



Annual General Report 2023





La Mama Theatre is on traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We give our respect to the Elders of this country and to all First Nations people past, present and future. We acknowledge all events take place on stolen lands and that sovereignty was never ceded.

La Mama is financially assisted by Creative Victoria (Creative Enterprises Program), and the City of Melbourne (Arts and Creative Partnership Program).

We are grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists and our entire community. Thank you!

La Mama HQ 205 Faraday Street Carlton VIC 3053
La Mama Courthouse 349 Drummond Street Carlton VIC 3053

Box Office Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday 4pm to show start
Sunday 2pm to show start

Office (03) 9347 6948

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Ticketing: ticketing@lamama.com.au

Website www.lamama.com.au

facebook.com/lamama.theatre

instagram.com/lamamatheatre/

twitter.com/LaMamaTheatre

Cover images feature **Emiliy Tomlins** in 'I sat and waited but you were gone too long' by Live Satchell (Green Room Award for Best New Writing), photography by **Darren Gill**

Image at the top of this page La Mama upstairs by Glenn Hester Photography

Contents

5	La Mama Staff and Committee of Management
6	Fundamental Purpose
8	Highlights
9	Executive Summary
11	La Mama Primary Program
22	La Mama Online
23	La Mama for Kids
24	Explorations
31	Melbourne Festival of Puppetry
36	Play Readings
38	La Mamica
41	La Mama Mobile
42	La Mama Pathways
43	Special Events
45	Theatre Tours
46	La Mama Access
48	La Mama Learning Report
51	Marketing & Communications Report
53	Indigenous Producer Report
54	Attendance Figures
68	Financial Overview
78	Supporters, Partners & Donors
80	Statements of Impact
82	Volunteers, Internships, Work Experience

WELCOME



Gemma Horbury behind the bar
at the Winter Season Launch
Photography by **Darren Gill**

La Mama Staff and Committee of Management

Office Staff 2023

Caitlin Dullard (she/her) - CEO/Director

Maureen Hartley (she/her) - Learning Program Producer

Amber Hart (she/her) - Producer and Front of House Manager

Hayley Fox (she/her) - Venue Technical Manager

Glenn Shea (he/him) - First Nations Producer

Ruiqi Fu (she/her) - Online Producer

Myf Powell (she/her) - Development and Pathways Manager

Georgina Capper (she/her) - Marketing and Communications Manager

AYA (they/them) - Ticketing and FOH Supervisor

Gemma Horbury (she/her) - Ticketing and FOH Supervisor

Adam Cass (he/him) - Design and Marketing Support

Liz Jones (she/her) - Artistic Director until 31 March

Committee Of Management

Richard Watts (Chair) Helen Hopkins (Deputy Chair), Ben Grant (Treasurer), Caitlin Dullard (Secretary) Beng Oh, David Geoffrey Hall, Kim Ho, Mark Williams, Caroline Lee, Erica McCalman

Curators & Producers

Gemma Horbury (she/her) - Musica Curator

Amanda Anastasi (she/her) - Poetica Curator

Isabel Knight (she/her) - Cabaretica Curator

Sophia Constantine (she/her) - La Mama Kids Curator

Front of House Staff

Caitlin Dullard, Amber Hart, Isabel Knight, Maureen Hartley, Myf Powell, Susan Bamford-Caleo, Dani Hayek, Ruiqi Fu, Laurence Strangio, Dora Abraham, Dennis Coard, Hayley Fox, Helen Hopkins, Sarah Corridon, Sophia Constantine, Nicki Jam, AYA, Andreas Petropolous, Zac Kazepis, Jaye Syson, Gemma Horbury, Loukia Vassiliades, Lisa Inman, Maddie Nunn

Fundamental Purpose

La Mama's Purpose is to facilitate fearlessly independent theatre-making

La Mama Theatre tells the Australian stories of today: the radical, the authentic, the intimate and the relevant.

La Mama is home to creators and audiences that look like this country – diverse, multi-generational, and enabled by First Peoples.

We Exist to serve Australian performing arts creatives at all career stages, with a deliberate commitment to include those who experience barriers to presenting elsewhere. In doing this we serve Australian culture: documenting, reflecting, challenging, and creating this country's complex stories.

Our Aim is to build La Mama so that it is known, valued, and engaged with by performance-makers and audiences across Australia and beyond.

Our Point Of Difference is reflected in the way we do this. We do this through:

The La Mama model: rent-free space for development, rehearsal, and presentation + a modest \$1000 support per show + 80% of box office + ticketing + media and marketing + technical support.

Being open and accessible to all writers and makers with a story to tell, offering publicly marketed opportunities to develop and present work.

Providing a safe, supported, and financially secure environment for research and development of ideas, for bravery, and for enabling true experimentation.

Offering self-determined mentoring, support, and guidance in dramaturgy, direction, and writing.

Refusing to adopt a "house" style and committing to an openness to all forms of storytelling, artistic freedom and authentic representation.

A new, centrally located physical space leveraged to bring audiences and creatives together, with warm hospitality creating a strong and visceral sense of community, dialogue, nourishment and belonging.



'The Six Guys an Immigrant Trans Person of Colour Will Date in Melbourne'. Above is **Dax Carnay**. Below is Dax with **Sebastiano Pitruzello**. Photography by **Darren Gill**.



2023 Highlights

AT LA MAMA IN 2023 THERE WERE

- 45** Primary Seasons (81% New Australian Works)
- 26** Explorations (New Australian Developments)
- 27** La Mama Kids performances (engaging 23 artists & 521 audience members)
- 13** La Mamica events
(involving 64 performers across Music, Poetry, Cabaret and our brand new Midsummica event)
- 38** Productions in festivals (Fringe, Comedy, Midsumma & Puppetry)
- 8** International performances (in New Zealand & Bulgaria)
Plus an exhibit at the Prague Quadrennial: "Acts of Reassembly: The Rebuild of La Mama Theatre."
- 3** VCE & Theatre Studies Playlist shows
(Totalling 42 performances, 33 post-show forums, engaging 1474 students from 81 schools)

185 Productions (Seasons & Special Events)

771 Performances

27,730 Audience (13% from regional areas, interstate & overseas)

1,407 Artists

1,625 Livestreams of 41 productions and events

\$534,202 Paid straight to artists (80% of all ticket revenue)

LA MAMA BRINGS APPROXIMATELY 80 PEOPLE INTO THE CARLTON AREA AT LEAST 5 NIGHTS A WEEK. 93 PERCENT OF PATRONS WHO COME TO LA MAMA REPORT SPENDING MONEY IN THE CARLTON AREA BEFORE OR AFTER A LA MAMA SHOW. 28.5 PERCENT OF THOSE PATRONS REPORTED SPENDING MORE THAN \$100. IT IS THEREFORE A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE TO SAY LA MAMA BRINGS IN \$20,000 TO THE CARLTON PRECINCT EVERY WEEK.

41% of Artists worked with La Mama for the first time • 49% of Artists were young people (Under 35). 12 artists were mentored through our Pathways Writing Program, from 149 applications & involving 13 mentors from the industry.

Executive Summary

2023 was another challenging yet buoyant year at La Mama.

As ever, we were proud to present an enormous array of new work and developments, participate in festivals, and facilitate the ambitions of hundreds of independent artists of all persuasions to tell raw, relevant Australian stories.

We found a bit more comfort and familiarity at our new(ish) home at La Mama HQ, increasingly offering our Rehearsal Hub to artists to rehearse, meet, write and develop ideas. This has proven to be a great community asset.

Staff continued to develop roles and processes to best optimise our limited resources and manage increasing demand, showing tenacious commitment, dedication and care and the Committee members focused their attention on succession planning, strategic planning, staff morale and support, and preparing for our Creative Australia funding application throughout the year, as well as more mundane issues.

In March we farewelled our long-term Artistic Director Liz Jones with a party in the HQ courtyard, previously the site of many a season launch and so a more than fitting locating to acknowledge Liz's love for and commitment to our small but vital theatre.

In June, Rebuild La Mama representatives Meg White and Rob Cooke, joined by Deputy Chair Helen Hopkins, attended Prague Quadrennial, presenting an exhibit that engaged with the architectural and cultural conditions of our precious building before and after the fire.

In July, the inaugural Pathways Program (now Writing Intensive) presented an exhilarating standard of created works, five of which were programmed for 2024 – marking the start of a beautifully committed community of makers.

In September we were delighted to announce a new partnership with John T Reid who will support our Pathways Program (including the Writing Intensive, Emerge, Mentorships and Professional Development Series) from 2024 – 2026.

In December we received the difficult news that we had not been successful with our application to Creative Australia for four-year operational funding.

We took a much-needed summer break to reflect and as a result will be taking a pause in programming for 2025, best positioning us to focus on our future sustainability and strength.

Once again, we thank the exceptional community behind and around us who give us support, hope, wonderful art and all the things that are needed to make this special place keep thriving.



Richard Watts
Chair



Caitlin Dullard
CEO



Tessa Luminati in 'Frankenstein'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.

La Mama Primary Program 2023

SHADOWFALL (MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL)

January 17 - 25 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: Joachim Matschoss

Cast: Florensia Andarini, Isabella Anderson, Nikki Green, Isabel Knight, Amalia Krueger, Sasha Leong, Breanna Milliken, Giacinta Squires, Verity Wood

Stage Manager/Production Assistance: Ben Jamieson

Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Sound Design/Music: Michelle Eddington

Visual Design: Philip Roberts

Movement Direction: Nikki Green

Photography: Darren Gill

HOMOPHONIC! (MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL)

January 27 - 28 La Mama Courthouse

Artistic Director/Producer: Miranda Hill

Artistic Director - The Consort of Melbourne: Steven Hodgson

Violins: Cameron Jamieson, Natasha Conrau

Viola: Phoebe Green

Cello: Campbell Banks

Double Bass: Miranda Hill

Oboe: Ben Opie

Clarinets: Karen Heath

Flutes: Kim Tan

The Consort of Melbourne: Katherine Norman, Kristy Biber, Alex Ritter, Robin Parkin, Ben Owen, Steven Hodgson

Theatre Magic Jazz-Hands Consultant: Millie Levakis-Lukas

Stage Manager: Jennifer Timmins

Lights and Sound Operator: Brad Vaughan

Riggers: Peta Coy, Nick Ralph

THE ANGEL WITH BLUE EYES (MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL)

January 27 - February 4 La Mama HQ

Writer: Freddie Fitzpatrick-Lubowitz

Director: Bronya Doyle

Producers: Zadie Kennedy McCracken, Andreas Petropoulos

Cast: Ann-Marie Biagioni, Charlie Boscolo, Sabina Gerardi, Bridget Morrison, Ryan Tracey

Stage Manager: Ella Campbell

Lighting, Set and Costume Design: Finn McHenry

Sound Design: Seb Bardouille-Thompson

Cover Image: Darren Gill

KOVID RAT KABARETT GOES SPIRAL

February 1 - 12 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director: Ella Filar

Cast: Isabella Gilbert, Maureen Hartley, Adam Ibbetson, Ruth Katerelos, Chris Molyneux

Musicians: Sally Banks, Bradley Bruckner, Ella Filar, Alfie Pleasance, Martin Zakharov

Technical/Stage Manager: John Vivian Jenkin

Video Production: John Vivian Jenkin, Chris Molyneux

Graphic Design: Chris Molyneux

THE SIX GUYS AN IMMIGRANT TRANS PERSON OF COLOUR WILL DATE IN MELBOURNE (MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL)

February 6 - 12 La Mama HQ

Writer: Dax Carnay

Director: Beng Oh

Producers: Justine Javier Long, Dax Carnay

Cast: Dax Carnay, Omar Dabash, Sebastiano Pitruzello

Dramaturgy: Jane Miller

Lighting Design: Clare Springett

Sound Design: Ben Keene

Set and Costume Design: Christina Logan-Bell

Video and Graphic Design: Jordan Hanrahan

Stage Manager: Teri Steer

PR and Marketing: Shei Faulmino

Cover Image: Darren Gill

VIRGINIA

February 14 - 26 La Mama HQ

Writer: Edna O'Brien

Director/Designer: Nicholas Opolski

Cast: Beth Klein, Heather Lythe, Marc Opitz

Sound and Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Image: Tanya De Haan

