



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this nation and honour their continued cultural and spiritual connection to the lands, waters and seas. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, on whose land we work, live and share stories.

We acknowledge that our theatre is located on Gadigal land.

This land was home to storytelling long before Monkey Baa and we are grateful for the privilege of sharing our stories today. We engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, supporting their right to self-determine artistic identity, while promoting artists and community engagement.

Always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

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"MONKEY BAA IS RENOWNED
FOR PRODUCING
AWARD-WINNING,
OUTSTANDING
THEATRE THAT IS VIBRANT,
THOUGHT-PROVOKING
[AND] IMAGINATIVE."

– BRAD RUSH GEELONG ARTS CENTRE Monkey Baa makes great theatre for young people for over 24 years we presented award-winning theatrical experiences that inspire and empower young people across Australia and internationally.

For the past decade, Monkey Baa has made its home at the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre in Sydney and on Gadigal land. This is where we work, play and produce high-quality theatre.

We are one of Australia's widest touring companies with 28 national tours to 135 regional and remote communities, 5 international tours and over 3000 performances reaching over 1.5 million young people.

Nearly a quarter of a century of operation requires resilience and ingenuity. Much has changed since its inception in 1997 – particularly in the past 2 years – but Monkey Baa's appetite for development, transformation and renewal remains the same.

company profile



young people are at the centre of everything we do.

"THEATRICAL EXPERIENCES HAVE ENORMOUS IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE, IMPACTS THEY CARRY THROUGH INTO THEIR ADULTHOOD..."



2021 ONCE AGAIN DISRUPTED ALL OUR LIVES PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY AND TESTED OUR COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE FOR CULTURAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY.

The Australian Arts sector faced ongoing systemic challenges that required adaptive practices and government support to enable us all to emerge from the rubble of lockdowns and ongoing cancellations.

The Monkey Baa team once again rose to these challenges and proactively demonstrated their creative and business acumen as a leading theatre company for young people. Led by the exceptional management team, Artistic Director Eva Di Cesare and Executive Director Kevin du Preez, the company harnessed the complexity with a plan, pivot, and develop strategy to ensure a production ready season could launch in 2022 at our Darling Harbour ARA Theatre home and to re-ignite touring around the country.

In 2022 we celebrate our 25th year and in response we have set an innovative and progressive strategic direction for the next 5 years. This new vision consolidates our belief that young people are at the centre of Australia's future. Theatrical experiences have enormous impact on young people, impacts they carry through into their adulthood, and we are in an incredibly privileged position to provide these experiences to young people all over Australia. Monkey Baa's unique focus is centred around respect, nurturing young people, and supporting them to lead their own way into the future they want to create. The Board is honoured to be part of a company delivering these life shaping experiences, and we thank Kevin du Preez for leading this new strategy with rigour and detail.

chair's report

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING A BRIGHTER STORY TOGETHER IN 2022 AND BEYOND

A renewed strategic direction is guided by our refreshed board. In 2021 we welcomed Csaba Fekete and Dr Wendy Were to our board, both passionate about theatre and young people. Csaba brings his experience in digital innovation to Monkey Baa, and Dr Wendy's plethora of senior creative leadership experience is invaluable to the board. Thank you for extending your skills and passions to Monkey Baa.

Lastly, a big thank you to you. If you purchased a ticket, donated, attended a show, created art with us, or engaged with us in any capacity, you are part of Monkey Baa's story for 2021. We look forward to building a bigger and brighter story together in 2022 and beyond.

LIBBIE DOHERTY



HELLO AND A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!

It's unusual to join a theatre company during a lockdown, with no performances, no rehearsals, and all the makers and the doers working from home, but 2021 was an unusual year to say the least.

When the unthinkable happens (again), and six months of programming is postponed, the opportunity arises to have a real good look at what we do, why we do it, and who we do it for. 2021 was an opportunity to connect with our stakeholders – yes all the artists, creatives, donors, board members, but also the young people we create for – reimagine our strategy for the next five years, and refocus on what is important, working with and for young people.

In developing our strategy we spoke to over 50 young people, artists, creatives and industry colleagues all over the country, and of course our core team and board. Our new strategy reflects who Monkey Baa is, and who we are committing to be moving forward, an organisation working with young people at the centre of what we do, facilitating connection, respect, and artistic creativity all whilst building a company that is resilient, sustainable, and enables our artistic goals.

executive director's report

2021 WAS A TIME TO REFLECT AND RE-IMAGINE AND RECONNECT WITH THE CORE OF WHO WE ARE AS AN ORGANISATION Whilst a dark theatre allows for reflection, there is no way to deny that being a theatre company with no theatre is a difficult position to be in. The support provided by local, state, and federal governments during lockdown and beyond as postponed shows can finally come to reality has been instrumental to sustaining us as both a theatre company and a business. It has enabled us to continue engaging artists, develop new works, upgrade parts of our theatre, and stay focused on young people.

