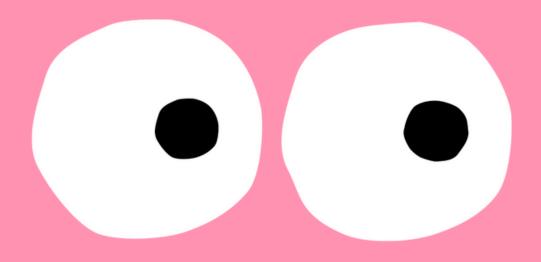
monkey baa

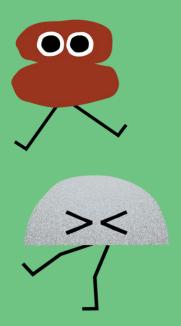
2022 Annual Report



Acknowledgement of Country

Monkey Baa Theatre Company acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the company gathers.

We also pay our respects to all First Nations people and honour their continued connections to the lands, water and seas. We pay our respects to Elders past and present on whose land we work, tour, live and share stories.





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2022 What a year!

Message from our Chair

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the 2022 Annual Report for Monkey Baa Theatre Company. It is an honour to serve as Chair for this remarkable company, and I am thrilled to share the highlights of our achievements over the past year.

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to our government partners at all levels for their support. Without their backing, we would not be able to provide the quality programming and experiences to young audiences. In 2022, we reached over 67,000 people in 50 communities.

Additionally, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Principal Sponsor, the ARA Group and Ed Federman, for their ongoing support. We are grateful for their commitment to our mission and vision, and their support particularly enriches our Sydney theatre home in Darling Quarter.

This year, we were especially fortunate to receive a gift from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF), and we would like to express our deepest appreciation for their generosity. Their support has allowed us to continue to innovate and to bring our programming to new audiences across Australia.



Finally, we would like to express our gratitude towards our venue partner, Lendlease, for their valuable contribution to our success. We appreciate their support and the opportunities they have provided us to connect with our audiences in significant ways.

Most importantly, I thank our people - this year marked the 25th anniversary of the creation of the company. We celebrate - our artists, staff, board, patrons and volunteers - for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment to our mission.

Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am excited to see where our collective efforts will take us in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of Monkey Baa Theatre Company.





Message from our Artistic Director & Executive Director

2022 has been a mammoth year for the company; a journey of recovery, connection, creativity, exploring new horizons and inspiring young people across Australia.

The optimism we felt at the end of 2021 was well and truly rewarded in bucketloads during 2022.

It has been an exciting creative year for us. It has been a year of fully realising the fruits of many years of hard work.

Firstly, our tour of our new work Edward the Emu played to over 55,000 young people Australia wide, and our new production of Yong was finally brought to life after a sensational opening in Ballarat Victoria amidst the Chinese community collaborators that so passionately supported and engaged in the project since 2020.

We saw the culmination of two years of mentorship and collaboration with our inaugural Creative Associate Mayu Iwasaki presenting her beautiful intimate work Little Bozu and Kon Kon.

Our Youth Advisory Council was established and is well and truly underway in their endeavours to embed their voices in our organisation.



Whilst things have shifted for sure, and so much work continues to be needed and COVID has become a more silent but ever present partner, it is clearly evident that theatre is back. Our audiences are back.

Join us in celebrating our achievements as both a production company and as a presenting venue (ARA Darling Quarter Theatre).

Some key statistics include 67,888 audience members, 264 performances, 50 communities visited, 80 artists and arts workers employed, 40 productions hosted or presented, 3,562 student attended our workshop programs.

As we progress into 2023, we want to pause, celebrate and thank our artists, our staff, board and community.