NOT ALL DICTATORS

February 15 - 26 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Tiffany Barton, Natali Blok, Kate Smurthwaite

Director: Helen Doig

Producer: Tiffany Barton

Cast: Pru Daniel, Victoria Haslam, Melina Wylie

Stage Manager/Lighting Designer: Julian Adams

Dramaturgy: Zane Alexander, Clare Strahan

Multimedia: Porl Phillips

Image: Deric Martin

THE GRIEF TRILOGY: I SAT AND WAITED BUT YOU WERE GONE TOO LONG

March 1 - 5 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Liv Satchell, with Chanella Macri and Emily Tomlins

Director: Liv Satchell

Producer: Julian Dibley-Hall

Cast: Chanella Macri, Emily Tomlins

Sound Design/Composition: Tom Backhaus, Hannah McKittrick

Production Design: James Lew

Lighting Design: John Collopy

Dramaturgy: Emma Valente

Movement Consultant: Xanthe Beesley

Stage Manager: Ashleigh Walwyn

Assistant Director: Leigh Lule

Photography: Jack Dixon-Gunn

THE GRIEF TRILOGY: MY SISTER FEATHER

March 8 - 12 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Liv Satchell, with Belinda McClory and Emily Tomlins

Director: Liv Satchell

Producer: Julian Dibley-Hall

Cast: Belinda McClory, Emily Tomlins

Sound Design/Composition: Tom Backhaus, Hannah McKittrick

Production Design: James Lew

Lighting Design: John Collopy

Dramaturgy: Emma Valente

Stage Manager: Ashleigh Walwyn

Assistant Director: Leigh Lule

Photography: Jack Dixon-Gunn

RADIOACTIVE COCKROACH

March 1 - 12 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: Judy Dalziel

Cast: AYA, Jackson Cross, Marg Dobson, Bailey Griffiths

Dramaturgy: Glynis Angell

Choreographer/Assistant Director/Swing: AYA

Technical Consultant: Millie Lekavis-Lucas

Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Animation: John Gavin Original Drawings: John Henry, Nona Cameron

Stage Manager: Kat Carrington Production Support: Ian Dallas

Circus and Acrobatic Consultants: Philipp Dallas, Nina Robertson

Sound and Costume Design: Judy Dalziel

Publicist: Bronny Lane (Little Train Creative)

Original Music: Steve and Rebecca Briggs

Image: Darren Gill

THE GRIEF TRILOGY: LET BLEEDING GIRLS LIE

March 15 - 19 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Liv Satchell, for Chanella Macri, Belinda McClory and Emily Tomlins

Director: Liv Satchell

Producer: Julian Dibley-Hall

Cast: Chanella Macri, Belinda McClory, Hannah McKittrick, Emily Tomlins

Sound Design/Composition: Tom Backhaus, Hannah McKittrick

Production Design: James Lew

Lighting Design: John Collopy, after Jason Crick

Dramaturgy: Emma Valente

Stage Manager: Ashleigh Walwyn

Assistant Director: Leigh Lule

Photography: Jack Dixon-Gunn

FLESH DISEASE

March 15 - 25 La Mama HQ

Concept/Director/Producer: Romi Kupfer Writer: Diane Stubbings

Producer: RK Collaborations

Cast: Lesley Coleman, Sasha Leong, Angelique Malcolm, Sonia Marcon, Yoni Prior

Set and Costume Design: Betty Auhl Projection Design: Jenna Eriksen

Production Coordination: Jarman Oakley Sound Designer: Simon Starr

Photography: Darren Gill

WAY

March 22 - April 2 La Mama Courthouse
Writer/Screen Director/Producer: Sally McKenzie
Stage Director/Dramaturgy: Sean Mee
Cast: Sally McKenzie
Sound Design: J. David Franzke
Lighting Design: Clare Springett
Technical Operator: Millie Levakis-Lucas
Video Editor: Joe Lancaster
Cinematographer: Rocco Fasano
Set Builder: Justin Green
Image: Jeff Busby
Show Photography: Darren Gill

WHERE THERE'S A WILL (MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL)

March 28 - April 9 La Mama HQ
Writer: Christine Croyden Director: Sara Grenfell
Cast: Natasha Broadstock, Maureen Hartley, Elizabeth Walley, Annie Wilson Stanford
Set Design: Christina Logan-Bell Sound Design: Ryan Smedley
Lighting Design: David Silvester Stage Manager: Katie Williams

AN INAPPROPRIATELY SERIOUS HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN COMEDY WITH DR ROB (MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL)

April 4 - 9 La Mama Courthouse
Creators/Performers: Robert Reid, Elliot Summers
Lighting and FX Operation/Puppets: Sayraphim Lothian

THE JOB INTERVIEW (MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL)

April 11 - 16 La Mama HQ
Writer/Director: James Hazelden
Cast: Ether Myles, Kathryn Tohill
Lighting and Sound Design: Allan Hirons
Marketing/Images: Chris Tomkins

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MURDER

(MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL)

April 11 - 23 La Mama Courthouse
Writers: Brendan Black, Martin Chellew
Director: Brendan Black
Cast: Ethan Cook, Vlady T, Alexander Tomisich
Set Design and Construction: Jon and Jonathan Medlin
Image: Brendan Black

SAME BUT DIFFERENT: A TRILOGY

April 19 - 30 La Mama HQ
Writer/Producer: Beata Frey Taylor
Director/Designer: Elnaz Sheshgelani
Cast: Pru Daniel, Steve Gome, Rosemary Johns
Music Composer and Performer: Piotr Nowotnik
Lighting and AV Design/Stage Manager: Simon Bowland
Production Volunteer: Chelsea Byrne
Image: Darren Gill

BY JANE'S HAND

April 27 - May 7 La Mama Courthouse

Text: Jane Austen

Writer/Director: Dr Emma O'Brien

Cast: Marjorie Butcher, Isha Menon, Olivia O'Brien

Lighting Design/Operator: Hannah Willoughby

Costume Design: Susan Halls

Songs and Music Arrangement: Dr Emma O'Brien

Set Design: Dr Emma O'Brien, Henry O'Brien

Set Build: Rod Connolly, Martin Mason

Dramaturgy: Draf Draffin, Henry O'Brien

KILLING TIME

May 9 - 21 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Jack Hibberd

Director: Denis Moore

Cast: Don Bridges, Jim Daly

Design: Greg Carroll

Lighting Design: Jason Bovair

Stage Manager: Caitlin Duff

LAST ILLUMINATIONS

May 10 - 21 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: Peter Murphy

Cast: David Macrae, Tom Pickering

Composer/Music Director: Peter Graham

Stage Manager/Operator: Giovanna Yate Gonzalez

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO DINOSAURS (LA MAMA VCE PROGRAM)

May 24 - June 4 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Belle Hansen, Amelia Newman

Director: Cassandra Gray

Producer: Flick

Cast: Michael Cooper, Matilda Gibbs, Belle Hansen, Chris Patrick Hansen, Anna Louey, Amelia Newman, Izzy Patane, Emily Pearson

Sound Designer and Composer: Jack Burmeister

Lighting Designer: Theo Viney

Set and Costume Designer: Casey Harper-Wood

Education Manager: Alex Veljanovski

Stage Manager: Brigette Jennings

Image: Darren Gill

ADRIFT

May 24 - June 4 La Mama HQ

Writer: Jane Miller

Director: Beng Oh Producer: 15 Minutes from Anywhere

Cast: Lauren Bailey, Omar Dabash, Steve Gome, Scott Gooding, David Kambouris, Luke Mason, Kelly Nash, Marissa O'Reilly, Annabelle Tudor

Set and Costume Design: Lieze Stewart

Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Stage Manager: Teri Steer

Swing Stage Manager: Ellie Brindle

LITTLE BROTHER, BIG SISTER

June 7 - 18 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Michel Paul Tuomy

Director: Cathy Hunt

Cast: Adam Cass, Myf Powell

Set and Costume Design: Kris Bird

Sound Design: Jess Keeffe

Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Lighting Realisation and Recreation: Giovanna Yate Gonzalez

LX, SFX and AV Operator: Katie Williams

Dramaturgy: Peter Matheson

NDIS Arts Mentor: Tania Smith

Mad Comrade: Sandy Jeffs

Artworks: Elyss McCleary, Michel Paul Tuomy

Photography: Darren Gill

WOMAN WITH A TOMAHAWK

June 7 - 18 La Mama HQ

Writer: Ruth Katerelos

Director/Producer: Sarah Vickery

Cast: Nisha Joseph, Ruth Katerelos, Alana Louise Stewart

Stage Manager/Co-Producer: Naavikaran

FRANKENSTEIN (LA MAMA VCE PROGRAM)

June 20 - 25 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director/Designer: Christine Davey

Associate Director: Elva Dandelion

Cast: Laura Atkin, Taylah Broad, Kerry Davies, Aly Jane, Paula Kontelj, Tessa-Marie

Luminati, Graci Lynch, Danae Reid

Costume Design: Emma Jones

Props: Mary Steuten

Lighting Technician/Operator: Katie Williams

TREES (LEST WE FORGET)

June 20 - 25 La Mama HQ

Creator/Director: Lloyd Jones

Collaboration with The Ensemble: Jo-Anne Armstrong, Robyn Clancy, Tim Ferris, Maureen

Hartley, Lisa Inman, Zac Kazepis, Rosemary Johns, Liz Jones, Chris Molyneux, Adrian

Prosen, Elnaz Sheshgelani, Ray Triggs, Scott Welsh, Howard Wilkinson

ADA

July 5 - 16 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Dora Abraham Director: Laurence Strangio

Producers: Zadie Kennedy McCracken, Andreas Petropoulos

Cast: Anette Aghazarian, AYA, Leigh Scully, Meg Spencer

Stage Manager: Ella Campbell Set Design: Moya Lucy, Laurence Strangio

Costume Design: Becky Silveira Lighting Design: Julian Adams

Sound Design/Composer: Jack Burmeister Audio Visual Content: Simon Bowland

Design Consultant: Mattea Davies

Intimacy Coordinator: Lucy Payne Combat Choreographer: Myles Tankle

Technical and Creative Support: Ruiqi Fu

Photography: Darren Gill

GARAGE GIRLS

July 19 - 30 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Madelaine Nunn, Candace Miles and Anna Rodway, in collaboration with Carolyn Bock and Helen Hopkins

Director: Janice Muller

Producers: Three Birds Theatre and The Shift Theatre

Cast: Carolyn Bock, Helen Hopkins, Candace Miles, Madelaine Nunn, Anna Rodway

Swing: Mia Landgren

Set and Costume Design: Sophie Woodward Set Construction: Jacob Battista

Lighting Design: Gina Gascoigne

Sound Design: Rachel Stone

Stage Manager: Claire Shepherd

Dramaturgy: Janice Muller

Publicity: Bronny (Little Train)

Image: Tony Rive

I SAID THIS TO THE BIRD

August 2 - 13 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Mammad Aidani, in collaboration with Farhad Bakhshi, Reza Kaviani, Asghar Mirhoseini, Mehrfam Naimi Director/Translator (from Persian): Mammad Aidani

Editor: Russell Fewster

Cast: Reza Kaviani, Sepideh Karimi, Mohammad (Ramin) Montazeri Kordi, Faraz Safari

Lighting Design/Stage Manager: Caitlin Duff

Image: Darren Gill

MY FIRST BIKE

August 23 - 27 La Mama HQ

Writer: Maude Davey

Music: Jane Bayly

Cast: Jane Bayly, Maude Davey

Stage Manager: Lucy Payne

Lighting Design: Gina Gascoigne

Dramaturgy: Anni Davey

Costumes: Jane Bayly, Maude Davey, Lucy Payne

Image: Darren Gill

CACTUS (LA MAMA VCE PROGRAM)

August 16 - 27 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Producer: Madelaine Nunn

