

11AM – 6.30PM
TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

BECKETT THEATRE
THE COOPERS MALHOUSE

2015
VICTORIAN
THEATRE FORUM
CHAMPIONS
OF CHANGE

TWEET
#VTF2015

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FORUM SCHEDULE

11:00am Registration and Networking (Foyer)

11:15am SESSION 1
Welcome and Introductions (The Beckett)
Keynote - Paying The Piper: There Has To Be A Better Way
(The Beckett)

12:30pm Lunch (Foyer)

1:00pm SESSION 2
It Had To Be You (The Beckett)
Sector Updates: Part 1 (The Beckett)
Group breakout sessions
(Bagging Room, Shell Room, Mezzanine,
The Beckett, Courtyard)
Report back (The Beckett)

3:10pm Afternoon Tea (Foyer)

3:25pm SESSION 3
Sector Updates: Part 2 (The Beckett)
Industry Panel: All Together Now (The Beckett)

5:00 – 6.30pm Networking Drinks (Malthouse Bar)

WELCOME TO TNV'S SIXTH ANNUAL VICTORIAN THEATRE FORUM – CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE.

We in the arts know that our outstanding achievements have only been possible because Australia has been so successful at recognising that development, experimentation, and nurturing of talent is fundamental to achieving 'excellence'. But, in the last six months, we have learned that we have not been successful enough advocates for ourselves. What do we need to do now to ensure that we have a united vision for the arts, and that we will not have the rug pulled out from under us again?

Gathering our members together enables us to continue strengthening the sector, so thank you for joining us as we have this important conversation.

As always, delegates are encouraged to talk to strangers in the breaks, as we continue building on the ideas sparked by the discussions. Be sure to flick through the delegate list and introduce yourself to new people.

Finally, it is your financial membership that allows us to continue connecting, leading and advocating for the theatre sector – **thank you!**

KEYNOTE

Launch of Currency House Platform Paper #45, 'Paying the Piper: There has to be a better way'. Keynote address from author Cathy Hunt, interviewed by Julian Meyrick.

Cathy Hunt is a cultural strategist based in Brisbane. Her previous professional experience was in the management of art centres, touring performing companies and festivals. Cathy has worked extensively on cultural policy development.

Julian Meyrick is a theatre historian, cultural policy analyst, award-winning theatre director and Strategic Professor of Creative Arts at Flinders University.

IT HAD TO BE YOU

TNV research update and icebreaker activity with the TNV team: Nicole Beyer (Director), Kath Fyffe (Business Manager) and Bethany Simons (Program Producer).

SECTOR UPDATES

NORM HORTON [FERAL ARTS] AND TAMARA WINIKOFF [NAVA/ARTSPEAK] FREE THE ARTS/SENATE INQUIRY UPDATE

Following six months of relentless advocacy on behalf of the Australian arts sector, two of the #FreeTheArts campaign leaders provide a brief recap.

DAVID EVERIST – [AUSTRALIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS] WHAT'S HAPPENING AT AUSCO?

It's been a tumultuous year for the Australia Council. A new program launch, funding cuts, and now rumours of returned money. Relationships Manager, Arts Infrastructure, David Everist, reports on what we might expect next.

TAM NGUYEN [INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS] 2016 ISPA CONGRESS

Tam Nguyen is a producer who has worked in the UK, USA and Australia. She is currently producing the 98th ISPA Congress to be held in Australia for the first time in 15 years. The congress will be hosted by Arts Centre Melbourne from May 30 – June 4, 2016. ISPA is a global network of 400 arts leaders.

**TANIA CANAS AND NATASHA
PHILLIPS [ECL ALUMNI]
EMERGING CULTURAL LEADERS**

ECL is Footscray Community Arts Centre's five-month skills development and mentoring program for emerging artists and cultural facilitators from Melbourne's west. Tania is a Melbourne-based arts professional with experience in performance, cultural development, events, communication and research. Natasha is a creative producer, theatre-maker and 2015 participant of the ECL Program at FCAC.