As we bring down the curtain on 2021, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our board, the Monkey Baa team, and especially my Artistic Director Eva Di Cesare. May 2022 bring us more making and doing, it's a pleasure to be here.

KEVIN DU PREEZ





IF 2020 WAS UNPRECEDENTED TIMES, 2021 WAS THE "YES AND" ON TOP OF IT.

So many of us waved a joyful goodbye to 2020, feeling optimistic for the year ahead, only to be met with the unique set of challenges handed to us by 2021, a year that proved to be an exercise in adaptability, collaboration, and patience.

Despite an ongoing year of challenges, COVID, closed theatres and closed borders, we have managed to create, tour, and engage with young people all over the country. Our national tour of Pete the Sheep made it to 24 communities on the tour, even making it to Western Australia! This wonderful work connected with over 15,000 young people and brought light and joy to what was a tough year for many.

Agility is important at a time like this. Imperative even. Monkey Baa was already adapting when COVID hit. 2020 and 2021 were the years we were transitioning. I was appointed Artistic Director for 2021, Sandie Eldridge appointed Artistic Associate. Commissioning writers and artists rather than creating all work internally, to make larger scale works, creating foundation programs to support emerging artists, sharing stories from all cultures living in Australia was our pivot, our evolving into a new refreshed organisation.

artistic director's report



GIVEN THE CHALLENGES
OF THE YEAR WE ARE
SO THRILLED THAT WE
CONNECTED WITH OVER
20,000 YOUNG PEOPLE

2021 saw the engagement of our first creative associate, Mayu Iwasaki, an extraordinary puppeteer and theatre maker. She is the first of what I know will be a long line of diverse artists nurtured by Monkey Baa to share their stories and skills. Working with artists from all backgrounds, abilities, and experiences is of utmost importance to our growth as an inclusive, diverse theatre company.

The nationwide presenters, artists, and creatives are instrumental to making Monkey Baa tick. It takes a village to raise a child and to put on a show, and without those many hands, and the young people we work for and with, Monkey Baa would not be what it is today.

We now wave goodbye to 2021, hello to 2022 – Monkey Baa's 25th year – and another year full of creativity, art, and sharing stories.

EVA DI CESARE











260 YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ORGANISATION

2021 snapshot



NEW WORK IN DEVELOPMENT OR SELF PRESENTED

170
ARTISTS +
CULTURAL WORKERS
ENGAGED

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



WE ARE AUSTRALIA'S MOST WIDELY
TOURED ARTS ORGANISATION +
BY PARTNERING WITH LIKEMINDED
VENUES WE MAKE OUR WORK
ACCESSIBLE TO YOUNG PEOPLE
+ THEIR COMMUNITIES ACROSS
AUSTRALIA. 2021 WAS NO DIFFERENT.

28
NATIONAL TOURS

135
REGIONAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

3500 PERFORMANCES

1.5 million+



5
INTERNATIONAL TOURS

regional touring + engagement



Monkey Baa Theatre Company provides quality arts learning experiences for young people. Our work with teachers and students links to our productions and serves our aspiration that theatre is an intrinsic part of every young person's life.

2021 was a particularly difficult year for students and teachers with stop-start schooling and online lessons. Throughout the year we stayed connected with our school community and were thrilled that some programs still could continue.

2021 TEACHING ARTISTS TOUR

For every Monkey Baa production, we run pre-show drama-based workshops around the country to prepare students to see the performance at their local theatre. In 2021, teaching artists engaged with over 2,300 students before they attended the performance of Pete the Sheep.

In 2021 Monkey Baa adopted the approach of "state based" Teaching Artists, employing artists from the region in which they would tour. This is an approach that Monkey Baa is committed to continue fostering. We found that it enhanced the experience for all by having the artists from those regions, with those existing connections undertaking the workshop tour.

In conjunction with our productions national tour, the teaching artist tour in 2021 was especially a way for Monkey Baa to embody its ethos of reaching young people wherever they may live and providing deeper experiences for them in connecting them to the art and their community.