Director: Katie Cawthorne Assistant Director: Bridie Callahan

Cast: Georgia Heath, Fran Sweeney-Nash

Lighting Design: Kris Chainey Sound Design: Rachel Stone

Production and Stage Manager: Sian Halloran

Costume Design/Associate Set Design: Angelica Rush

PIANO IN 7 PARTS

August 31 - September 2 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: Domenico de Clario

Cast: John Bolton, Domenico de Clario, John Jacobs, Liz Jones, David Pidd, Meredith Rogers, Elly Varrenti, Tony Yap

Musician: Ayako Fujii

Dramaturgy: Meredith Rogers

CELEBRITY

September 20 - October 1 La Mama HQ

Writer/Performer/Producer: Suzie J. Jarmain Cameo: Jim Daly

Director: Emma Gough

Filmmaking Artist: Jackson Raine

Composer: Kym Alexandra Dillon

Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Stage Manager/Technical Operator: Jamie Hension

Image: Darren Gill

STARFISH THE [REDACTED] (MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL)

October 4 - 15 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director/Producer: Travis Cotton

Cast: Caroline Craig, Toby Truslove

Stage Manager: Felicity Ethell

Composer: Nicholas Pollock

Lighting Design: Natalia Velasco

Costume Design: Lori Dare Set Design: Neil Morrison

Photography: Darren Gill

MYTH, PROPAGANDA AND DISASTER IN NAZI GERMANY AND CONTEMPORARY AMERICA (MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL)

October 11 - 22 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Stephen Sewell Director: Robert Reid

Cast: AYA, Rachael Baring, Casey Bohan, Scott Gooding, Gabriel Partington, Yvette Turner

MYTH, PROPAGANDA AND THE HEIRS OF AMERICA (MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL)

October 11 - 22 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director: Robert Reid

Cast: AYA, Rachael Baring, Casey Bohan, Orion Carey Clark, Tessa Luminati, Gabriel Partington, Yvette Turner

MOOSH THE HOBO CAT

October 18 - 29 La Mama HQ

Creators/Producers: Elnaz Sheshgelani, Scott Welsh

Director: Kerry Davies

Cast: Mary-Rose McLaren, Elnaz Sheshgelani, Subra Velayutham, Scott Welsh, Maeve Wolfe

Musician: Zenta Schubert

Production Manager: Simon Bowland

Costume Design: Lisa Bruce

Score: Chris Forehan, Richard McLean

Artist Image: Vy Huynh and Elnaz Sheshgelani

Poster: Nidhi Isaac, Cicero's Circle

DEFOE'S PLAGUE

November 1 - 12 La Mama HQ

Devisers: Alicia Benn-Lawler, Phil Roberts, Shannon Woollard Director: Alicia Benn-Lawler

Cast: Phil Roberts, Shannon Woollard

Mask Artist: Paris Balla Visual Artist: Patricia Steward

Stage Manager/LX Operator: Benjamin Mazzarella

Costume Design: Romy Sweetnam

SLIGHTLY CRACKED

November 1 - 12 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Lisa Dallinger, Jennifer Monk Director: Jennifer Monk Producer: Girls Act Good

Cast: Lisa Dallinger, Joss McClelland, Jennifer Monk, Sophie Lampel, Laura Jane Turner

Dramaturgy: Perri Cummings Voice Coach: Lisa Dallinger

Marketing/Production Manager: Emma Caldwell

Lighting Design: Canada White

Production Design: Jennifer Monk, Constance Washington

Composer/Sound Design: Lyndon Horsburgh

Original Music: Milly Moon

Technical Operator: Shane Grant

Cinematography/Editing: Han Palmer

Images: Darren Gill

PRISONER AT THE WORLD'S END

November 15 - 26 La Mama HQ

Writer: Rosemary Johns

Directors: Rosemary Johns, Elnaz Sheshgelani

Cast: Joanne Davis, Maureen Hartley, Sepideh Karimi, Romy McIlroy

Production Design and Graphics: Peter Mumford

Sound Design/Music Composition: Robert Vincs

Lighting Design/Projection: Simon Bowland

Stage Manager/Lighting Operator: Cat Baud

Assistant Stage Manager/Sound Operator: Jade Hibbert

MI:WI 3027

November 15 - 26 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: Glenn Shea

Associate Director: Dr Kirsty Reilly

Producer: The Storyteller

Cast: Syd Brisbane, Lucy Payne, Glenn Shea

Female Cultural Advisor Ngarrindjeri: Elder Aunty Betty Sumner

Male Cultural Advisor Ngarrindjeri: Elder Uncle Moogy Sumner

Production and Stage Manager: Kelly Harris

Designer: Meg White Carpenter and Runner: Rob Cooke

Sound Design: Elissa Goodrich Lighting Design: Shane Grant

Costume Design: Gail Stroud Animation: Mia Reilly-Shea

German Translation and Coaching: Meta Cohen, Steve Gome

German Translator/Understudy: Jo Stone

MTC Indigenous Program Interns: Emma Salmon, Jasper Quinn

Deakin University Intern/Assistant Stage Manager: Tess Nethercote Way

MIWI 3027 Researcher: Andrea Barker

Image: Darren Gill

PERCUSSION, CONVERSATION, DEGUSTATION

November 29 - December 3 La Mama Courthouse

With Speak Percussion

Producer: Ashley Dyer

Performers: Duré Dara, Biddy Connor, Caroline Connors, Rosalind Crisp, Joseph Franklin,

Callum G'Froerer, Dale Gorfinkel, Jasmin Wing-Yin Leung, Scott McConnachie, Alexander

Meagher, Kaylie Melville, Andrew Morrish, Zela Papageorgiou, Tina Stefanou, Eugene

Ughetti, Erkki Veltheim, Ren Walters

I SHALL GO OUT ACROSS THE SNOW-COVERED FIELDS

December 6 - 16 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Performer: Faye Bendrups

Director: Lisa Petty

Musician: Guillermo Anad

Lighting Design: Greg Carroll

Stage Manager: Katie Williams

SURAT SURATNYA

December 6 - 16 La Mama HQ

A collaboration between Stage of Wawan Sofwan (SOWS), Sandra Fiona Long and Ria Soemardjo

Producer: Sandra Fiona Long

Installation - Between the Letters:

Creator/Performer: Ria Soemardjo

Lighting Design: Cole McKenna

Our Last Dinner was Sayur Lodeh:

Writers: Wawan Sofwan, Ratna Ayu Budiarti (Indonesia), based on letters and interviews of Ibu Helen

Director: Wawan Sofwan (Indonesia)

Cast: Ellen Marning

Dramaturgy/Translator: Sandra Fiona Long

Composer: Kurnia Eka Fajar (Indonesia)

Design: Yudith Christiano (Indonesia)

Lighting Design/Technical Manager/Operator: Cole McKenna

Technical Assistant/Operator: Aaron Carey-Long

Project Manager: Nirvana Vania (Indonesia)

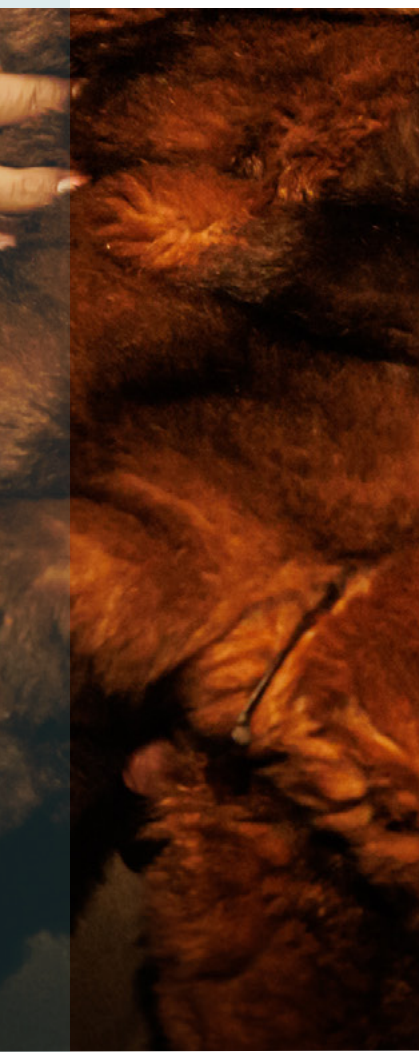
Image: Darren Gill



Ellen Marning and **Kurnia Eka Fajar** in 'Surat Suratnya'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.



Syd Brisbane, Glenn Shea and Lucy Payne in 'Mi:Wi 3027'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.



Online

In 2023, La Mama presented 41 shows online, including livestreaming and/or recording live shows for later viewing (On Demand.)

This includes shows from our Primary program, La Mamica series and Special Events.

3 shows on the VCE Playlist were livestreamed, recorded for on demand and later schools revisited.

Shows either livestreamed or presented online through On Demand:

Primary Program: Shadowfall, The Angel with Blue Eyes, Kovid Rat Kabarett Goes Spiral, The Six Guys and Immigrant Trans Person of Colour Will Date in Melbourne, Not All Dictators, Radioactive Cockroach, Flesh Disease, Where There's a Will, The Job Interview, Same But Different - A Trilogy, Last Illuminations, The World According to Dinosaurs, Adrift, Little Brother Big Sister, Woman with a Tomahawk, Frankenstein, ADA, Garage Girls, My First Bike, Cactus, Starfish the [Redacted], Moosh the Hobo Cat, Slightly Cracked, Prisoner at the World's End, MI:WI 3027, I Shall Go Out Across the Snow-Covered Fields

La Mamica: Musica: The Story of Here, Poetica: Poetry of the Times, Musica: The Watermill, Poetica: The Poetry of Rethinking, Musica: How Do We Listen?, Poetica: The Poetry of My Generation, Musica: Maps for Losing Oneself.

Special Events: Midsummica



Caroline Craig in 'Starfish the [redacted]'
Photography by **Darren Gill**



Monique Warren in 'The Comedy Games With Coach Mon'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.

La Mama For Kids

THE STORY KEEPERS: THE NEXT CHAPTER

March 25 - 26 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director: Em Chandler

Performers: Chantal Amber, Callum Bodman, Flynn Davis, Clare Morgan, Kieran Tierney

Image: Darren Gill

THE COMEDY GAMES WITH COACH MON

April 6 - 15 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Performer: Monique Warren

Director: Laura Aldous

Production Assistant: Sophie Bengough

Tech: Cat Duff

Image: Cameron Grant, Parenthesy

MUSICAL JAM

May 8 - June 19 (Mondays) La Mama HQ Rehearsal Hub

Facilitator: Karen Davitt

Image: Darren Gill

RIP: REST IN PARADISE - YOUTH LED ENSEMBLE

September 27 - 30 La Mama HQ

Created by: The Youth Led Ensemble at La Mama

Writer/Director/Facilitator: Paris Balla

Performers: Alex, Dimi, Flo, Lola, Pascal, Skye

Assistant: Geo Valentine

Sound Design/Operator: Nikita Sinclair

Stage Manager: Karissa Taylor

Explorations

2023 saw a total of 27 Performances as part of the Explorations Season, with 16 at HQ from 4 July – 19 August, then 11 at the Courthouse from 28 August - 8 October. Each Exploration had 3 nights in the theatre to explore their creative ideas and get valuable feedback from audiences and peers in the development of their work.

In 2023 we offered artists additional support through providing a La Mama Stage Manager/Operator for their seasons, along with the usual La Mama deal, increasing the in-kind and practical support provided to artists at this stage of their project.

From this Explorations Season, 6 Productions went on to further seasons elsewhere, including at the Melbourne and Adelaide Fringe Festivals. Audiences were very engaged, with 4 Productions adding extra daytime performances due to sold out seasons.