**STEPHEN ARMSTRONG
[ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE]
ASIA TOPA**

Stephen Armstrong, Creative Producer for Asian Performing Arts at Arts Centre Melbourne, reports on the recently announced \$2.25 million triennial festival that is set to make Melbourne the performing arts hub of the Asia Pacific.

**DR JANE KREIS
[THEATRE NETWORK NSW]
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NSW
THEATRE SECTOR?**

Theatre Network NSW (TNN) was formally established in late 2014 and currently has over 400 Associates and Peers. Director, Jane Kreis has over 20 years experience in the Australian arts & cultural industry. She lives in Grafton, Northern NSW, travelling extensively in her role as Director of TNN.

**FELIX CHING CHING HO
[INDEPENDENT THEATRE MAKER]
LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY ON STAGE:
APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION**

In 2016, Felix will curate 'Approximate Translation' for Malthouse. A guided performance exchange in translation, bilingualism/multilingualism and surtitling informed by Felix's personal encounters in cultural translation and intercultural projects, 'Approximate Translation' will look at linguistic diversity on stage and why it is important.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Delegates are invited to select ONE breakout session. Facilitated by industry experts, each topic is designed to launch a discussion inspired by our 2015 theme of arts advocacy.

**RICHARD WATTS
EXTRA, EXTRA! -
ADVOCACY IN THE MEDIA**

Richard Watts is ArtsHub's national performing arts writer; he also presents the weekly program SmartArts on community radio station Three Triple R. Richard is the founder of the Emerging Writers' Festival, and a life member of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival. He currently serves on the boards of La Mama and the journal Going Down Swinging, and is a member of the Green Room Awards Independent Theatre panel.

**NORM HORTON
AND TAMARA WINIKOFF
YES, MINISTER: THE ART OF WAR**

Norm Horton is one half of Feral Arts - one of Australia's leading community arts and cultural development companies. Committed to helping communities make the most of their stories in a digital age, Feral Arts are innovators in the field of digital storytelling, community mapping and database development. Norm specialises in partnerships in the arts, community, education, environment and health sectors, creating new ways to communicate and collaborate through stories.

Tamara Winikoff OAM is the Executive Director of the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) - the peak body representing the professional interests of the Australian visual and media arts, craft and design sector. It has been extremely effective in securing policy and legislative change, providing leadership to the sector and professional and career development training and resources for practitioners. Involved in the arts industry for thirty years, Tamara is well known in Australia as a cultural commentator, advocate and senior arts manager. She is the co-convenor of Arts Peak with Nicole Beyer.

**SIMON BEDFORD AND DAN KOOP
ALL IN THE MIX: INDIES
WORKING WITH MAJORS**

Simon Bedford is an independent producer, developing projects that encourage a sense of wonder and play. He is currently working with Roslyn Oades to create *In A Deep, Dark Forest*,

an immersive game for children as part of ArtPlay's New Ideas Lab and is also the Producer for Make Mend & Do, a UK theatre company. Simon was previously Executive Producer for Hoipolloi Theatre and Associate Producer (Digital) at Warwick Arts Centre.

Dan Koop is a Producer and Artist working in public and unusual spaces. Professionally, he has worked for contemporary multi artform venues and festivals and is currently the Creative Program Producer for Melbourne Fringe. Creatively, he makes performance works in unusual and public spaces that engage audiences to become participants. At the 2012 Next Wave Festival Dan and collaborators premiered *The Stream / The Boat / The Shore / The Bridge*, which was awarded a Melbourne Green Room Award for Outstanding Production.

**ALICE NASH
POLICY AND POLITICS: BUILDING
STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS**

Alice Nash has been the Executive Producer & Co-CEO of Back to Back Theatre since 2003. Under her stewardship, the company has toured to 92 destinations worldwide and become one of Australia's leading cultural exports. Previously, she was Acting General Manager and Associate Producer of Theatre at the Next Wave Festival and General Manager of the Big West Festival. Alice hails from Canada where she has worked with Edmonton's First Night Festival, Catalyst Theatre and Northern Light Theatre.