Eva Di Cesare Artistic Director



Kevin du Preez Executive Director

A snapshot

67,888Audience

Performances

264

80

Artists & workers employed

2

New works created

2022

50Communities visited

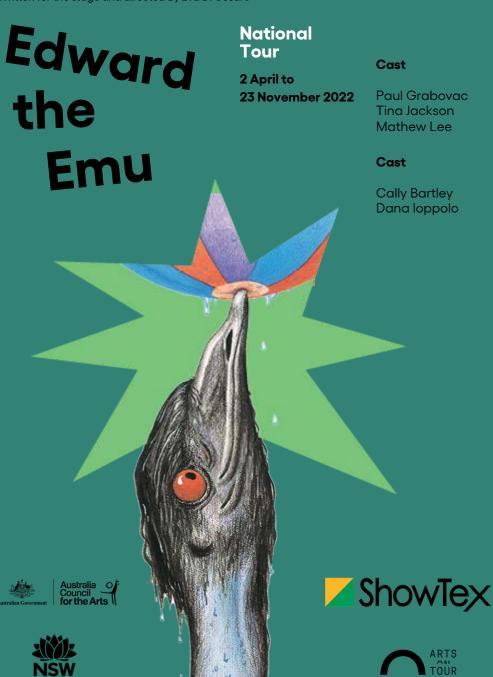
40
Productions hosted or presented

3,562 student participants



2022 was a journey of recovery, connection and creativity, exploring new horizons and inspiring young people across Australia.

A Monkey Baa Theatre Company production Based on the books by Sheena Knowles and Rod Clement Written for the stage and directed by Eva Di Cesare



NSW	QLD	VIC	WA
Sydney Opera House Parramatta Casula Belrose Nowra Wagga Wagga Griffith Orange Dubbo Tamworth Port Macquarie	Logan Gold Coast Toowoomba Mackay Glastone Ayr Bundaberg Rockhampton Mt Isa Brisbane	Wangaratta Werribee Colac Warnabool Geelong Warragul Bairnsdale Narre Warren Frankston Swan Hill Oaklands Park Merriden	Perth Esperance Albany Karratha Geraldton
Taree Wyong Penrith	Darwin		100% of presenters

Edward and Edwina had a sellout season across the country with our national tour reaching over 50,000 audiences.

Featuring exceptional, worldclass puppetry, an original score and inventive storytelling, this was a hilarious tale of two emus... A story about Edward and Edwina's adventures together on stage!

Based on the books by Sheena Knowles and Rod Clement; and Written for the stage and directed by Eva Di Cesare, the production visited over 44 communities around Australia. 44 communities

130 performances

48,286 audience

"Monkey Baa consistently present quality shows that the local kids love. Regional audiences need high quality children's theatre."

rated the show quality very good or excellent

Manning Entertainment Centre, Taree

A Monkey Baa Theatre Company Production Based on the book by Janeen Brian. Written for the stage by Jenevieve Chang

Victorian Tour

27 August to 16 September 2022

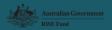
Cast

Wern Mak

Crew

Khym Scott Amber Spooner















VIC

Ballarat Portland Warnambool Bendigo Colac 5 communities

17

performances

2,188 audience

100%

of presenters rated the show quality very good or excellent

Created in collaboration with Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat and Bendigo Venues & Events.

The production of Yong is based on 'Yong: the journey of an unworthy son' by Janeen Brian, published by Walker Books Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney.

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 work was created with deep collaboration with the Ballarat community and generously funded by the Federal Government through RISE and the Australia Council Playing Australia.

Presented Season

15-19 September 2022

Yong was presented at our theatre at the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre as part of our 2022 Season.

5 performances

589 audiences

"Monkey Baa, thank you for that amazing play, I think it was called Yong, at the theatre today. It was amazing and thank for the free bus drive."

Year 5 Student

Darcy Road Public School

- 18 artists engaged
- 6 creative development weeks
- 3 new works progressed

In 2022, we worked with over 18 artists to progress the development of the following new works.

The Duck and the Darklings

Based on the children's book by Glenda Millard and Stephen Michael King, The Duck and the Darklings, is a new immersive experience for children adapted by writer Lachlan Philpott directed by Eva Di Cesare, is a story about finding hope in a world that has forgotten how to live in the light.





Little Bozu and Kon Kon

As part of the Penny Cook Creative Associate Program, Monkey Baa worked with our inaugural associate, Mayu Iwasaki to create the work.

Little Bozu and Kon Kon follows a shapeshifting raccoon and a misunderstood fox from different worlds.



creative partnerships australia

Creative De

Yong

Through funding from the Federal Government's RISE fund, we worked closely with the local community in Ballarat to develop the work. We completed a research trip and moved the whole (and we mean the whole company!) to Ballarat for a 2-week Creative Development and Community engagement. We engaged 6 creatives through this development.