NIUSIA

July 4 - 6 La Mama HQ

Writer/Performer: Elizabeth Paterson Director: Kathryn Yates

Producer: Ryan Stewart Writing Dramaturg: Fraser Mitchell

Set and Costume Design: Samantha Hastings Lighting Design: Sidney Younger

Sound Design: Justin Gardam

Jewish Cultural Consultant: Galit Klas

Image: Ece Mustafoff

HOW TO EAT RABBIT

July 7 - 9 La Mama HQ

Presented by: Pillow Fight Theatre Writer/Performer: Jamila Main

Performer/3D Digital Artist: Nory Saudie

Outside Eye: Zoe Boesen

Image: Pamela Boutros

BOOBS IN SPACE

July 10 - 12 La Mama HQ

Creators/Performers: Claire Bird, Ava Campbell, William Strom, Dominic Weintraub, Hugo Williams

Image: Claire Bird

THE TALK

July 13 - 15 La Mama HQ

Writers and Performers: Amber Hart, River Hart

Musicians: Lindsay Gaines, Indy Gaines

Producer: Amber Hart

Directional Adviser: Martin Brueggemann

Dramaturgy: Emma Fawcett

Image: Darren Gill

COMFORT MUSIC

July 16 - 18 La Mama HQ

Writer/Performer: Polash Larsen

Director: John Bolton

Image: Lara Week

THE DEVIL DOTH PREACH

July 19 - 21 La Mama HQ

Writer: Ellen O'Connor Director: Alonso Pineda

Producer: Erica Chestnut

Performers: Erica Chestnut, Ellen O'Connor

Sound and Lighting Design: Jarman Oakley

Image: Darren Gill

LAUNDRY SHOOT!

July 22 - 24 La Mama HQ

Writer: Dora Abraham Director: Keegan Bragg

Performers/Devisers: Damon Baudin, Vitoria Hronopoulos, Guy Knowler

Set Design: Max Bowyer

Lighting Design: Iz Zettl

Sound Design: Ethan Hunter

Image: Max Bowyer

HEY, YOU

July 25 - 27 La Mama HQ

Presented by: Soak Production Company

Writer: Georgia Politakis

Developed with: Jules Broun

Performers: Georgia Politakis, Shannon Stevens

Voice Overs: Jules Broun, Korinna Krauss, Liam Linane, Joshua Mclean

Image: Darren Gill

AFTER REBECCA

July 28 - 30 La Mama HQ

Writer/Co-Director: Emma Gibson

Performer/Co-Director: Michelle Cooper

Producer: Emily Star

Design: Daniel McCusker

Image: Darren Gill

TRUE MYTHS

August 3 - 5 La Mama HQ

Creator/Director/Performer: Georgia Kartas

Musical Performer: Bonnie Packer

Composition: Arben Ramiz

Video Editing: Aly Houssien

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A BABY

August 6 - 8 La Mama HQ

Writer/Producer: Christine Hill

Technical Assistance: Dan Green

Spanish Translation: Christine Hill, assisted by Daniela Acuna

Image: Darren Gill

THE CLOUD

August 9 - 11 La Mama HQ

Creator/Performer: Douglas Hassack

Image: Liz Hassack

SKY SYMPHONY

August 9 - 19 La Mama HQ (Balcony)

Concept/Design: Rea Dennis, Kate Hunter

Audio Visual Recordings: Jane Bartier, Rea Dennis, Kate Hunter, Madga Miranda, Jem Murphy, Morgan Rose

Additional Design/Construction: Jem Savage

Image: Rea Dennis

STRANGE LOCUTIONS

August 12 -14 La Mama HQ

Writer/Producer: Ellen Marning

Performers/Co-Creators: Bronte Charlotte, Kaine Hansen, Ellen Marning

Original Music: Kaine Hansen

Musician (Oboe): Emmanuel Cassimatis

Image: Bronte Charlotte

BALLADS FROM THE BRINK

August 18 - 20 La Mama HQ

Co-Creators/Performers: Rachel Edward, Myf Powell

Dramaturgy: Milly Cooper, Harriet Devlin

Lighting Design: Hannah Willoughby

Sound Design: Alex Edward, Sam Price

Audio Visuals: Rachel Edward

Audio Description Consultancy: Vitae Veritas

Image: Bridgette Griffiths Mark

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE EMMA

August 28 - 30 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Ella Crowley, Zadie Kennedy McCracken

Director: Zadie Kennedy McCracken

Producer: Chiara Henger

Stage Manager: Cassidy Cox

Movement Direction: Tallulah McKenzie

Costume Design: Chiharu Valentino

Image: Owen Morfitt

DEAR SUN, LOVE JOY

August 31 - September 2 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director: Victoria Winata

Performers: Lionel Eisenbruch, Joshua Mackie, James Madsen-Smith, Fahira Syifa Machfudz, Jessica Tran

Set and Costume Design: Bronte Sunners

Sound Design: Cole McKenna

Lighting Design: Angela Joanna Wijaya

Choreography/Movement Director: Acacia Nettleton

Publicity/Image: Jessica Fanwong

SEDUCTION

September 3 - 5 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Samuel Buckley, Isabelle Carney, Cooper McDonald

Director/Producer/Image: Cooper McDonald

Performers: Cooper McDonald, Will Hall, Molly Holohan

WORLDS WHERE LIFE MIGHT EXIST

September 9 - 11 La Mama Courthouse
Writer/Director: Christine Davey
Associate Director: Graci Lynch
Performers: Libby Brockman, Mary Steuten
Design: Aly Jane Visual Artist: Cherie Roessler
Lighting Technician: Laura Zarb
Image: Darren Gill

CRY BABY

September 10 - 12 La Mama Courthouse
Co-Deviser/Performer: Isabella Perversi
Dramaturgy: Emma Fawcett Outside Eye/Creative Consultant: Fabio Motta
Image: Ross Dwyer (Mad Hatter Films)

CHERRY BOMB

September 15 - 17 La Mama Courthouse
Creators/Directors: Isabella Kourdoulos, Annabelle Wemyss
Producer: Isabella Kourdoulos
Performers: Lauren Caltabiano, Lachlan Purcell, Elena Rufenacht, Annabelle Wemyss
Production Manager: Piper Knight
Set and Costume Design: Lauren Caltabiano
Lighting Design: Justin Heaton
Composition/Sound Design: Sebastian Whitaker
Image: Sophia Kourdoulos, Elena Rufenacht

GO/NO GO

September 18 - 20 La Mama Courthouse
Writer/Producer: Natalie Frijia Director: Benjamin Sheen
Performers: Clarisse Bonello, Rindi Harradine, Cassia Jamieson, Grace Law, Amy Nightingale-Olsen, Emrys Quin, Nina Robertson, Stan Ricketson, Karina Schiller, Felicity Steel
Composition: Matthew Anderson
Stage Manager: Emily White
Image: Daniel Rabin

FANTASTIC IN PLASTIC

September 24 - 26 La Mama Courthouse
Director/Production Manager: Alexandra Meerbach
Assistant Director/Assistant Production Manager: Zoe James
Performers: Tim Harris, Lilly Jones, Amy Thomas
Sound Design: Gabriel Blake Costume Design: Amy Thomas
Social Media and Marketing: Olivia French
Photography and Graphics/Image: Kit Valerio

NOISE

September 27 - 29 La Mama Courthouse
Writer/Director: Mary-Rose McLaren
Performers: Gabriel Blake, Emma Hampson, Amber Jones, Lilly Jones, Georgia Marshall, Eloise McGifford, Alexandra Meerbach, Scott Welsh, Skye Wilkins
Production Manager: Emma Hampson
Video and IT Support: Timothy Webby
Image: Alexandra Meerbach

GARY IS JESUS

October 3 - 5 La Mama Courthouse

Book, Music and Lyrics: Conor Neylon, Jackson Peele

Director/Producer: Jackson Peele

Music Director: Conor Neylon

Performers: Chris Burgess, Jarrod Griffiths, Luke Leong-Tay, Grace Miell, Ariana Rigazzi

Dramaturgy: Scout Hook

Audio and Music Production Supervisor: Lachlan Hol

Image: James Reiser

WAVES (WAVE)

October 6 - 8 La Mama Courthouse

Presented by: Forest Collective

Music Composition and Direction/Conductor: Evan J Lawson

Performers: Ashley Dougan, Trea Hindley, Rosanne Hunt, Evan J Lawson, Ryan Lynch, Jesse Matthews, Zela Papageorgiou, Kim Tan, Ryan Williams

Choreography: Ashley Dougan, Jesse Matthews

Costume Design: Jane Noonan

Image: Kate Baker



The **Pony Cam** crew in 'Boobs in Space'
Photography by **Darren Gill**



'Cherry Bomb' performed by **Lauren Caltabiano, Lachlan Purcell, Elena Rufenacht** and **Annabelle Wemyss**.
Photography by **Darren Gill**.





Amy Thomas in 'Fantastic in Plastic'
Photography by **Ruiqi Fu**



Elizabeth Paterson in 'Niuisia'
Photography by **Darren Gill**



Jessica Tran in 'Dear Sun, Love Joy'
Photography by **Darren Gill**



Vitoria Hronopoulos and **Damon Baudin** in
'Laundry Shoot' Photography by **Darren Gill**



Melbourne Festival of Puppetry

The Melbourne Festival of Puppetry was presented by La Mama Theatre and Lemony S Puppet Theatre, supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, the City of Melbourne, Carlton Inc. and The Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society, and proudly sponsored by Creature Technology Company, the Motley Bauhaus and Co.As.It.

PUPPEROOS: HAENYEO: WOMEN OF THE SEA

June 27 - 29 La Mama HQ

Co Directors: Kay Yasugi, Sue Wallace

Performers: Kay Yasugi, Young Kyu Kwon (Pupperoos)

Puppets: Kay Yasugi, with assistance from Katherine Hannaford

Set Construction: Kay Yasugi, Steve Coupe, Paige Hoorweg

Crocheted/Knitted Props: Kay Yasugi, Paige Hoorweg (Handmade by Ru), Chloe Steward (Peacemill Studios), Anastasia Yew

Music: Kang Kyung Ja, Devil E So Marko, Ahn Sung-Woo, Beck Junghyun

Created with support from ImaginArta, The Australian Puppet Centre and the Seaborn, Broughton and Walford Foundation

Image: Kay Yasugi

BONKEL: ROLLING!

June 27 - July 1 La Mama HQ Forecourt

Creators/Performers: Katrina Gaskell and Enio Pozzebon (Bonkel Theatre)

Special Thanks: Alex Joy, Rod Primrose, Casey Bennetto

Image: Matt Bottos

MARK PENZAK: LABYRINTH IN THE LIBRARY

June 27 - 29 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Performer: Mark Penzak

Set/Image: Eliza-Jane Gilchrist

Merlin Puppet: Lulu Lala

Music and Sound Design: Andrée Cozens

DREAM PUPPETS: DREAMER AND THE RAINBOW TIGER

June 27 - 29

La Mama Courthouse

Creator/Director/Designer/Puppets: Richard Hart Based on a story by Julia Davis

Performers: Richard Hart, Julia Davis

Composition: John Arthur Grant

Image: Richard Hart, assisted by Julia Davis

BLACK HOLE THEATRE: KUTHUMI

June 29 - July 2 La Mama Courthouse

Writer (adaptation)/Director: Robyn Lauricella (Wotjobaluk)

Puppets: Robyn Lauricella, Jandamurra Lauricella (Wotjobaluk)

Narrator: Robyn Lauricella or Aunty Hazel McDonald (Wotjobaluk)

Puppeteers: Robyn Lauricella, Jandamurra Lauricella

Campfire and Lighting: Beau Ladlow

Producer: Nancy Black, Sarah Vickery (Black Hole Theatre)

Images & Video: Mary French

SHAKE SHAKE THEATRE: THE STORY OF MR B

June 30 - July 2 La Mama HQ

Creators: Pierre Filliez, Jessica Nicholls

Image: Jessica Nicholls

EM CHANDLER: MOONSPELL

June 30 - July 2 La Mama HQ

Devisers and Performers: Em Chandler, Anthony Crowley

Image: Anthony Crowley

EMILIE BLOOM: FRITZ

June 30 - July 2 La Mama HQ

Creator/Performer: Emilie Bloom

Director: Clare Bartholomew

Animation and Puppetry: UBI Set Design and Construction: Perri Campbell

Costume Design and Construction: Sarah Seahorse

Original Music Composition: Madeline Hudson

Artwork: Sarah Beetson

SYDNEY PUPPET THEATRE: IN SEARCH OF GIDDY GIRD BIRD

June 30 - July 2 La Mama Courthouse

Puppet Design and Construction: Steve Coupe, Sue Wallace

Image: Sue Wallace

LITTLE WING PUPPETS: A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE

June 30 - July 2 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Jenny Ellis, Anne Brooksbank