PETE THE SHEEP

workshops 86 attendees 2,344

TEACHING ARTISTS

Julia Lowe (VIC), Jonothan Chan (NSW), Emele Ugavule (WA), Georgia Wilkinson-Derums (WA), Alexander Butt (QLD)



arts learning program

THE TOUR STARTED AFTER AN OPENING SEASON AT OUR HOME, ARA DARLING QUARTER THEATRE.

We then visited a range of Sydney venues with 14 performances including Riverside Theatres Parramatta and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. The touring party then made their way to Mildura in Victoria before they head to Western Australia.

The WA leg of the tour was a great success with visits to Esperance, Albany, Moora, Margaret River, Merredin and Crawley. At this point, we were managing and monitoring COVID very closely and were concerned about what was happening in Victoria at the time. Luckily, the touring party made it into Victoria and were not affected with the WA border closures.

However, our plans quickly changed when there was a major outbreak in Victoria. We decided to return the company to NSW for a 3-week paid leave period. The company then returned to Victoria to perform in locations such as Geelong, Warrnambool and Moonee Ponds. We then got to Tasmania. But not with a major "hick-up". One of our artists were identified as a close contact and had to go into 2-week isolation. We sent an understudy to Tasmania to cover this situation. We performed in Hobart and Devonport.

Instead of returning the party to NSW, we decided to send them directly to Queensland to be able to continue the tour. At the time the situation in NSW was escalating. We just made it and was so grateful that we could complete most of our Queensland tour. There were smaller outbreaks in Queensland towards the end of the tour, and we included a digital

CAST

Joe Dinn, Andrew James, Joe Kalou + Oliver Lacy

CREW

Cally Bartley, Touring Stage Manager

Dana Lopollo, Touring Technical Coordinator

pete the sheep 2021 national tour

" PEOPLE ENJOYED THIS STORY
AND THE AUDIENCES WERE VERY
HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO WITNESS
LIVE PERFORMANCES AGAIN.
THE CHILDREN LOVED THE STORY
AND LAUGHED VERY LOUD"

- ARTS MARGARET RIVER

Based on the quirky and classic Australian picture book, Jackie French's characters have been cleverly adapted for the stage by Monkey Baa. With music and funny lyrics created by Phil Scott and the comedic imagination of Jonathan Biggins as Director, audiences were engaged in foot-tapping storytelling.

dates24 april – 24 augustcommunities24performances88audience members15,488











pete the sheep 2021 national tour



WE WORKED CLOSELY WITH OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS TO ATTEND OUR SHOWS AT THE THEATRE.

Due to significant restrictions, many schools had to cancel their plans for excursions. Through careful planning and integrated COVID safety plans, over 1,200 students did manage to attend our education season. By comparison, we normally attract about XX students per year and we now look forward to a return to pre-COVID numbers.

ATTENDENCE

schools attended	35
students attended	1,214

YEARS K-4

show	pete the sheep
dates	29 March – 1 April
schools	13
students	853
teachers	71

YEARS 7-10

show	amphibian
dates	15 – 16 June
schools	3
students	181
teachers	11

YEARS 11-12

show	neigbourhood watch seminar
dates	3–5 March
schools	19
students	180
teachers	24

OUR EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL PLAYS AN INTEGRAL PART IN INFORMING THE WORK WE DO TO CONNECT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WITH THE WORK OF MONKEY BAA.

IN 2021, WE RE-ESTABLISHED THE PANEL + OUR EDUCATION MANAGER IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GROUP AT REGULAR ONLINE MEETINGS.

PANEL MEMBERS

Simon Ward, AMPA (NSW)

Sean Mcloughlin, Darcy Road Public School (NSW)

Michelle Beresford, Eulo Public (QLD)

Mark McKendrick, Wattawa Heights Public School (NSW)

Kimberley Colquhoun (NSW)

Jordan Shea, Marcellin Catholic College (NSW)

Melanie Griffith (QLD)

Henrietta Stathopoulos (NSW)

Shannen Mack, Abbotsford Public School (NSW)

Caroline Sparkles (NSW)

Georgie Walker, Red Hill Consolidated School (VIC)

Genevieve de Souza, Epping Boys High School (NSW)





MONKEY BAA IS ENDORSED TO PROVIDE NESA REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS ACCREDITED AS A PROFICIENT TEACHER IN NSW.

DRAMA AS A TEACHING TOOL

We again delivered our very successful Drama as a Teaching Tool workshop. The workshop guide teacher with techniques to teach Numeracy through teamwork and movement, and Literacy through tableaux and Playbuilding!

professional development

IN 2021, WE PRESENTED A LIMITED SEASON WITH A RANGE OF PRODUCTIONS MOVED TO 2022 DUE TO THE LOCKDOWNS AND RESTRICTIONS.