The Ballarat Community

Monkey Baa piloted a "slow" touring model by working with the local community in Ballarat, the backdrop of the story of Yong. We took the time to build relationships with the local community including the Ballarat Chinese Community. We consulted with Chinese Elders, local consultants, historians, schools and our presenting partners.

Sydney Theatre
Awards
2022 Best
Production for
children



The work culminated in the premier at the Civic Theatre where the local community were involved in celebrating the work. The time spent in the community allowed us to be connected not only with the story but the people from the place where the story was born. The work benefits greatly from this.

velopments

Artists Programs

Penny Cook Creative Associate Program

Each year we bring on a new Creative Associate for a twoyear tenure with the company.

Building on their passion for creating theatre for young people, they will learn how Monkey Baa operates and be supported towards a public presentation of their own work in their second year.

Mayu Iwasaki was our inaugural Creative Associate and is a bilingual Japanese actress, puppeteer, and theatre-maker.

2022 was her second year in the program where she worked with our creative team to develop her new work, Little Bozu and Kon Kon.



"Working with Monkey Baa has been the best place to try and test my ideas, a space where I can fail with the safe guidance of Monkey Baa."

Mayu Iwasaki, Creative
Associate 2021-22

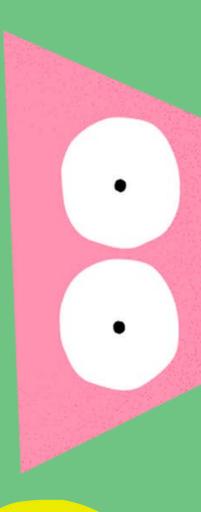
Commissioning Fund

Over the past years, Monkey Baa has shifted from an in-house creative team to commissioning artists to create and lead projects.

In 2022, we supported 4 new scripts to be developed.
In 2022, we established our new Commissioning Fund. The program is Monkey Baa's pipeline of new work through the commissioning of everything from fresh ideas through to full-length plays.

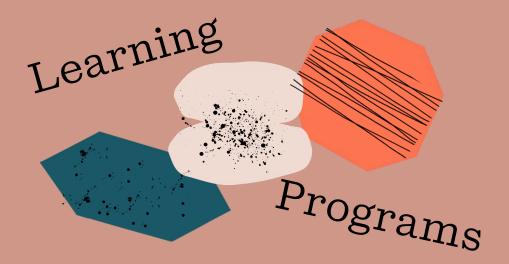
In 2022, we commissioned
Callan Purcell to adapt
Detention based on the novel by
Tristan Bancks. Detention is a
powerful story, the production
will connect young people to the
experiences of unsettled Hazara
refugees from Afghanistan.





Join the Artistic Director's Circle

Help us invest in the commissioning of new work. Contact us for a chat if you are interested.



Central to our work is our Learning Program where we make theatre more accessible in an educational context.

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 2022, teaching artists engaged with over 3,000 students before they attended the performance of Edward the Emu or Yong.

We employ artists from the region in which we tour. These artists are connected with the community and extend the experience from a local perspective.

The teaching artist tour is a way for Monkey Baa to embody our ethos of reaching young people wherever they may live.

Teaching Artists Tours

3,000 students 201 workshops 50 communities

Tours

Edward the Emu & Yong

Teaching Artists

Jono Chan (NSW) Hayden Rodgers (QLD/NT) Julia Low (VIC/SA) Vincent Hooper (VIC/NSW) Georgia Wilkonson-Derums (WA)

Educational Resources

Monkey Baa created several new educational resources for teachers and students in 2022. These are linked to our productions and take students behind the scenes in exploring the vision, script, design, rehearsal and performance.

Our resources bring the magic of theatre into the classroom with activities and experiences that help students build courage through creativity and gain skills across all areas of theatre-making.

5 new resources 540 downloads

Workshops

Our dynamic workshops empower students to build courage through creativity while developing skills across all areas of theatre making.

From Early Learning through to Stage 6, our fun workshops can be tailored to suit all students' needs, abilities and areas of study.

17 workshops 500 participants

Yong Interactive Experience

yong.monkeybaa.com.au

The Yong Interactive Experience is the first offering in our new online learning series.