Directors: Jacob Williams, Clare Batholomew

Performer: Jenny Ellis

Music: Kelly Ryall

Puppets and Sets: Jenny Ellis, Jeremy Lavender

Image: Jeremy Lavender

PEARLY WHITES: SANCTUM

July 1 Carlton Highrise Estate

Writers: Lachlan Plain, Gonzalo Varela, Tim Ratcliffe

Director: Lachlan Plain

Performers: Tim Ratcliffe, Lachlan Plain

Design: Lachlan Plain, Gonzalo Varela

Image: Darren Gill

MURRAY AND THE MURRAYONETTES: THEY CAME FROM URANUS

June 29 - July 2 Motley Bauhaus Downstairs

Writers: Murray Raine, Neil Ray, James Welsby

Director: James Welsby

Costume Design & Creation: Isaac Lummis

Soundtrack Design: Andrew Cullimore

Set Design & Construction: Steve Coupe

Puppet Construction: Murray Raine Puppet Direction: Sue Wallace

Graphic Art & Shadow Design: Johnny Balance

Multimedia Design: Peter Oldham

Performer/Image: Murray Raine

SHOWKO: ONE NIGHT SUSHI STAND

June 29 - July 2 Motley Bauhaus Upstairs

Writer/Creator/Performer: Showko Director: Jason Marion

Image: Nicole Cleary

ONE ORANGE SOCK: THINGS THAT WIGGLE & SQUIRM

June 30 - July 2 La Mama HQ

A One Orange Sock Production Director/Producer: Alex Joy

Associate Producer: Allanah Sarafian

Dramaturg: Em Chandler Creative Associate/Stage Manager: Matt Bottos

Performers: Alex Joy, Jackson Eather, Nadira Sanif, Lauren Kemp, Philip Millar

Image: Alex Joy

Children's Workshops**UB: SHADOW PUPPETS**

June 27 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Facilitator: UB

Image: Lemony S Lab

PARIS BALLA: SOCK PUPPETS

June 28 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Presented by Paris Balla

GEORGIE ROSE: ROD PUPPETS

June 29 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Facilitator: Georgie Rose

Image: Robbie Ferguson

PARIS BALLA: JUNK PUPPETS

June 30 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Presented by Paris Balla

Professional Development for Adults (15+ Years)**ARTIST TALK: SONNY TILDERS**

June 28 Co.As.It.

Presented by Sonny Tilders (Creature Technology Co.)

PHILIP MILLAR: DIGITAL TOOLS FOR ANALOG MAKERS

July 1 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Creator/Presenter/Image: Philip Millar (Puppetvision)

A workshop to incorporate digital 3D techniques and processes into the puppet making workflow, expanding the making repertoire with new technologies and creating a digital puppet component ready for print.

JACOB WILLIAMS: MANIPULATION

July 1 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Presented by Jacob Williams (Lemon S Puppet Theatre)

A four-hour masterclass in manipulation and performance techniques for puppetry by a leading artist with 20+ years' experience working across Australia and the globe.

THINGS OF FOAM AND WOOD: MOULD MAKING

July 2 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Presented by Tamara Rewse and Hamish Fletcher (Things of Foam and Wood)

An in-depth mould making masterclass from two of Australia's finest puppet makers working across film, television and theatre.

SYDNEY PUPPET THEATRE: MARIONETTE

July 2 Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre

Presented by Steve Coupe and Sue Wallace (Sydney Puppet Theatre)

A four-hour masterclass on the deep dive and creation of the marionette.

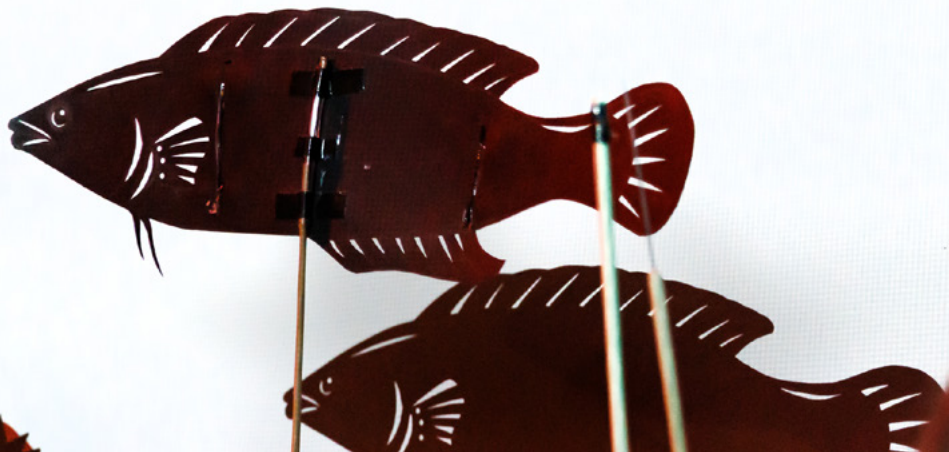
Roving Performances

LEMONY S PUPPET THEATRE, CURIOUS LEGENDS, PERRI CAMPBELL, GEORGIE ROSE, JULES CHAPPEL, THE GARDENERS



Kay Yasugi and **Young Kyu Kwo** (Pupperoos) in 'Haenyeo: Women of the Sea'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.

Black Hole Theatre 'Kuthumi'
Photography by **Darren Gill**



Showko in 'One Night Sushi Stand' Photography by **Darren Gill**

UB 'Shadow Puppet Workshop'.
Photography by **Darren Gill**



Play Readings

WHO SAVED JFK

February 18 La Mama HQ

Writers: Neil Cole, Erica Myers-Davis

Image: Erica Myers-Davis

MY FATHER'S STORY

February 25 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director: Marty MonStar

Performer: Ian Rooney

Image: Marty MonStar

TUESDAY LUNCH

March 4 La Mama HQ

Producer: The Shift Theatre Writer: Angela Buckingham

Performers: Carolyn Bock, Helen Hopkins, Aleshanee Kelso

CHESSED OFF

April 8 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: George Spartels Additional Material: John McTernan, Sal Sharah

Performers: Michael Carmen, Bev Killick, Roger Oakley, Richard Piper

Image: Ivan Gaal and George Spartels

HANS LOVES TOM BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM

April 22 La Mama HQ

Writer/Director: Leo Taylor

Performers: Josie Eberhard, Sean Paisly Collins, Christine Husband, Carrie Mozynski, Ian Rooney

EVA 4 EVER

May 13 La Mama HQ

Writer/Performer: Donna De Palma

Director: Sara Grenfell

GEHENNA

June 10 La Mama HQ

Writer: Bill Marshall

Performers: Marco Lawrence, David Macrae, Christina McLachlan, Jacob Oberman, Tom Pickering, Juno Valkyrie

Sound Technician: Alicia Benn-Lawler

WHY WE TOOK THE CAR (TSCHICK)

August 5 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Wolfgang Herrndorf

Director: Martin Brueggemann

Performers: Damon Baudin, Sebastian Li, Meg Taranto

Dramaturgy: Kevin Hojerslev

Translation: Tim Mohr

Costume and Props Design: Isabella Edwards

VIVALDI'S PARK

September 16 La Mama Courthouse

Writers: Alaine Beek and participants of the Essence youth drama program Say it Out Loud 2022 and 2023

THE PASSING

September 23 La Mama HQ

Writer: Anna den Hartog

Director: Alicia Benn-Lawler

Performers: Donna De Palma, Rebecca Morton, Carole Patullo, Mary Helen Sassman

THIN THREADS

October 7 La Mama HQ

Writer: Vivian Nguyen

Director: Jessica Arthur

Producers: Ruby Duncan, Rachel Karmath (Empty Seat Theatre)

I SHALL GO OUT ACROSS THE SNOW-COVERED FIELDS

November 11 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Performer: Faye Bendrups

Musician (Solo Viola): Guillermo Anad

Director: Lisa Petty

Lighting Design: Greg Carroll

Stage Manager: Katie Williams

KOOKABURRA PLAYERS PRESENT

November 18 La Mama Courthouse

Writer: Kevin Summers

Performers: Dennis Coard, Annelise Menna, Gabriel Partington, Jenny Seedsman, Kevin Summers, Drew Tingwell

Stage Directions: Kirsty Snowden

VARIOUS CHARACTERS

November 25 La Mama HQ

Writer: Šime Knežević

Performers: Gene Efron, Skye Feldman, Austin MacDonald, David Tieck

THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER...

December 9 La Mama HQ

Writers/Directors: Ella Filar, Laurence Strangio

Songs: Ella Filar

Performers: Natasha Broadstock, Fletcher Dyson, Claire Nicholls, Myf Powell (Voice), James Titokuwaru (Voice), Sally Banks (Violin), Roni Linser (Percussion), Martin Zakharov (Sax)

Artwork: Chris Molyneux

Technical: John Jenkin

HOPPY YOUNG

December 9 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director: Robert Lewis

Performers: Annaliese Cartwright, Joel de la Motte, Ben Goss, Zoe Hadler



La Mamica

La Mama Musica

Curated by Gemma Horbury

SUMMER - THE STORY OF HERE

March 27 La Mama Courthouse

Performers: Emily Bennett, Kirri Buchler, Sarah Childs, Gemma Horbury, Ros Jones, Marcos Villalta, Dan Witton

Image: Lachlan Dempsey

AUTUMN - THE WATERMILL

May 15 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Storyteller: Arnold Zable

Musical Interpretation: Zulya and The Children of the Underground

Performers: Phil Collings, Zulya Kamalova, Lucas Michailidis, Anthony Schulz, Andrew Tanner

Image: Darren Gill

WINTER - HOW DO WE LISTEN?

July 10 La Mama Courthouse

Performers: Chelle Destefano, Nick Lester, Carmen Robertson

Image: Davide Ragusa

SPRING - MAPS FOR LOSING ONESELF

November 6 La Mama Courthouse

Composer/Performer: Nick Tsiavos

Sound Design: Jim Atkins

Image: Darren Gill



Zulya Kamalova (left) and **Arnold Zable** (bottom) 'Autumn Musica - The Watermill'. Photography by **Darren Gill**



Chica Boom-Boom in 'Winter Cabaretica Variety Show'.
Photography by **Darren Gill**

La Mama Cabaretica Curated by Isabel Knight

SUMMER - SING OUT THE SUMMER March 31 La Mama Courthouse
Performers: Daisy, Maude Davey and Ruth Katerelos, Penny Drops, Silly Little Men

AUTUMN - CARICATURES AND COMEDY May 19 La Mama Courthouse
Performers: Lauren Bok, Ms Beige Brown, CarmenGetta, Omar Dabash

WINTER - WINTER VARIETY SHOW July 14 La Mama Courthouse
Performers: Chica Boom-Boom, Christopher Fieldus, The Hungry Poet

SPRING - CABARETICA December 15 La Mama Courthouse
Performers: Amy Bodossian, Georgie George and Rosie Rai, Naavikaran
All Cabaretica marketing images by Darren Gill

La Mama Poetica

Curated by Amanda Anastasi

SUMMER - POETRY OF THE TIMES

March 28 La Mama Courthouse

Poets: Mammad Aidani, Anne Elvey, Les Wicks, Misbah Wolf

AUTUMN - THE POETRY OF RETHINKING

May 16 La Mama Courthouse

Poets: Linda Adair, Tony Birch, Denise Chapman, Sam Morley

WINTER - THE POETRY OF MY GENERATION

July 11 La Mama Courthouse

Poets: Eva Collins, Lesh Karan, Juan Garrido Salgado, Dom Symes

SPRING - FOUR WOMEN WRITING

October 17 La Mama Courthouse

Poets: Gayelene Carbis, Jennifer Compton, Thuy On, Esther Ottaway

La Mama Mobile



Juan Garrido Salgado (left) and **Amanda Anastasi** (right) 'Winter Poetica: The Poetry of My Generation'.
Photography by **Brendan Bonsack**