DAVID EVERIST
AUSTRALIA COUNCIL:
WHERE DO WE FIT IN?

David Everist is Relationship Manager, Arts Infrastructure at Australia Council. He works with Major Performing Arts Theatre Companies and Multi-Year funded theatre organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts organisations. David was involved in developing the Artistic Vibrancy e-Book. Prior to this he was Senior Arts Officer, Programming and Innovation, Arts Victoria. He has also worked at Arena Theatre and Footscray Community Arts Centre. He trained in theatre at Victorian College of the Arts.

ALIA GABRES, TANIA CANAS
AND GABRIELA GEORGES
LEADING THE CHARGE:
PATHWAYS FOR CULTURAL
LEADERS

Alia Gabres is a Melbourne based Poet & Storyteller. As Associate Producer in Arts Programming at the Footscray Arts Centre and also Undertaking Victorian College of the Arts Masters research, her main interest is in using arts practice as a site for knowledge generation and cultural transmission. Alia has curated and participated in national and international Spoken Word events and projects with major festivals and acclaimed poets.

Tania Cañas is the Arts Director at *RISE Refugee*, a PhD at the VCA and Editorial Board member for the International PTO Academic Journal. Tania is interested in the intersection of performance and research - having facilitated, performed and presented

at conferences both nationally and internationally. She worked in prisons and with a youth group in Northern Ireland, developed a Forum Theatre play with women in the Solomon Islands and conducted Theatre of the Oppressed Dramaturgy Masterclasses at Rhodes University, South Africa. Her monologue, 'Untouchable', was published with Currency Press 2013 and she has since toured the piece in the US.

Gabriela Georges is an inclusive performing arts practitioner and performer who works with community groups through a collaborative process, integrating the ideas and experiences of group members into performances. She has worked with groups ranging from youth to seniors and is currently studying a Master of Community Cultural Development at Victorian College of the Arts.

IAN PIDD
THE ROLE OF OPTIMISM

Ian Pidd is a Melbourne based freelance director of theatre and festivals. His theatre credits include works for Back To Back Theatre, Snuff Puppets, The Business, Polyglot Theatre, Men Of Steel and many others. Ian has been the artistic director of festivals as diverse as Moomba and The Works, Junction Festival, The Village and The Falls. Ian's productions have been seen all over Australia and in many parts of Europe, Asia and the USA. Ian works in a variety of contexts, but has a particular interest in creating works that are highly participatory and which feature professional and vernacular artists working side by side.

**FELIX CHING CHING HO
AND SIMON ABRAHAMS
HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND WISE:
SUSTAINABLE INDEPENDENT
PRACTICE**

Felix Ching Ching Ho is a Hong Kong-born Melbourne-based independent theatre director, performer and cultural mediator. She initiated TRANS COLLECTIVE in 2013 to explore multilingual performance practice. As a director/assistant director, she has worked with MKA: Theatre of New Writing, Union House Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Arts Centre Melbourne, National Theatre of China and Malthouse Theatre. Trained in Viewpoint, Suzuki and Butoh, Felix is a part of the Women Director's Program at MTC for 2015.

Simon Abrahams is a strategic arts consultant and creative producer with recognition as one of Australia's arts and cultural leaders. He is currently the Creative Director & CEO of Melbourne Fringe and has held senior programming and executive positions at the Wheeler Centre, Arts Centre Melbourne, Polyglot Theatre and Gasworks Arts Park. He sits on the Theatre Panel for the Helpmann Awards and the Contemporary and Experimental Performance Panel for the Green Room Awards.

INDUSTRY PANEL

**All Together Now:
How independents, small to medium
and major companies rely on each other
for a vibrant theatre sector as a whole.**

Panel: Leticia Cáceres, Nicola Gunn,
Matthew Lutton and Rachael Maza.

Facilitator: Nicole Beyer

If the past seven months in Australian arts have taught us anything, it's that we can't allow government decisions to divide us as a sector. We know that we rely on each other for artistic vibrancy and sector sustainability. In this panel, we talk to four performance makers about making work within an imposed hierarchy, whether there is a need for different models, and about the drags and the delights of true collaboration.