WE ARE THRILLED THAT WE MANAGED TO PRESENT SEVERAL WORKS TO AUDIENCES IN SYDNEY!

Our annual season is a curated mix of shows that are created and presented for young people of all ages, from young children to teenagers. Our season includes shows created by Monkey Baa and other works from Australian and international theatre companies.

SELF-PRESENTED SEASON			
PETE THE SHEEP	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SEMINAR		

PRESENTED SEASON		
THE BOX SHOW	AMPHIBIAN	CLASS CLOWN

presented + produced season





" THERE'S A CHANCE THAT IT WILL PROVIDE STIMULUS FOR REAL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LANGUAGE, THEATRE, DIFFERENCE + CHALLENGING THE HERD MENTALITY."

- SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

This hilarious musical comedy, imaginatively told by four performers playing shearers, dogs and sheep explores the challenges and rewards of being an individual, and will be a lasting tribute to honouring your own spirit and strength, whilst working with the flock!

season 29 March – 17 April performances 27 attendance 2,413

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director Jonathan Biggins
Composer/lyricist Phil Scott
Set + costume designer James Browne
Sound designer Kingsley Reeve
Lighting designer Mathew Marshall
Rehearsal choreographer
Cast Joe Dinn, Andrew James,
Joe Kalou + Oliver Lacy

Based on the book by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley Adapted for the stage by Eva Di Cesare, Sandie Eldridge and Tim McGarry

pete the sheep self-presented season

"I TOOK MY HSC STUDENTS TO THIS INCURSION AT ARA DOT + I CANNOT RECOMMEND IT ENOUGH! THE CONTENT COVERED SAVED ME WEEKS OF TEACHING. THE ACTING. LIGHTING + DESIGN WAS TO A HIGH STANDARD + PROVIDED MY STUDENTS WITH PLENTY OF EXAMPLES THEIR DRAMA ESSAYS. THE LEARNING MATERIAL + **Q&A WERE LINKED WITH NSW SYLLABUS.** MOST IMPORTANTLY, MY STUDENTS HAD A LOT OF FUN WATCHING THEATRE!'

- LAUREN PEGUS, THE AUSTRALIAN PERFORMING ARTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Aimed at Stage 6 students studying HSC Drama, Neighbourhood Watch Seminar delves into the themes. theatrical devices and worlds of Neighbourhood Watch by Lally Katz with Director Sandra Eldridge and Education Consultant Michael Mitchell.

Students actively discussed a range of topics with the actors and director, helping to inform their own views and critical thinking on the play.

SEASON

performances attendance

CAST AND CREATIVES

Writer & Director **Education Consultant** Sound Associate

3-5 MARCH



neighbourhood watch seminar self-presented season



In the hands of Junkyard Beats, ordinary household items are transformed into extraordinary musical instruments and unwanted junk comes alive in exciting and surprising ways!

PRESENTED BY SEASON

JUNKYARD BEATS 14 – 16 JANUARY

performances 6 attendance 688

CAST AND CREATIVES

Creator/Producer Oded Prior
Writers Oded Prior + Nigel Turner-Carroll
Director Nigel Turner-Carroll

- "THE AUDIENCE STAND + CHEER WANTING MORE FROM THE PERFORMERS + THE CROWD IS FULL OF SMILES AS THEY EXIT THE STAGE."
- THE SOURCE NEWS,
 WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL

the box show presented season

For over two decades, Class Clowns has helped hundreds of funny, young peeps hone their comedy potential. This one-of-a-kind secondary school comedy competition was a hit in 2021.

PRESENTED BY

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL 11 MARCH

SEASON

participants 18 attendance 50

"HOW ARE THESE KIDS SO DAMN GOOD?
I BETTER ENJOY THE SPOTLIGHT WHILE
IT LASTS BECAUSE IN A FEW YEARS
THEY WILL BE TAKING MY JOB!'

JOEL CREASEY,
 COMEDIAN & CLASS CLOWNS JUDGE

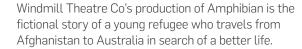
class clowns presented season







" A MUST-SEE WORK FOR TEENAGERS AND ADULTS THAT COULD HELP START SOME IMPORTANT **CONVERSATIONS."** - SINDAILY



A WINDMILL THEATRE COMPANY **PRODUCTION**

SEASON 15 JUNE

Performances Attendance 205

CAST AND CREATIVES

Director Sasha Zahra Meg Wilson Designer Composer + sound designer Ian Moorhead Lighting + audio visual designer Mark Pennington Cultural consultants Muzafar Ali + Elyas Alavi Cast includes Rami Saaid







Our theatre making includes new writing, adaptation and reinterpretation. We collaborate with exceptional artists, sharing and extending our practice as we explore new ways of making theatre. While our doors were shut for parts of 2021, we used the time to progress our creative developments.