This interactive, digital experience supports Monkey Baa's new work, Yong, based on Janeen Brian's novel 'Yong: the journey of an unworthy son'. The experience is a unique, interactive portal into the story that explores the narrative of the play, its historical setting and the theatre-making process.

Yong's journey from China to the Australian goldfields is visualised by Kim Siew's animated illustrations and includes narration from the character of Yong.

Credits:

Built by Daniel Reid and Mel Huang, Illustrations by Kim Siew, Written by Alexander Andrews with excerpts from Yong by Jenevieve Chang. Soundscape by Max Lambert "Your workshop created a safe and fun environment which encouraged my students to take part, take risks and build their confidence."

Teacher, Beacon Hill Public School

Teachers Night

Monkey Baa teamed up with Bangarra Dance Theatre,
Australian Music Centre and 4A
Centre for Contemporary Asian
Art to host an evening of
networking, discussion and
performance that celebrated
teachers.

On 1 December, we welcomed over 50 teachers to our theatre to learn more about our program and that of the other partner organisations. Arts Education Expert, Dr Christine Hatton, presented a keynote and a panel of arts education specialists, artists and young people explored the challenges faced by arts organisations and engaging with the education system and young people.

We received positive feedback from teachers at the event and they wanted to know when the next one will be!









Engaging with Young People



Young people are at the centre of everything we do.

20 staff under 302 board members under 305 Youth Advisory Council members150 student collaborators

"The thing that I find really important about [the Youth Advisory Council] at Monkey Baa is that we get the opportunity to be the voices for young people, for theatre design for young people and be at the frontline of those stories."

Isaia Ta'ale (Youth Advisory Council)

Work Experience

Max (16), Samuel (18), Allesia (16), Alex (20) and Edie (16).

Youth Advisory Council

Max Fernandez Aaki Hiwatashi Yuki Hiwatashi Zara Perry Isaia Ta'ale

"I feel very special for being able to see all the work [Monkey Baa] is working hard on and I feel really cool that I am able to think of ideas that [Monkey Baa] will put inside the act."

Bankstown West
Public School Student

20-29 May 2022

The Listies

10 performances 1,886 audience



Make Some Noise!' was the Listies brand-new, musical comedy show.

It's about as musical as a chicken fighting some bagpipes and as soothing as a primary school recorder lesson.

It's less masterpiece, more disasterpiece.

Makes Noise Some

Creative Team

Performers Richard Higgins and Matthew Kelly Songs by the Listies + Ryan Ritchie Lighting design Emma Valente and Rebecca Etchell Video graphics Emma Valente Sound design Iva Lottagas





An Arena Theatre Company production

2-4 June 2022

644 audience

4

performances

Robot Song



Based on a true story, 'Robot Song' illustrates the profound, transformative nature of creativity that, when combined with unconditional love, becomes an unstoppable force.











Creative Team

Writer/director designer: Jolyon James

Assistant director: Sarah Branton Dramaturg: Christian Leavesley

Composer/musical director:

Nathan Gilkes

Script consultant: Anthony

Crowley

Costume: Beth Sayer Lighting design: Paul Lim A Circa Contemporary Circus production. Commissioned by The Art House Wyong

13-16 July 2022

8 performances

1.724 audience

Wolfgang's



Straight from the score and onto the stage!

The man known as Mozart appears amid a storm of powder, tumbling and twirling, as musical mayhem and movement fuse in this family show with a circus twist.

Musical Circus

Creative Team

Created By Yaron Lifschitz with Benjamin Knapton and the Circa Ensemble

Director: Yaron Lifschitz Associate Director: Benjamin Knapton

Music: Mozart and Quincy Grant Lighting Designer: Geoff Squires Technical Director: Jason Organ **Artistic Consultants: Darcy Grant**

and Scott Witt

Costume Designer: Libby Mcdonnell







Produced by Insite Arts and Compagnia TPO

7-8 September 2022



"Children's theatre doesn't get any better than this. This inspired array of Italian and Aboriginal artists is the perfect fusion of dance, art and breathtaking digital design."

Sunday Mail

8 performances 899 audience

Saltbush

Following the journey of two friends and their spiritual guide on foot as they cross Australian landscapes – river country, an urban landscape, desert and the sea.