Leticia Cáceres is the Associate Director of Melbourne Theatre Company. As a director, she has been lauded as one of the most exciting talents in the country having directed productions for various Australian companies including Belvoir, Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite Theatre and Melbourne Theatre Company. She is the co-founder of nationally-acclaimed independent theatre company RealTV whose seminal work *Hoods* won the 2009 Matilda Award for Best Independent Production.

Nicola Gunn is a Melbourne-based performance artist and theatremaker. She is known for her solo work that blends performance, art and anthropology to explore the fragility of the human condition with subversive humour. In 2013 she was the recipient of an Australia Council Creative Australia Fellowship and she is currently completing her Masters of Art in Public Spaces at RMIT. Recent works include: Piece for Person and Ghetto Blaster, A Social Service, In Spite of Myself, Hello my name is and At the Sans Hotel.

Matthew Lutton is Malthouse Theatre's Artistic Director and Co-CEO. He has directed for Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir, Griffin Theatre Company, the Bavarian State Opera, West Australian Opera, Opera Australia, New Zealand Opera and Opera Queensland. From 2002 to 2012 Matthew was the director of Perth-based theatre company Thinlce, and from 2012 to 2014 he was an Associate Artist (Direction) for Malthouse Theatre.

Rachael Maza's work spans the Australian film, television and theatre industry with performance credits including the AFI award winning *Radiance*, *Cosi* and *Lillian's Story*. A WAAPA graduate, Rachael's outstanding performances have been acknowledged with a Green Room Award and a Sydney Theatre Critics Circle award. Rachael has also worked as a narrator for ABC Radio National and as Indigenous Liaison Advisor on films such as the multi-award winning *Rabbit Proof Fence*. Rachael first directed for ILBIJERRI Theatre Company in 1992 and rejoined the company as Artistic Director in 2009.

Tania Canas	Independent
Jamie Marie Lewis	Independent
Alison Halit	Independent
Clare McKenzie	KAGE
Caitlin Dullard	La Mama
Liz Jones	La Mama
Lyall Brooks	Lab Kelpie
Adam FawcettA	Lab Kelpie
Holly Crain	Live Performance Australia
Annette Vieusseux	Lucy Guerin Inc
Claire Bradley Duke	Lucy Guerin Inc
Matthew Lutton	Malthouse Theatre
Amanda Macri	Malthouse Theatre
Alice Muhling	Malthouse Theatre
Mark Pritchard	Malthouse Theatre
Caris Harper	Melbourne Festival
Felix Preval	Melbourne Fringe
Simon Abrahams	Melbourne Fringe
Dan Koop	Melbourne Fringe/Independent
Virginia Lovett	Melbourne Theatre Company
Leticia Caceres	Melbourne Theatre Company
Elizabeth Dawson-Smith	Miss Friby
Tamara Winikoff	National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA)
Georgie Meagher	Next Wave
Nicola Gunn	Nicola Gunn/SANS HOTEL
Clair Korobacz	one step at a time like this
Julian Rickert	one step at a time like this
Suzanne Kersten	one step at a time like this
Sharon Thompson	one step at a time like this
Sarah Parsons	Outback Theatre for Young People
Kate Gillick	Outer Urban Projects
Amelia Bartak	Phillip Adams BalletLab
Phillip Adams	Phillip Adams BalletLab
Rose Godde	Platform Youth Theatre Inc
Myf Clark	Platform Youth Theatre Inc
Julie Wright	Polyglot Theatre
Viv Rosman	Polyglot Theatre
Sue Giles	Polyglot Theatre
Cathy Hunt	Positive Solutions
Josephine Daly	PUMP Theatre
Adrian Corbett	Punctum Inc
Jude Anderson	Punctum Inc
Kirsty Hillhouse	Red Stitch Actors Theatre
Ella Caldwell	Red Stitch Actors Theatre
Ella Bucovaz	Regional Arts Victoria
Kane Forbes	Regional Arts Victoria
Rosie Dwyer	Regional Arts Victoria
Suzi Cordell	Regional Arts Victoria
Gemma Robertson	Showcase Victoria 2016
Neal Harvey	Sidney Myer Fund & The Myer Foundation
Andy Freer	Snuff Puppets
Angela Pamic	Snuff Puppets
Lauren White	St Martins
Narda Shanley	St Martins
Lucy Freeman	Straightjacket Productions
Daisy Douglas	The Substation
Brad Spolding	The Substation
Nicole Beyer	Theatre Network (Vic)
Kath Fyffe	Theatre Network (Vic)
Bethany Simons	Theatre Network (Vic)
Jane Kreis	Theatre Network NSW
Petra Kalive	Union House Theatre
Jenny Ryssenbeek	VAPAC
James Thomas Lawson	Vessel
Jim Rimmer	VicHealth
Tanya Gerstle	Victorian College of the Arts
Melissa O'Donovan	Wide Open Eye
Devon Taylor	Women's Circus