La Mama Mobile

BIRTHDAY BOOK OF STORMS

August 2 - 10 Hannah Playhouse, Wellington, New Zealand

Producer: Theatre of Storms Collective Writer: R. Johns Director: Jaime G. Dörner-Alvarez

Performers: Anita Torrance, Robin Kakolyris, Phil Roberts, Jim Daly, Tania Lentini

Graphics & Design: Peter Mumford Lighting Design: Natala Gwiazdzinski

Sound Design: Aaron Torrance Image: Peter Mumford

UNCLE VANYA

September 1 - 2 Site Specific Work, Krivinia, Bulgaria

Co-Producers: La Mama Theatre (Australia), Association MULTICULT

Director/Co-Producer: Bagryana Popova Assistant Director: Nadya Pancheva

Coordinator: Emona Ilieva (Association MULTICULT) Dramaturgical Consultant: Maria Vandova

Performers: Yana Zaykova, Zvezdomira Bozhana, Teodor Karakachanov, Alexander Pritup, Valentina Panova, Teodora Abrasheva, Ei Bo, Vladislav Krustev

Videography: Branimir Miladinov Photography: Anastassia Krstevska

REBUILD LA MAMA EXHIBITION AT THE PRAGUE QUADRENNIAL:

8-18 June, 2023, Prague

Project Manager & Installation Crew (AUS): Rob Cooke

Project Assistant, Carpenter & Installation Crew (CZ): Josh Morrison

La Mama Theatre Representative & Installation Crew: Helen Hopkins

Metal work: Peter Hughes Logistics Support & Installation Crew: Kevin Hopkins

Rebuild La Mama – Architectural Photography: Glenn Hester

Rebuild La Mama & Banksia Festival – Videography: Cobie Orger

Banksia Festival – Photography: Darren Gill

Liaison & Funding: Myf Powell, Development & Pathways Manager, La Mama Theatre

Media: Georgina Capper, Marketing & Communications Manager, La Mama Theatre

Project Support: Caitlin Dullard, Artistic Director & CEO, La Mama Theatre

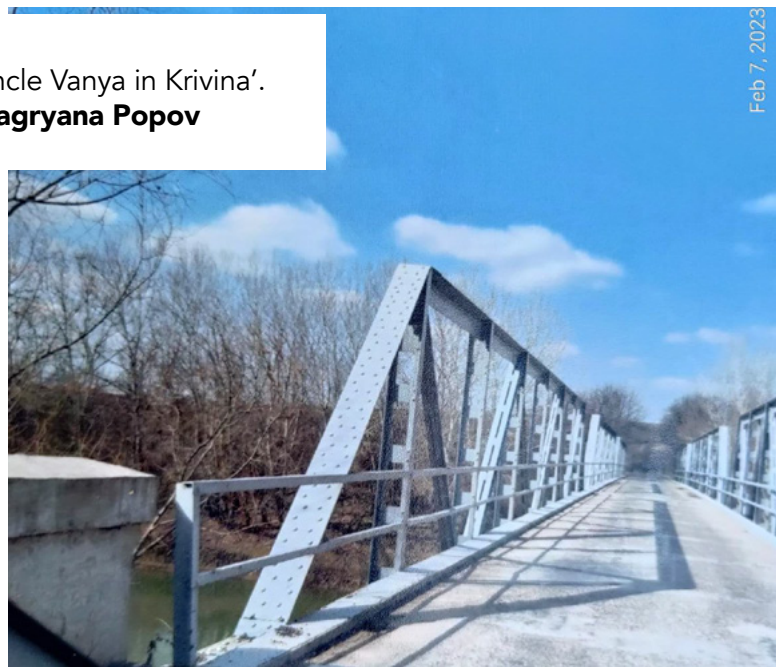
ACTS OF ASSEMBLY: PROJECTS FROM THE PERFORMANCE SPACE EXHIBITION:

PANEL DISCUSSION 13 June 2023, Prague Quadrennial Featuring Meg White and Helen Hopkins

Support material for 'Uncle Vanya in Krivina'.
Photography by **Bagryana Popov**



My grandparents house, Krivina (performance site for Uncle Vanya)



Bridge over the Yantra river, Krivina (landscape surrounding the performance site)



La Mama Pathways

February 2023 saw the beginning of the La Mama Pathways Program with the commencement of the **Pathways Writing Program**, in partnership with Australia Plays Transform and supported by Creative Australia, offering exceptional professional development opportunities for emerging and mid-career writers. **12 participants** were selected by an External Advisory Panel from **149 applicants**. The program, facilitated by Mari Lourey and Glenn Shea, featured a roster of experienced playwrights, educators, directors, and prominent theatre makers from Victoria's vibrant theatre sector including Peta Murray, Rachael Maza, Emilie Collyer, Bella Vadiveloo, Chris Mead, Liv Satchell, Michelle Lee, Zoey Dawson, Nilgun Guven, Kath Papas, and Lara Week.

Following four months of engaging sessions, we held an intimate in-house pitches and presentation day at La Mama HQ, after this each writer was offered up to 18 hours of professional dramaturgical mentorship to complete the program. The program fostered a vibrant community of creatives, allowing for meaningful connections and relationships to form among participants and facilitators. The supportive environment in the room was cherished by all, providing a nurturing space for artistic growth. La Mama's 2024 program will present the works of **five of the 2023 Pathways participants** and La Mama is committed to working with Pathways alumni to present works developed throughout the program.

Following the commencement of Pathways for Writers, La Mama Theatre was successful in gaining support from **John T Reid** to extend and expand the Pathways Program to offer multiple entry points towards career development and capacity building in the performing arts for 2023 and beyond, including **Connect, Emerge** and **Writing Intensive**.

La Mama Connect, a new initiative designed to create opportunities for artists to connect, meet other artists, network and feel part of the La Mama community, commenced with 3 sessions in October 2023. The Connect sessions saw **60 artists** connect with La Mama, offering space for them to meet with each other and talk to us about what kind of opportunities they would be interested in terms of creative connections, professional development and pathways at La Mama. These sessions saw the introduction of the new **La Mama Scratch** as part of the La Mamica series in 2024, as well as input into future Pathways offerings at La Mama.

WRITING PROGRAM

La Mama HQ Weekly February - June 2023 Mentoring June - December 2023

Participants: Chenturan Aran, Rodrigo Calderon, Bronte Charlotte, Vanessa Di Natale, Margaret Harvey, Alex Joy, Henry Kelly, Vanessa O'Neill, Lucy Payne, Amarantha Robinson, Yogashree Thirunavukarasu, Helen Yotis Patterson,

CONNECT

La Mama HQ Saturday October 21, 10am-12:30pm & 2pm-4:30pm Tuesday October 24, 6pm-8:30pm

Special Events

MUSICA: THE MUSIC BETWEEN

The Music Between was presented in partnership with The Boite as a series of free, open rehearsals featuring local musicians from India, Iran, Indonesia and Italy. The broader project examines how musical styles are transformed through collaboration in artists' adopted homelands. La Mama hosted the open rehearsals in the Rehearsal Hub and HQ Forecourt to engage the public on Faraday Street.

Sat Feb 25 1.30-3.30pm Sanacori

Sun March 12 1.30-3.30pm Vinod Prasanna and Leo Dale

Sun March 26 1.30-3.30pm Gamelan DanAnda

CARLTON HARMONY DAY

March 18, 11-2pm Carlton Primary School, the Carlton Neighbourhood Network

La Mama's Myf Powell was Entertainment Coordinator for Carlton Harmony Day, led by the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre. Myf mentored students from Melbourne University to organise and coordinate the entertainment, emceed by Ruth Rogers Wright and featuring local artists, African bands, K-Pop dancers, poet Maxine Beneba Clarke and speeches from MP Adam Bandt and the Lord Mayor Sally Capp.

REMEMBERING FRANK BREN

April 14

A special gathering of friends and colleagues 'in memoriam', which included placement of a plaque in the La Mama garden. 16 attended.

MIDSUMMICA

July 9

La Mama Courthouse

Producers: Harriet Devlin, Ebony Rattle MC: Alex Creece

Performers: Crystal Nguyen, Cynthia Spleen, Jessie Ngaio, Kip Mac, Sarah Carroll

A celebration of LGBTQIA+ identities, disability, and neurodiversity through performance, presented by alumni from the five years of the Midsumma Pathways Program for LGBTQIA+ artists living with disability and neurodiversity.



Cynthia Spleen in 'Midsummica'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE 2023

Jul 29 - Jul 30 Sat, Sun: 10.15am, 11am, 12pm

Since 2008, Open House Melbourne has been putting a spotlight on the unique spaces and places that form the foundation of Melbourne, showcasing buildings of significance in a free and accessible format. La Mama participated again in the Open House Melbourne weekend in July. On both days there were 3 guided tours of La Mama Courthouse, with 6 tours in total and also casual access, with 171 tickets sold over the weekend to experience the historic Carlton Courthouse venue.

MYTH, PROPAGANDA, DISASTER AND THE AUSTRALIAN THEATRE WITH DR ROB (MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL)

October 14 La Mama Courthouse

Writer/Director/Performer: Robert Reid

Image: Television is Furniture

An all new edu-cabaret lecture and PowerPoint presentation by Dr Rob deconstructing Australian theatre's relationship with its plays and erasure as a tool of oppression. With jokes. And songs. Presented in collaboration with the 'Myth, Propaganda' duology of plays in the Primary Season for Melbourne Fringe Festival.

THE PUPPET PICNIC, THE PUPPET TREASURE HUNT AND CARLTON PUPPET FESTIVAL ACTIVATION

July 1 Carlton Housing Estate Gardens

A jam-packed community day of free entertainment for families with roving puppetry performances, workshops, shows and much more. Presented as part of the Melbourne Festival of Puppetry and supported through City of Melbourne's Connected Neighbourhood Small Grants, ADFAS and the Carlton Neighbourhood Network.

Featuring: Georgie Rose, Things of Foam and Wood, Curious Legends, Lemony S Puppet Theatre, Jules Chapple, Perri Campell

CARLTON CHRISTMAS ACTIVATION FOR CARLTON INC

December 1 - 16 Carlton Surrounds

The Carlton Christmas Activation saw La Mama For Kids regulars contributing roving performances along Lygon Street, Lygon Court and the Italian Piazza in Argyle Square. Included in the lineup were PoPoMoCo's 'The Dancing Christmas Trees' and Emilie Bloom's 'Mary the Xmas Fairy', plus La Mama Musica's Vardos Trio, Whoopee Project and the La Mama Street Band.



Mary the XMas Fairy, Po Po Mo Co & Vardos in 'Carlton Christmas Activation'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.

Theatre Tours:

All Year, On Demand

La Mama History & Information Talks/site tours (for Secondary Schools, Tertiary, General Public). There were many individual visitors welcomed and impromptu tours taken throughout the year, plus 4 pre-arranged, totalling over 70 attendees.

Tours/Talks/Engagement:

30 March – Deakin Uni Student Talk (online).

21 April - Deakin Uni Students (3rd year Visual & Performance Arts). 2 group tours of 20 per group, 40 attended.

13, 19, 20 June - All day workshops conducted at Carlton Primary School with Lemony S for Melbourne Festival of Puppetry.

21 June - 3 visitors from Ash Tree Gallery, Taradale.

24 August - Deakin Uni Students (Dept Creative Arts). 7 attended, then moved on to a performance of 'Cactus' at Courthouse.

22 November – Flinders Uni Student tour and talk, 10 students attended, then moved on to see performance of 'Mi:Wi 3027' at Courthouse.

6 December – Deakin Uni Student visit to attend 'Surat Suratnya' at La Mama HQ.

18 December – Deakin Uni Student Talk (online).



Yvette Turner in 'Myth Propaganda and Disaster and the Heirs of America'. Photography by **Darren Gill**



La Mama Access

2023 saw 11 Productions offer dedicated Accessible Performances as part of their La Mama season. 6 Productions were Auslan Interpreted, 5 Relaxed Performances/Events, 3 Audio Described and 3 Tactile Tours offered.

16 Artists who identify as Disabled worked at La Mama throughout 2023.

2 Events were completely dedicated to Disabled performers including the La Mamica's Midsummica on 9 July and Musica on 10 July.