The journey is one of discovering the land, growing an understanding and acknowledging how it challenges or provokes personal journeys.



Creative Team

Co-Artistic Directors: Davide
Venturini and Jason Cross
Dramaturgy: Sasha Zahra
Composer: Lou Bennett (Yorta
Yorta/ Dja Dja Wurrung)
Choreographers: Deon Hastie
(Tjapukai) and Anna Balducci
Visual Artist/Designer: Delwyn
Mannix (Wangkangurru)
Visual Designer: Elsa Mersi

Technical Designer: Rossano Monti Sound Designer: Spartaco Cortesi

Partnerships



16 performances2.016 audiences

24-30 September 2022

Sydney Fringe Kids

Monkey Baa and Sydney Fringe joined forces to host 2022 Sydney Fringe Kids. Over 2000 young people visited our theatre during the September school holidays. 30 independent artists and groups presented 16 performances during the week.

The Vegetable Plot, The Beanies, Kaleidoscope Show, Emily Who: A Day for Adventure, Basketball Man Can Fly and Monski Mouse's Baby Disco Dance Hall.



850 visitors

40 participants

11-22 April 2022

Drawing Words Exhibition

Monkey Baa partnered with the British Council to deliver a wonderful exhibition in our foyer as part of the April School holidays. Drawing Words was an exhibition of children's book illustrations as part of the British Council UK/Australia Season.

The exhibition was curated by award-winning artist writer, and the 2017-2019 UK Children's Laureate, Lauren Child. We also hosted two Illustration workshops with over 40 young people in our foyer with local artist, illustrator and muralist, Christina Huyhn.



22 participants

10 March 2022



Class Clowns

Class Clowns is the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's national development program for young people.

Class Clowns introduces teens aged 14-18 to comedy through creative workshops with professional comedians, using artistic activities to hone comedic talent and build self-esteem, confidence and resilience.

2022 was the 5th year that Monkey Baa was a partner of the program to host the Sydney heat of the competition.

Community Partners

Monkey Baa partners with charities and schools to make theatre accessible to more young people.







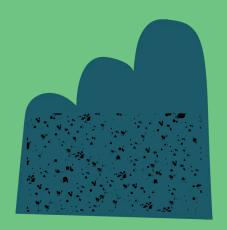






8,796Audience

66Performances



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 66 performances and events through venue hire activities which were attended by approximately 8,800 patrons. Monkey Baa employed over 30 front of house and technical staff to manage these activities.

Venue hire

Theatre

Moira Blumenthal's Letters from a Troubled Past Yong Actors Assembly's Gruesome Playground

Musicals

Mitchell Old's Heathers Little Triangle's Work of Art Act 1

Dance

C+ Dance
Australian Institute for Performing Arts
Royal Dance
Dirty Feet
JW Dance
Surely Dance Academy
Talent Tribe

Flamenco

Raices Flamenco Pepa Molina Las Cuatro

University societies and clubs

MUSE's Guys and Dolls MUSE's We Will Rock You MUSE's Sunday in the Park With George UTS Revue's CRAP UTS Backtage's Spring Awakening

Showcases and awards

VCA's Theatre & Musical Showcase ARA Historical Fiction Prize Awards Major Minor Music Australia Awards

Events

Sydney Writers Festival's Crabb Marr Art Aid's One Sydney Program Patty Mills Speaking Tour Vox Canvas' December Concert

business

Thank you to our supporters

Principal Partner



Foundation Partner

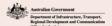








Venue Partners













Government Partners





Production Partners







ArtsPav.

VIVATICKET

















Program Partners

We are deeply grateful to all those who have contributed to Monkey Baa.