THEATRE NETWORK VIC

Theatre Network Vic (TNV) advocates for the professional theatre industry. Our work focuses on strengthening the independent and small to medium sectors, and increasing connection between all parts of the theatre industry.

NICOLE BEYER - DIRECTOR

Nicole joined TNV as its founding Director in May 2009. Since that time, TNV has grown to be an influential, nationally significant service organisation. Nicole's past positions include CEO roles at Back To Back Theatre, Young People and the Arts Australia and Arts Access Victoria. Nicole is currently co-convenor of ArtsPeak national, and on the boards of the Arts Industry Council (Vic), the Performing Arts Touring Alliance, the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association, and the Deakin Arts and Cultural Management Program. As the daughter of European immigrants, and the mother of adopted Chinese children, Nicole has a strong commitment to diversity in the arts. Nicole has a Masters of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) from Monash University (2013).

E: nicole@tnv.net.au

BETHANY SIMONS – PROGRAM MANAGER

Born and raised in Dubbo, NSW, Bethany is a four-time Green Room Award nominated writer and performer. Her work has toured extensively throughout Australia, appeared on the 2012 & 2015 VCE Drama Playlist and been awarded the RAVE Touring Award from Regional Arts Victoria for outstanding contribution to regional arts and culture. Bethany has experience as a teaching artist, workshop facilitator, producer, arts administrator and writer. She regularly directs drama, playwriting and industry workshops across Australia. Bethany joined TNV in 2014.

E: bethany@tnv.net.au

KATH FYFFE – BUSINESS MANAGER

Kath joined TNV in early 2015, following many years as General Manager of The Border Project, an experimental theatre company based in Adelaide (2003-2015). After completing her Honours Degree in Performance at Flinders Drama Centre in Adelaide, she became a founding member of The Border Project, collaborating on all of the company's work, and has held several other positions within the management team including Creative Producer and Finance & Operations Manager. As an actor Kath has performed for Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, State Theatre Company SA, Windmill and Patch, and pops up in TV series and voice-overs from time to time.

E: kath@tnv.net.au

TNV BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Simon Abrahams, Alice Nash, Jill Smith, Gorkem Acaroglu, Sarah Austin, Catherine Jones, Brad Spolding and Annette Vieusieux.

T: (03) 8640 6014

W: www.tnv.net.au

222 Bank Street, South Melbourne 3205

Twitter: @TheatreNetworkV

Facebook: Theatre Network Victoria

THANKS

All our speakers and facilitators, especially those who travelled from interstate; Sarah Neal, Anita Posterino, Dexter Varley and all at Malthouse Theatre; Katharine Brisbane, Martin Portus and Priscilla Yates at Currency House; Hannah Bailey; Natasha Phillips; Ben Wright; Simon Abrahams, Alice Nash and the TNV Board; all at Creative Victoria; and all of the delegates who ensure that we stay connected and keep talking about the crucial issues for the arts.

Event Producer: Bethany Simons

TNV Intern: Hannah Bailey

Design: imbenwright.com