IN DEVELOPMENT 2021

YONG

Set against the backdrop of the Australian Goldrush of 1857, Yong is a new Australian play by Jenevieve Chang. Mixing historical fact and narrative fiction, Yong takes us on a journey across land and sea, from China to the goldfields of Australia.

The production Yong is based on the book, Yong: the journey of an unworthy son by Janeen Brian.

Script development: in 2021



Year in production: 2022**

* Little Bozu is being developed by Monkey Baa's inaugural Creative Associate, Mayu Iwasaki.

** Subject to change.



create + commission new work



Year in production: 2022**

THE DARKLINGS

Written by award-winning playwright Lachlan Philpott, this immersive, large-scale theatrical production is based on the children's book 'The Duck and the Darklings' by Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King.

Fusing puppetry, storytelling and an experiential adventure, this adaptation will be co-created with young people to bring deeper understanding of the dislocation felt by the dispossessed.

Script development in 2021





Year in production: 2024**

LITTLE BOZU*

A tale of self-acceptance and empathy with puppetry, multimedia and physical comedy. Little Bozu follows a Shapeshifting Raccoon and a Misunderstood Fox from different worlds.

They find each other in a shared need for friendship, and from it come to accept their own differences. After a series of mistaken identities, Pon Pon and Kon Kon find solace in each other's shared uniqueness.

Research & Development in 2021



create + commission new work

IN 2021, WE LAUNCHED THE PENNY COOK CREATIVE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM.
AN INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO MENTOR + SUPPORT DIVERSE ARTISTS
BY PROVIDING THEM WITH TIME, SPACE + RESOURCES TO CREATE THEIR OWN
WORK. AN ANNUAL INTAKE WELCOMES NEW ARTISTS IN THE PROGRAM.

PROGRAM LAUNCH

We hosted a special launch event in April 2021. The program seeks to uncover diverse, innovative theatre-makers; welcoming them into the heart of the company and intimately supporting them in their development.

Chosen through an extensive selection process, an artist will be invited to join our team for a 2-year part-time engagement. They will learn about Monkey Baa processes and be guided by our creative team to produce a public presentation of their own work in the second year.

Each Creative Associate will dictate how we work together and works could include fully-realised productions, moved readings, digital experiences, or workshops...the sky is the limit!

By integrating diverse artists into the company, Monkey Baa aims to shift the landscape of Theatre for Young People. Untold stories will come to our stages and artists will be given space to develop skills in making theatre for young people.

"THE PROGRAM WAS BORN OUT
OF A DESIRE FOR MONKEY BAA TO ELEVATE
+ PROMOTE EMERGING + COURAGEOUS
ARTISTS WHO HAVE A STORY + A PRACTICE
TO DEVELOP + SHARE. TO CHAMPION
VOICES NOT OFTEN SEEN OR HEARD
ON OUR STAGES."

- EVA DI CESARE

MAYU IWASAKI

Mayu is our inaugural Creative Associate and is a bilingual Japanese actress, puppeteer, and theatre-maker. With a BA in Film Studies & Performing Arts from UNSW, she is also a graduate of David Mamet's Atlantic Theatre Conservatory with extensive international and national performance experience.

As a cultural advisor, playwright, translator, and movement director she has created ensemble work, lead workshops, and created curriculum content for high school and diploma students.

Mayu aspires to challenge stereotypes and bring more diverse Asian characters to the screen and stage. She is currently developing, Bozu, a new work with her collaborators, George Zhao and Nicholas O'regan.

penny cook creative associates program



LAUNCH SUPPORTERS

We thank all our amazing donors who have so generously given to support the launch of this program in 2021. All our donations were matched by funding received from Creative Partnerships Australia through their Plus1 program.

We thank everyone in achieving this goal with us.