\$50,000+
Edward Federman
Mrs Sally White OAM
Neilson Foundation
Jibb Foundation, Libby Fairfax
Blake Beckett Trust, Wendy Beckett

\$10,000 – \$50,000

Darin Cooper Foundation, Jennifer

Darin

Kirby Foundation

Ruth Armytage AM

Emma White

Future Generation Investment Trust

Mundango Charitable Trust

\$5,000 – \$10,000 Mylie Hagan Gandel Foundation

\$2,500 – \$5,000 Robertson Foundation, Lenore Robertson Mary Hare Knowledge Media Pty Ltd, Richard Milroy Peter Owens Gael Ballantyne

\$1,000 – \$2,500 Libbie Doherty, Dr Sue-Anne Wallace AM, Sandra & Robert Russo, Michael Mitchell, Meredith Fannelli, Sandra Eldridge, Kerry Comerford, Wendy Brooks, Cam Ralph \$100 - \$1,000 Kate Adams, Elizabeth Allen, Susan Ambler, Lucinda Armour, Lindv Batchelor, Juliette Bates, Ian Batterham, Kylie Blundell, Michelle Bockman, Jenny Burchfield, Stella Chen, Genevieve Clay-Smith, Rebecca Collins, Sheryl Cootes, Dijana Curic, Eva Di Cesare, 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 Horniik, 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, Amv Munro, Janell Norton, Sean O'Brien, Justine O'Neill, Peter Owens, Bali Padda, Janet Phillips, Mark Piddington, Janelle Prescott, Sue Procter, Jane Recny, Natalie Reichel, Tallis Richmond, Camilla Rountree, Helen Salmon, Ann & Quinn Sloan, Jill Standfield, Binny Talib, Richard Tulloch, Jacinta Tynan, Luke Woolley, Jenny Norman, Samuel Johnson, Claudette Clark, Phillipa Hedges

Our People

We are a collective of super dedicated people bringing the joy of theatre to all young people across Australia.

Patrons

- Jackie French AM
- Susanne Gervay OAM
- Morris Gleitzman

Board

- Libbie Doherty (Chair)
- Kylie Blundell (Deputy)
- Genevieve Clay-Smith
- Dr Csaba Fekete (Treasurer)
- Sara Mansour
- Eamon Waterford
- Dr Wendy Were
- Pearl Junor (Secretary)

Staff

- Eva Di Cesare, Artistic Director
- Kevin du Preez, Executive Director
- Mayu Iwasaki, Creative Associate
- Emma Khamis, Producer
- Alexander Andrews, Learning and Engagement Specialist
- Laura Watson, Head of Production
- Candice Foster,
 Communications Manager

- Mackenzie Bates, Intern
- Melissa Hynd, Finance Manager
- Kirstin Bokor, Development Manager
- Jem Page, Technical Lead
- Juz McGuire, Technical Coordinator (until May 2022)
- Romy Watson, Customer Experience Lead
- Jahla Black, Venue Hire Administrator
- Mai Le, Venue Hire
 Administrator

Front of House

- Jack Angwin
- Poppy Lynch
- Avalon Llewellyn
- Atticus Llewellyn
- Kieran Clancy-Lowe
- James Handsaker
- Jasper Greenwood
- Paul Nolan
- · George Wohlfiel
- Ella Watson-Heath
- Jess Law
- Bryce Halliday
- Maile
- Jahla Black

Technical crew

- Adam Wood
- Alexander Torney
- Alex Newman
- Amber Spooner
- · Amelie Downie
- Bradley Barrack
- Bryce Halliday
- Cally Bartley
- · Dana loppolo
- · Daniel Baykitch
- David Tucker
- Harry Tanswell
- James Handsaker
- Jasmine Rizk
- Jasper Greenwood
- · Jeremy Page
- Jessica Law
- Joshua Cole

Support us in empowering young people to navigate and shape their lives through inspirational theatre.



- Kailah Cabanas
- Khym Scott
- Lokie McGuinness
- Paris Bell
- Renee McClenahan
- Ryan Devlin

Teacher Advisory Group

- Kimberley Colquhoun
- Melanie Griffith
- Susan Huang
- Shannen Mack
- Mark McKendrick
- Henrietta Stathpopoulos
- Simon Ward

By supporting Monkey Baa, you assist us to make a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of young people throughout Australia.

We would be delighted to welcome you as a Monkey Baa Patron and join our diverse range of donors who are all passionate about creativity, our young audiences and making a difference.

In 2023, young people will need the social and emotional benefits that theatre offers - indeed the need for the arts, and the power it has to connect us, has never been greater. Please visit our website to learn more about how you can support our work.

monkeybaa.com.au/support-us

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. A receipt will be issued for all contributions.