2 disabled volunteers worked at La Mama on a regular basis throughout the year.

1 Disabled Artist Racheli Naparstek's Artistic Mentorship was hosted and supported throughout 2023, leading to her work being programmed for an Explorations Season in 2024.

HOMOPHONIC!

Carlton Courthouse, January 27 - 28

Audio Description: Saturday 28th January, 8pm

Relaxed Performance: Saturday 28th January, 2pm

THE ANGEL WITH BLUE EYES

La Mama HQ, January 27 - February 4

Tactile Tour: Sunday 29th January, 3pm

THE STORY KEEPERS: THE NEXT CHAPTER

Carlton Courthouse, March 25 - 26

Relaxed Performances: Whole Season

THE COMEDY GAMES WITH COACH MON

Carlton Courthouse, April 6 - 15

Auslan Interpreted: Saturday 15th April 2pm

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO DINOSAURS

Carlton Courthouse, May 24 - June 5

Auslan Interpreted: Saturday 3rd June, 7:30pm

LITTLE BROTHER, BIG SISTER

Carlton Courthouse, June 7 - 18

Auslan Interpreted: Friday 9 June, 7:30pm

CACTUS

Carlton Courthouse, August 16 - 27

Auslan Interpreted: Thursday 24th August, 6:30pm

THE PUPPET PICNIC

Carlton Highrise Estate Gardens, July 1

Relaxed Event

MIDSUMMICA

Carlton Courthouse, July 9

Auslan Interpreted, Describer Guides for Audio Described/Tactile Tour

MUSICA: HOW DO WE LISTEN?

Carlton Courthouse, July 10

Auslan Interpreted

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

La Mama Courthouse, July 29 - 30

Guided Access Tours

BALLADS FROM THE BRINK (EXPLORATIONS)

La Mama HQ, August 18 - 20

Audio Description Embedded

Tactile Tour: Whole Season

La Mama Learning Report

VCE SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

7 plays were submitted by La Mama to the VCAA in 2022, for possible selection for the 2023 VCE Playlists.

3 plays were selected for study by the VCAA:

The World According to Dinosaurs by Belle Hansen & Amelia Newman (VCE Drama)

Frankenstein Adapted by Christine Davey, based on the novel by Mary Shelley (VCE Drama)

Cactus by Madelaine Nunn (VCE Theatre Studies)

Our 3 VCE Playlisted Productions were able to be presented as live performances to school audiences in 2023, and were also videoed for later ticketed online access, in preparation for end-of-year exams.

School Attendances at VCE Playlisted Productions:

The World According to Dinosaurs

24/5/23 - 4/6/23 (VCE Drama, Unit 3)
(premiere season)

No. (live) performances:	16
No. after-show forums:	12
No. schools attended:	31 schools
No. school audience attendances (teachers and students):	572
+ VCAA Assessors :	13
	= 585 school attendances
Plus general public:	353
	= 938 total attendances

Frankenstein

20/6/23 - 25/6/23 (VCE Drama, Unit 3)
(one week season only, after regional touring in May/June 2023)

No. (live) performances:	9
No. after-show forums:	8
No. schools attended:	19 schools
No. school audience attendances (teachers and students):	310
+ VCAA Assessors:	13
	= 323 school attendances
Plus general public:	236
	= 559 total attendances

Cactus

(16/8/23 - 27/8/23) (VCE Theatre Studies, Unit 4)
(first premiered by La Mama in 2021)

No. (live) performances: 17
No. after-show forums: 13
No. schools attended: 31 schools
No school audience attendances
(teachers and students): 551
+ VCAA Assessors: 15
= 566 school attendances
Plus general public: 516
= 1082 total attendances

School Attendance Summary:

Total live school performances: 42
Total after-show forums: 33
Total no. of schools attended: 81 schools
(from across metropolitan & regional areas)

Total school attendances: 1474 teachers & students
(incl. 31 VCAA Teacher/Assessors)

End of year Catch-up/Study Revision Sessions:

Online viewings of VCE productions
- requested by 14 schools.
- This year it was a paid ticketed option.

11 bookings for up to 10 students (11 x 10 = 110)
and 3 bookings for 11+ students. (3 x 20 = 60)

Total = 170 online audience (approx.)

Total school audience contact = 1644 (approx.)

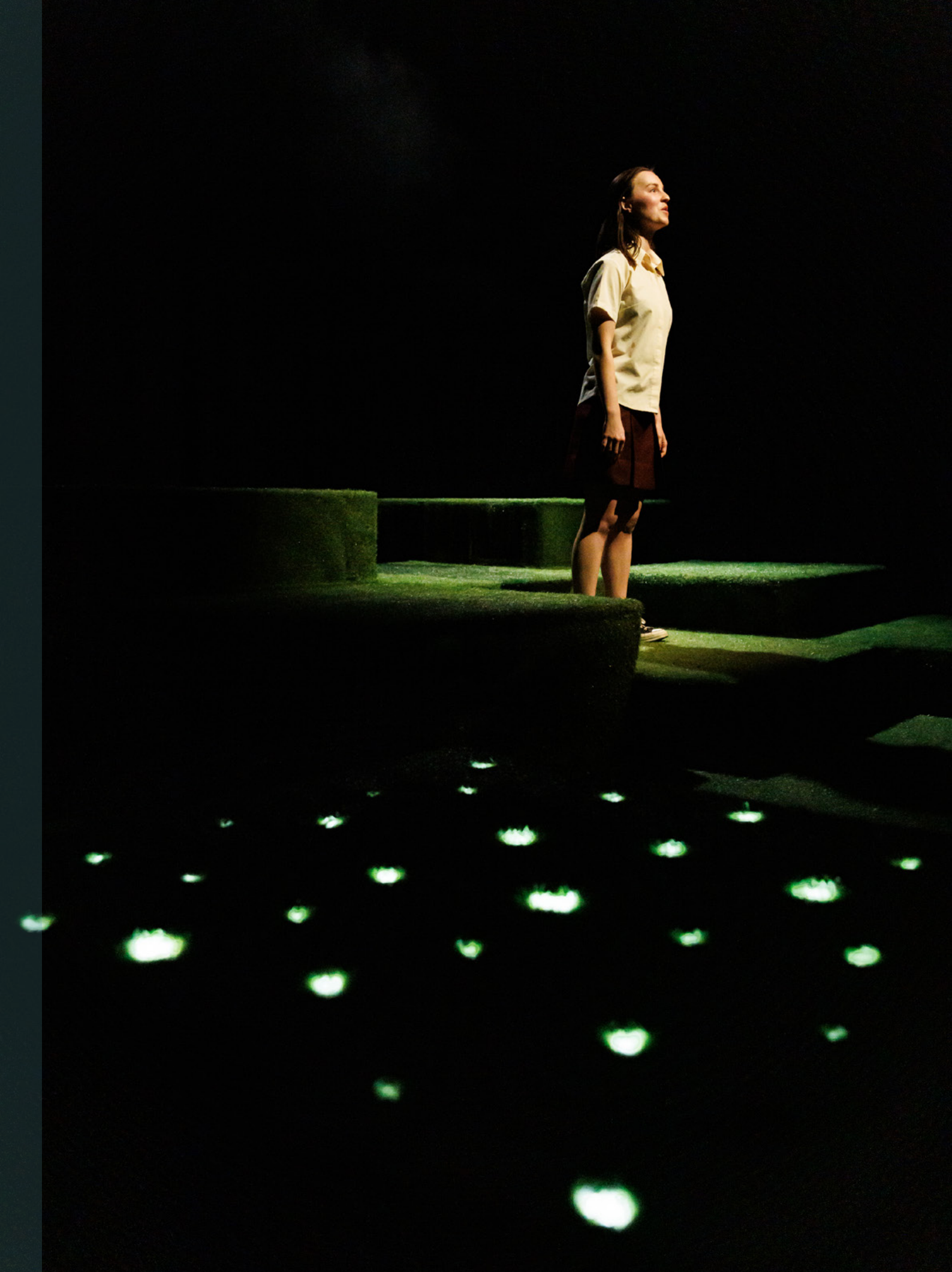
SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

There were 3 Currency Press/La Mama publications in 2023, co-ordinated and edited by the Learning Producer, containing full Play Scripts, Production Notes, Program details and La Mama information, sold as part of VCE package tickets, and at the Box Office at live performances.

500 for Dinosaurs, 300 for Frankenstein & 450 for Cactus
= 1250 books produced / provided for sale to schools

Maureen Hartley

Learning Program Producer



Georgia Heath in 'Cactus'. Photography by **Darren Gill**

Marketing & Communications Report

The year saw a solidifying and refining of marketing processes put in place late last year. We became stronger in our message to artists that my role was to support them in their own marketing and communications efforts. Most artistic teams could see that this had to be the case given my part time status and the sheer volume of shows, and were wonderfully responsive and proactive. There's still room to further distil the systems, and we work constantly at this streamlining. It is challenging being one person working both broadly and with detail across so many shows, programs and the organisation itself; even with this challenge we were pleased to see some growth across our communications channels in 2023.

We took the time to completely rewrite the Marketing Pack in 2023 which had become unwieldy over many years of additions. This of course instantly became an exceptionally useful tool for artists and saves us a lot of time.

While we send out a seasonal media release with invitations to each show, each show needs to also navigate their own individual media engagement. We provide an enormous amount of background support for this, including draft feedback, design and we provide a list of media. Being artist-driven we are pleased at the uptake on this offer. Some productions pay an external PR team to work for them, but we're seeing a growing number of artists willing to take on the job themselves with great success.

Many of the La Mama specific articles this year were centred around Liz Jones stepping away from her CEO/AD roles, including on ABC Radio National, ABC Melbourne, The Age, and a lovely TV interview on the Art Hunter among many others.

Stats:

Website Jan 1 - Dec 31 2023

Users: 109,301 (increase of 6.5%)

User Sessions: 163,887

Page Views: 374,194

Media:

Pre show articles: 39

Reviews: 93

La Mama specific articles: 20

Enews subscribers: 9091

Average open rate: 36.9%.

As well as the weekly enews we now send out a full program e-brochure to launch each season. 52 enews/season e-brochures/announcements were sent to subscribers in 2023.



Marissa O'Reilly in 'Adrift'. Photography by **Darren Gill**

Social Media:

Social media needs a constant rethink, and we're always considering how and whether we continue to use various platforms. The discussions centre around resources, relevance, engagement and platform status itself.

Instagram likes: 9100 (up 14.9%)

Facebook followers: 17,750

Instagram page reach: 67.1k (up 46%)

Facebook page reach: 414.6k

Paid impressions Meta: 1.353million (up 13.3%)

Paid reach Meta: 351,990

Twitter followers: 7,350

YouTube subscribers: 205

Total Social Media Followers by 31 Dec 2023 (Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube): 34,405

Approx number of social media posts: 1,125

Maude Davey in 'My First Bike' Photography by **Darren Gill**



Indigenous Producer Report

What an excellent but very busy 2023. The selection and delivery of the Pathways program delivered over six months exceeded our expectations and the presentations to our AD / CEO and some selected members of the industry was very well received. Each participant grew in understanding how to write for theatre from the very many diverse practitioners we have in our artistic industry. Three Magpies Perched in a Tree "An Indigenous Trilogy" won the Green Room Award, Best New Writing, Independent Theatre.

We continue to plant the right seeds for the integration of First Nations strategies within the organisation. First Nations artists are continuing to engage in conversation with the organisation to understand what opportunities may be available and we have seen First Nations work at Yirramboi Festival, Melbourne, and the Yellamundie Festival, Sydney, we have an exciting First Nations show in 2024, scheduled for and in the November timeslot for First Nations theatre. We also had a very successful season with MIWI:3027 with audience members coming from Arnhem Land, New York and live streamed across the world, particularly Austria, Germany, Great Britain, and many parts of Australia. We have also continued to build our mentorship program and established a working relationship with the MTC to engage with their First Nations participants who connected with our MIWI:3027 La Mama mentors. Our First Nations young people and their contribution was invaluable and contributed to the success of the production.