\$53,712.45

Edward Federman, Emma White, Ruth Armytage,
Mylie Hagan, Meredith Fannelli, Wendy Brooks, Lenore
Robertson, Libbie Doherty, Richard Tulloch, Kerry
Comerford, Ann & Quinn Sloan, Jane Recny, Natalie
Reichel, Mary Hare, Genevieve Clay-Smith, Tim Mcgarry,
Samantha Guthleben, Richard Milroy, Eva Di Cesare,
Susanne Gervay, Tallis Richmond, Sue-Anne Wallace,
Mitra Khakbaz and Binny Talib

\$53,712.45

creative partnerships australia **\$107,424.90**

PENNY COOK

CREATIVE ASSOCIATE FUND

AT OUR HOME IN SYDNEY AT THE ARA DARLING QUARTER THEATRE, WE CONTINUED TO PRESENT + PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

ALTHOUGH LIMITED IN 2021, WE HOSTED SPECIAL WORKSHOPS + EVENTS ATTRACTING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS SYDNEY AND BEYOND.

5,660 AUDIENCES/VISITORS

VISITORS

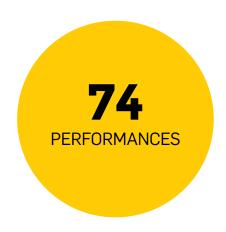
Due to COVID restrictions and lockdowns, we did not see as many visitors to our theatre in 2021, but we enjoyed welcoming those who did make it to our home.

MONKEY PLAY

Monkey Play is our monthly playgroup developed by our creative team for 0-5 year olds.

Monkey Play allows very young people to explore the world around them through play- and performance-based learning, and creative activities that are linked to the Early Years Learning Framework.

Number of sessions 1* Number of attendees 40



a space for creativity+ young people





Darling Quarter

 $^{^{\}star}$ Monkey Play was postponed after the first session in 2021. COVID restrictions made it very difficult to run this program. We adapted to a digital delivery. See Digital Programs and Engagement.



IN THE PAST, WE HAVE TOURED INTERNATIONALLY TO THE US + WHEN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL RETURNS PLAN TO DO SO AGAIN.

OUR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT BUILDS STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.

DIARY OF A WOMBAT DIGITAL SCREENINGS

Our 5th US tour in 2020 with Diary of a Wombat was cut short due to COVID. In 2021, we worked with our US Agents, Holden & Arts Associates, to screen the productions to four locations.

DIGITAL PRESENTERS

Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater in Florida
Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville Tennessee
Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State,
University Park, Pennsylvania Lancaster Performing
Arts Center, Lancaster, California.



international engagement

WE ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL STRATEGY THAT AIMS TO EXTEND AND DEEPEN OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.

In 2021, we continued to build our capability to deliver purpose-built digital platforms, experiences, connections and models. This work is being enhanced in 2022 onwards

WEBSITE + SOCIAL MEDIA

We direct our online engagements to both our website at monkeybaa.com.au and various social media channels, including Instagram and Facebook.

In 2021, we had a total reach of over 111,000 online engagements.

website total visitors	29,015
facebook reach	77,978
facebook followers	7,684
instagram reach	4,754
instagram followers	2,402



DIGITAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS

MONKEY PLAY DIGITAL

We adapted our IRL version of this playgroup to a fun interactive online video we shared with parents of preschool children.

online engagements

PETE THE SHEEP SCHOOL SCREENING

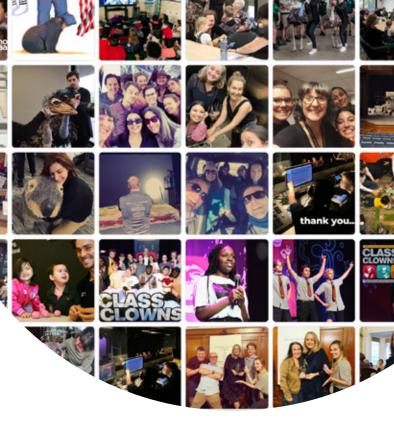
965

We had to cancel the performance at Ipswich Civic Centre in Queensland but worked with the presenter to screen the show to 2 schools instead.

screenings 2 x schools viewers 466

DIARY OF A WOMBAT US SCREENINGS

screenings 4 x presenters



digital programs + engagement



DESPITE SIGNIFICANT SHUTDOWNS IN SYDNEY THROUGHOUT 2021, WE WELCOMED A MODEST NUMBER OF HIRES TO OUR THEATRE.

We manage both corporate and community hires of our theatre ARA Darling Quarter Theatre. We promote our theatre as an intimate space for a wide variety of uses including corporate events.

Across the year, we hosted a total of 14 performances and events through venue hire activities which were attended by approximately 2,000 patrons.

Monkey Baa employed over 30 front of house and technical staff to manage these activities.

