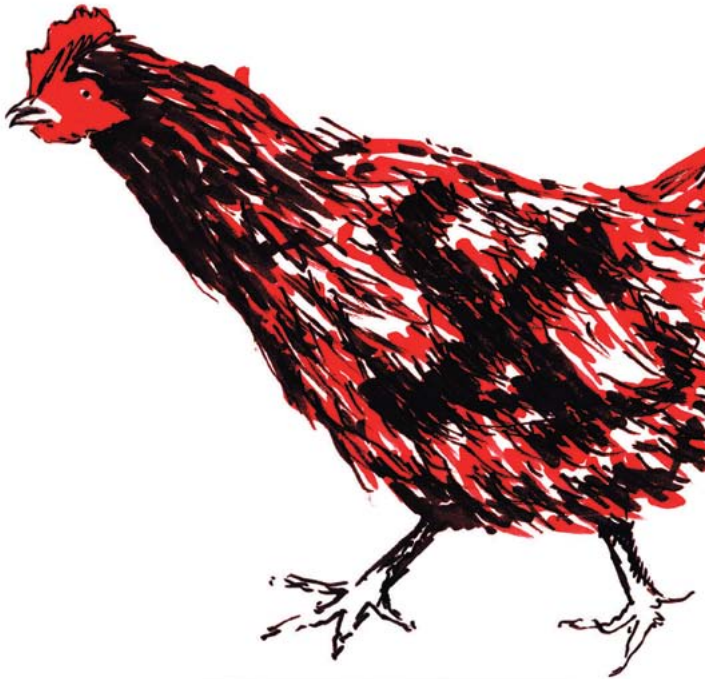
Designed by Peter Mumford

Lighting design by Stelios Karagiannis

Costume design by Amaya Vecellio

Sound design by Natasha Moszenin

Produced by 15 Minutes from Anywhere



  
fortyfive  
downstairs

Tue - Sat 8pm | Sun 6pm

Approx 110 minutes

fortyfivedownstairs  
45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne





La Mama and fortyfivedownstairs present ENCORE:  
**MY LIFE IN THE NUDE**

**JULY 16 - JULY 27**

In 2013 Maude Davey 'retired' her nude acts with this powerful and beautiful retrospective. She said it was the last time but, after an overwhelming response here she is, back in the nude again!

*"I laughed, I cried, I trembled, I ached – sublime!"*

A burlesque dissection of Maude's un-clothed career, *My Life in the Nude* is a celebration of the corporeal, a queer history lesson and an urgent affirmation of shared humanity all rolled up into two unmiss-able hours of brutally honest cabaret.

Written and performed by  
Maude Davey, with Deborah Eldred

Directed by  
Anni Davey

Designed by  
Isaac Lummis

Operation by  
Gina Gascoigne

Image by Paul Dunn

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body

**Tue - Sat 8pm | Sun 6pm**

Approx 120 minutes

fortyfivedownstairs  
45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

  
fortyfive  
downstairs

## LA MAMA FOR KIDS

# THE MAGIC THING-A-MAJIG

WITH FAIRY CAITLIN & SIMSALABIM



**MAY 17**

Two of Melbourne's most magical creatures team up to take you on a storytelling adventure that is out of this world!

Fairy Caitlin and Sim Sala Bim will whisk you away on a wild, wonderful and wacky adventure that will delight both boys and girls.

Performances are highly interactive and encourage children to express their creativity, expand their imagination, and become actively involved in the show. So put on your wizard hats and fairy wings and fly along to join in the fun with Fairy Caitlin, SimSalaBim and *The Magic Thing-a-majig!*

Suitable for ages 3+

11am & 2pm

Approx 45 minutes

All tickets \$15

La Mama Courthouse

## LA MAMA MUSICA



**MAY 12 @ La Mama Theatre**

Ian Dixon (trumpet, bird sounds)  
with Rick Chew (piano)

Howard Cairns (acoustic bass and concertina)  
with Adam Simmons (woodwinds)

**JUNE 2 @ La Mama Courthouse:**

PLAYING WITH DT

A big real-time celebration of the late David Tolley  
Curated by Dure Dara and Ren Walters

Tickets \$15 Full | \$10 Concession  
Box office 7pm | Performance 7.30pm

# LA MAMA POETICA



APRIL 15

Featuring:  
Barry Dickins, Anna Fern,  
Sean M Whelan and Reverse Butcher

La Mama Poetica is a night of some of the best spoken word and poetry that Melbourne has to offer, with a diverse selection of both emerging and established poets.

Tickets \$12 Full | \$8 Concession

Box office 7.30pm | Performance 8pm

La Mama Courthouse

# TRANS Collective Script Reading Series I

APRIL 26 | MAY 31 | JUNE 28

This script reading series aims to showcase original stage plays written by playwrights from Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

All plays will be rehearsed and read by Melbourne actors in their original written languages. English surtitles will be provided.

Curated and directed by  
Felix Ching Ching Ho

All tickets \$10

2pm

La Mama Theatre



# PALACE OF CULTURE



MAY 3

READING AND BOOKLAUNCH

Ania Walwicz launches *Palace of Culture*, based on dreams, self-analysis and psychodrama.

An enactment of the nighttime self.

A free event

2pm

La Mama Theatre

# THE PORTAGE OF LUKE RUSCHMEYER TO A.H

MAY 31

Sixteen year old Luke Ruschmeyer is a picture of alienation, barely leaving his room; until he meets the new teacher at school who introduces him to a new means of expression.

Shortlisted for the  
Vittum Playwrighting Award

Written by David Blackman

All tickets \$5 | 2pm | La Mama Courthouse



# JOIN OUR CAST OF SUPPORTING PLAYERS

VALE  
DAVID TOLLEY



image: Sarah Walker

Every year La Mama presents up to 44 Productions across our two venues in Carlton on a shoestring budget, with support from our funding partners and the magnificent work of our volunteers.

Be a Supporting Player at La Mama. Your donation of \$1000 will make possible one week of challenging and contemporary Australian theatre, by covering the costs of the production budget.

Every donor will be acknowledged by name in one of our four yearly season brochures.

You will also receive invitations to special events such as artist talks, forums and season launches.

To join La Mama's Cast of Supporting Players, or discuss other giving options simply contact Caitlin Dullard on 9347 6948 to find out more.

All donations of \$2 and above are tax deductible, and greatly appreciated.



It is with great sadness that we farewell musician, artist, teacher and friend, David Tolley.

David performed regularly at La Mama since 1976, usually with his beloved partner and La Mama Committee Member, Dur-é Dara.

Our sincere condolences to Dur-é and family.

La Mama would like to thank the following for their support in 2014:



## INFORMATION

Phone: 03 9347 6948

Email: [info@lamama.com.au](mailto:info@lamama.com.au)

Office Hours: Weekdays 10.30am – 5.30pm | Weekends 2pm – 4pm

## TICKETS

\$25 Full or \$15 Concession (unless otherwise listed)

via [www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au) or 03 9347 6142

Bookings close at 4pm on the day of the performance

## VENUES

La Mama Theatre, 205 Faraday Street, Carlton

La Mama Courthouse, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton

La Mama is on Wurundjeri land, part of the Kulin nation, and the Committee of Management, staff and wider theatrical community acknowledge its traditional custodians.

The La Mama community acknowledges the considerable support it has received in the past decade from Jeannie Pratt and The Pratt Foundation.

La Mama Theatre is registered by the Heritage Council Victoria and has received National Trust status.



La Mama is financially assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council – its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria – Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the City of Melbourne through the Arts and Culture triennial funding program.