OTHER EVENTS AT ARA DARLING QUARTER THEATRE

Seasonal Warriors: Be SEEDsational

Untitled: Inner West Youth Theatre (devised performance after workshop)

The Making of Sasha Fein: Moira Blumenthal Productions

Las Flamencas: Pepa Molina Flamenco

Phly Crew Live!: Phly Crew Masters of Isolation: Poppin Jack

Intermode: Taikoz

Pandora's Box: UTS Revue

We would also like to thank our venue sponsors for their ongoing support and guidance.





venue hire

WE ADVOCATE FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF THE THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE SECTOR AND IN TURN OUR OWN ASPIRATIONS. WE PLAY KEY LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMERGING ARTISTS + REPRESENTATION IN KEY NETWORKS AND GROUPS.

In 2021, we were part of key industry groups. First, we are a member of PAC Australia & Regional Arts Australia's Touring Advisory Group. Comprised of key tour coordinators, producers and some presenters from around Australia, we had an opportunity to advocate for touring more broadly.

Monkey Baa is a member of Live Performance Australia's Covid Safe Touring Committee.

The working group (of about 8 organisations) developed the original touring covid safe policy adopted by the LPA in 2020. In 2021, we assisted in updating the policy for LPA in Dec 2021.

We play an active role in the Greener Touring Advisory Group, coordinated by Arts on Tour and include other organisations such as Critical Stages, Performing Lines, CDP and Circa. The group is exploring more sustainable practices around touring. We have committed Monkey Baa to be carbon neutral by 2030.

We are actively attending a range of other sector gatherings including:

- NSW Technical Managers forum
- NAPACA
- Theatre Network Australia
- PAC Australia's Online Summit

Our Executive Director, Kevin du Preez, is also on the Assitej Australia Committee.

This allows Monkey Baa to connect with industry peers from around the world.

leadership + industry development

We are deeply grateful to all those who have contributed, partnered and collaborated with Monkey Baa. Particularly over the past two years.

The team at Monkey Baa would like to take this opportunity to formally thank each of our partners, donors and funders for their investment and generous support.

We cannot do what we do without your support, guidance and friendship.

Our partners help us empower young people to shape and navigate their lives through inspirational theatre and creative experiences.

PRINCIPLE PARTNER



VENUE PARTNER



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS









CITY OF SYDNEY €



TOURING PARTNERS





US AGENT



PROGRAM + OTHER PARTNERS





ARUP



















partnership + collaboration

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT PARTICIPATION IN THEATRE NOT ONLY IMPROVES A CHILD'S LEARNING PERFORMANCE BUT DEVELOPS CREATIVITY, SELF-EXPRESSION, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, + COLLABORATION.

THE EARLIER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED
TO THE MAGICAL WORLD OF THEATRE,
THE MORE LIKELY THEY ARE TO DEVELOP
CREATIVE SKILLS.

PHILANTHROPY

Our donors support us to make a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of young people throughout Australia. We thank all our donors who generously supported our organisation during the past difficult years.

PENNY COOK CREATIVE ASSOCIATES FUND

Our community rallied around our cause to establish our Creative Associates program in mid 2021. We are so grateful for the over \$55,000 that we raised at our special fundraising event. The funding was then also matched dollar-for-dollar, through the Creative Partnerships Australia Plus1 program.

FIRST READ CLUB

Our First Read club was a circle of donors who are committed to creating exceptional new Australian work for young people. Supporters who donated over \$2,500 received exclusive invitations to a range of experiences including first readings of our productions. This program has now been replaced with a new suite being launched in 2022.

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS

We conducted two community giving campaigns in 2021. Our end of financial year campaign raised \$2,860 for keeping our Teaching Artists program rolling! Over Christmas we raised \$1,425 during our holiday season campaign. We thank everyone for their kind donation.

GENERAL DONATIONS

We received over \$XX from the general public through donations made while purchasing tickets. Throughout the year with many shows being cancelled and or postponed, patrons also donated their tickets to the organisation. We are humbled by our supporters standing by us even in the tough times.

WILLS + BEQUESTS

A bequest to Monkey Baa in your will is a special and powerful way to support a cause that is important to you and to the community. In 2021, we partnered with Moores Lawyers, to provide our community with information on how to include Monkey Baa in a will.

philanthropy + giving



ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD + STAFF AT MONKEY BAA, WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS + INDIVIDUALS WHO KINDLY SUPPORTED US OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS.

\$50,000+

Mrs Sally White OAM
Neilson Foundation
Jibb Foundation, Libby Fairfax
Blake Beckett Trust, Wendy Beckett

\$10,000 **-**\$50,000

Kirby Foundation
Edward Federman
Ruth Armytage AM
Emma White
Future Generation Investment Trust
Mundango Charitable Trust

\$5,000 **-**\$10,000

Mylie Hagan
Gandel Foundation
Darin Cooper Foundation, Jennifer Darin

\$2,500 - \$5,000

Robertson Foundation, Lenore Robertson Mary Hare, Knowledge Media Ptv Ltd, Richard Milroy

\$1,000 -\$2,500

Libbie Doherty
Dr Sue-Anne Wallace AM
Sandra & Robert Russo
Michael Mitchell
Meredith Fannelli
Sandra Eldridge
Kerry Comerford
Wendy Brooks

\$100 -\$1,000

Kate Adams, Elizabeth Allen, Susan Ambler, Lucinda Armour, Lindy Batchelor, Juliette Bates, Ian Batterham, Kylie Blundell, Michelle Bockman, Jenny Burchfield, Stella Chen, Genevieve Clay-Smith, Rebecca Collins, Sheryl Cootes, Dijana Curic, Kevin du Preez, Josephine Exton, Alan Fekete, Peter & Janet Fitzpatrick, Catherine Gallagher, Susanne Gervay, Jane Gordon, Adrian Gregory, Edwina Guinness, Samantha Guthleben, Nicola Guy, Nina Heinecke, Jacqueline Hornjik, Alan Johnson, Samuel Johnson, Anastasia Kennett, Stephanie Kerr, Mitra Khakbaz, Joanne Khamis, Lorna Lesley, Karen Loblay, Dr Carolyn Lowry OAM & Peter Lowry, Susan Lowy, Adrian Macleod, Barbara Madden, Carol Martin, Amy Matthews, Suz Mawer, Nicole Mccloughan, Tim Mcgarry, Sean Mcloughlin, Meg Miller, Pamela Morrison, Johanna Mulholland, Amy Munro, Janell Norton, Sean O'Brien, Justine O'Neill, Peter Owens, Bali Padda, Janet Phillips, Mark Piddington, Janelle Prescott, Sue Procter, Cam Ralph, Jane Recny, Natalie Reichel, Tallis Richmond, Camilla Rountree, Helen Salmon, Ann & Quinn Sloan, Jill Standfield, Binny Talib, Richard Tulloch, Jacinta Tynan, Luke Woollev

donors

ORGANISATION PROFILE

Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People Ltd is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.

PATRONS

Jackie French AM, Susanne Gervay OAM + Morris Gleitzman

BOARD

Libbie Doherty (Chair), Kylie Blundell (Deputy Chair), Genevieve Clay-Smith (maternity leave), Csaba Fekete (Treasurer, from November 2021), Sara Mansour, Eamon Waterford, Dr Wendy Were (from November 2021), Emma White (to May 2021) and Richard Milroy (to August 2021).

A special thanks to our company secretary: Sam Guthleben.

STAFF

Eva Di Cesare Artistic Director

Jeremy Miller Executive Director

(to April 2021)

Kevin du Preez Executive Director (from August 2021)

Sandra Eldridge Artistic Associate

Laura Watson Operations Manager

+ Technical Producer

Candice Foster Communications Manager

Alexander Andrews (from August 2021)

Education Manager

Kirstin Bokor [(from November 2021)

Development Manager

Emma Khamis Associate Producer

Juz McGuire Venue Services

+ Technical Coordinator

Jordie MacKinnon (to June 2021)

Venue Services Coordinator

Melissa Hynd Finance Manager

Romy Watson Company Administrator

FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Jack Angwin, Anastasia "Stash" Kennett, Jordie MacKinnon, Alison Lee, Lucilla Smith, Jasper Greenwood, Michael Mitchell, David Lynch, Elizabeth Creixell, Spencer Morrow, Kieran Clancy-Lowe, Ella Watson-Heath, Brenton Smith, Romy Watson, Tom Walsh

TECHNICAL CREW

Alex Torney, Ryan Devlin, Patrick Howard, Cally Bartley, Dana Iopolo, Cameron Smith, Elliot Glass, Amber Spooner, Bradley Barrack, James Handsaker, Rose Mulcare, Daniel Herten, Cecilia Dinh, Renee McClenehan

board + staff

MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY

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P. 02 8624 9340

E. ADMIN@MONKEYBAA.COM.AU MONKEYBAA.COM.AU

Your donation will help us empower young people to shape and navigate their lives through inspirational theatre and creative experiences.

Monkey Baa is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The company is also a charitable institution endorsed for charity tax concessions by the Australian Taxation Office.

Donations of \$2 or more are fully tax-deductible.

support us