We also had continuous conversations with Ilbjerri. We engaged in Showcase Victoria and Three Magpies Perched in a Tree has been offered a season at Monash University for September 2024, the show has also been selected for the VCE Curriculum Theatre Studies Unit IV and will be presented in the Courthouse in August 2024, Currency Press will also publish the script. We are also continuing to build relationships with First Nations communities.

If you have any further enquiries or would like to engage in an Indigenous learning workshop throughout the year, please contact me at La Mama Theatre. Keep well and safe and see you in the audience.

Kind regards

Glenn Shea

Elder/Respected NAIDOC 2020
Wathaurong Aboriginal Community
Indigenous Producer
La Mama Theatre Company



Attendance Figures

Anette Aghazarian and **AYA** in 'ADA'.
Photography by **Darren Gill**

La Mama Primary Program

Shadowfall	HQ	10	104	66	0	39	19	228	99%	15	Midsumma	New Australian Work
Homophonic!	CH	3	71	40	0	31	20	162	75%	19	Midsumma	New Australian Work
The Angel with Blue Eyes	HQ	10	65	44	0	51	18	178	56%	13	Midsumma	New Australian Work
Kovid Rat Kabarett Goes Spiral	CH	10	91	87	4	52	0	234	45%	12		New Australian Work
The Six Guys an Immigrant Trans Person of Colour Will Date in Melbourne	HQ	10	115	43	1	49	54	262	82%	13	Midsumma	New Australian Work
Virginia	HQ	11	155	129	0	18	31	333	95%	7		International Work
Not All Dictators	CH	10	135	69	0	90	7	301	43%	12		New Australian Work
The Grief Trilogy: I Sat and Waited But You Were Gone Too Long	CH	5	100	77	3	100	28	308	88%	13		Existing Australian Work
The Grief Trilogy: My Sister Feather	CH	5	75	88	1	101	25	290	60%	12		Existing Australian Work
Radioactive Cockroach	HQ	10	126	74	1	65	0	266	83%	19		New Australian Work
The Grief Trilogy: Let Bleeding Girls Lie	CH	5	109	85	2	54	35	285	81%	14		Existing Australian Work
Flesh Disease	HQ	10	120	80	1	83	16	300	88%	12		New Australian Work
Way	CH	10	96	86	1	121	14	318	45%	10		New Australian Work
Where There's a Will	HQ	12	186	153	3	57	14	413	91%	10	Comedy Festival	New Australian Work
An Inappropriately Serious History of Australian Comedy with Dr Rob	CH	6	41	20	0	27	1	89	21%	3	Comedy Festival	New Australian Work
The Job Interview	HQ	8	151	67	1	39	1	259	101%	5	Comedy Festival	New Australian Work
The Philosophy of Murder	CH	12	179	96	1	15	1	292	35%	7	Comedy Festival	New Australian Work
Same But Different: A Trilogy	HQ	10	102	58	1	106	14	281	88%	9		New Australian Work
By Jane's Hand	CH	11	327	214	1	104	1	647	84%	10		New Australian Work
Killing Time	CH	11	182	169	0	65	9	425	55%	7		New Australian Work
Last Illuminations	HQ	10	50	70	0	81	1	202	63%	5		International Work
The World According to Dinosaurs	CH	16	150	95	3	104	585	937	84%	16	VCE Playlist	New Australian Work
Adrift	HQ	12	228	95	2	38	0	363	101%	15		New Australian Work
Little Brother, Big Sister	CH	10	139	101	1	169	6	416	59%	14		Existing Australian Work
Woman with a Tomahawk	HQ	10	66	40	2	64	7	179	43%	5		New Australian Work
Frankenstein	CH	9	127	92	0	17	323	559	89%	13	VCE Playlist	New Australian Work
Trees (Lest We Forget)	HQ	6	23	26	0	26	0	75	39%	15		New Australian Work
ADA	CH	10	218	85	4	106	15	428	61%	19		New Australian Work
Garage Girls	CH	11	375	235	0	101	49	760	96%	15		New Australian Work
I Said This to the Bird	CH	10	174	66	1	56	0	297	59%	11		New Australian Work
My First Bike	HQ	6	87	73	0	41	0	201	105%	6		New Australian Work
Cactus	CH	17	220	209	1	87	567	1084	91%	9	VCE Playlist	Existing Australian Work
Piano in 7 Parts	HQ	3	21	21	0	22	0	64	67%	10		New Australian Work
Celebrity	HQ	10	95	68	0	45	0	208	65%	8		New Australian Work
Starfish the [Redacted]	HQ	10	175	70	2	68	17	332	104%	9	Melbourne Fringe	New Australian Work
Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America	CH	7	70	54	1	74	18	217	44%	8	Melbourne Fringe	Existing Australian Work
Myth, Propaganda and the Heirs of America	CH	7	42	22	0	48	9	121	25%	8	Melbourne Fringe	New Australian Work
Moosh the Hobo Cat	HQ	10	119	103	5	34	0	261	82%	12		New Australian Work
Defoe's Plague	HQ	10	29	36	0	43	0	108	34%	7		New Australian Work
Slightly Cracked	CH	8	171	65	2	78	0	316	56%	14		New Australian Work
Prisoner at the World's End	HQ	10	93	79	1	44	21	238	99%	11		New Australian Work
Mi:WI 3027	CH	11	189	107	44	155	19	514	67%	21		New Australian Work
Percussion, Conversation, Degustation	CH	4	73	49	0	111	0	233	100%	18		New Australian Work
I Shall Go Out Across the Snow-Covered Fields	CH	10	81	74	0	61	7	223	32%	5		New Australian Work
Surat Suratya	HQ	10	130	117	1	92	0	340	106%	13		International Work
TOTALS		416	5675	3797	91	3032	1952	14547	71%	509	14	36

La Mama Online

	Platform	Perf. No	Full	Conc.	Comp	Total views	Total Time	Festival/Other	No. Artists	Notes
Shadowfall	La Mama On Screen	1	16	NA	0	25	14:44:00	Midsumma	15	New Australian Work
The Angel With Blue Eyes	La Mama On Screen	1	10	NA	1	50	26:33:00	Midsumma	13	New Australian Work
Kovid Rai Kabaret! Goes Spiral	La Mama On Screen	1	1	NA	1	1	0:48:40	Midsumma	12	New Australian Work
The Six Guys an Immigrant Trans Person of Colour will date in Melbourne	La Mama On Screen	1	26	NA	11	44	17:38:00	Midsumma	13	New Australian Work
Not All Dictators	La Mama On Screen	1	16	NA	6	24	10:20:00		12	New Australian Work
Radioactive Cockroach	La Mama On Screen	1	1	NA	0	3	0:39:30		19	New Australian Work
Flesh Disease	La Mama On Screen	1	3	NA	0	1	0:53:28	La Mamica	12	New Australian Work
Musica: The Story of Here	Live on Youtube	1	21	NA	3	48		La Mamica	8	La Mamica
Poetica: Poetry of the Times	Live on Youtube	1	11	NA	0	34		La Mamica	5	La Mamica
Where There's a Will	La Mama On Screen	1	6	NA	1	10	5:54:00	Comedy Festival	10	New Australian Work
The Job Interview	La Mama On Screen	1	20	NA	0	22	11:34:00	Comedy Festival	5	New Australian Work
Same But Different - A Trilogy	La Mama On Screen	1	8	NA	1	7	2:23:00		9	New Australian Work
Same But Different - A Trilogy	Live on Youtube	1	19	NA	1	29				
Musica: The Watermill	Live on Youtube	1	18	NA	2	41		La Mamica	8	La Mamica
Poetica: The Poetry of Rethinking	Live on Youtube	1	6	NA	1	10		La Mamica	5	La Mamica
Last Illuminations	La Mama On Screen	1	9	NA	1	12	5:19:00		5	
The World According to Dinosaurs	Virneo (school revisiting)	1	160	NA	0	168	83:07:06	VCE	16	New Australian Work
Adrift	La Mama On Screen	1	5	NA	7	12	5:03:00		15	New Australian Work
Adrift	Live on Youtube	1	33	NA	3	69				
Little Brother, Big Sister	Live on Youtube	1	17	NA	9	52			14	
Woman with a Tomahawk	La Mama On Screen	1	4	NA	1	5	2:23:00		5	New Australian Work
Frankenstein	La Mama On Screen	1	10	NA	0	15	8:09:00	VCE	13	New Australian Work
Frankenstein	Virneo (school revisiting)	1	60	NA	1	76	43:13:11	VCE		
Midsumma	Live on Youtube	1	19	NA	3	25		La Mamica	8	La Mamica
Musica: How Do We Listen?	Live on Youtube	1	10	NA	5	46		La Mamica	5	La Mamica
Poetica: The Poetry of My Generation	Live on Youtube	1	19	NA	1	22		La Mamica	5	La Mamica
ADA	La Mama On Screen	1	6	NA	0	11	6:42:00		19	
Garage Girls	Live on Youtube	1	165	NA	2	296			15	
My First Bike	La Mama On Screen	1	14	NA	0	19	10:11:00		6	New Australian Work
Cactus	La Mama On Screen	1	18	NA	1	26	14:29:00	VCE	9	New Australian Work
Cactus	Live on Youtube	1	23	NA	3	48		VCE		
Cactus	Virneo (school revisiting)	1	80	NA	0	80	50:24:17	VCE	9	New Australian Work
Startish the [Redacted]	La Mama On Screen	1	9	NA	4	23	9:37:00	Fringe	12	New Australian Work
Moosh the Hobo Cat	La Mama On Screen	1	8	NA	6	15	10:28:00	La Mamica	4	La Mamica
Musica: Maps for Losing Oneself	Live on Youtube	1	4	NA	4	40			14	New Australian Work
Slightly Cracked	La Mama On Screen	1	16	NA	11	33	15:05:00		11	New Australian Work
Prisoner at the World's End	La Mama On Screen	1	1	NA	3	6	3:06:00		21	
Prisoner at the World's End	Live on Youtube	1	17	NA	0	77				
MI:WI 3027	La Mama On Screen	1	5	NA	0	11	1:42:00		5	New Australian Work
MI:WI 3027	Live on Youtube	1	28	NA	3	85				
I Shall Go Out Across the Snow-Covered Field	La Mama On Screen	1	3	NA	0	4	0:50:35	3 festivals	357	New Australian Work
		41	925	0	97	1625	361:16:47	3 schools	23	

La Mama Kids

The Story Keepers: Next Chapter	CH	3	78	80	0	28	0	186	89%	6		New Australian Work
The Comedy Games with Coach Mon	CH	11	96	78	0	16	0	190	25%	5	Comedy Festival	New Australian Work
Musical Jam	HQ Hub	6	6	3	0	0	0	9	15%	2		Workshops
Youth Led Ensemble - RIP: Rest in Paradise	HQ	7	55	49	0	32	0	136	61%	10		New Australian Work
	Totals	27	235	210	0	76	0	521	48%	23	2	Total New Works: 3

La Mama Explorations

LA MALLA CAPTIVATIONS										New Australian Work	
	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists		
Niusia	HQ	3	86	0	10	0	96	100%	9	Development of New Australian Work	
How to Eat Rabbit	HQ	3	47	1	1	0	49	51%	4	Development of New Australian Work	
Boobs in Space	HQ	3	96	1	9	0	106	110%	5	Development of New Australian Work	
The Talk	HQ	4	78	2	62	0	142	104%	7	Development of New Australian Work	
Comfort Music	HQ	3	72	0	32	0	104	108%	3	Development of New Australian Work	
The Devil Doth Preach	HQ	3	21	0	0	0	21	22%	5	Development of New Australian Work	
Laundry Shoot!	HQ	3	28	2	59	0	89	93%	8	Development of New Australian Work	
Hey, You	HQ	3	26	0	7	0	33	34%	7	Development of New Australian Work	
After Rebecca	HQ	3	69	0	25	0	94	98%	5	Development of New Australian Work	
True Myths	HQ	3	88	0	13	0	101	105%	4	Development of New Australian Work	
There is No Such Thing as a Baby	HQ	9	26	0	0	0	26	96%	4	Development of New Australian Work	
The Cloud	HQ	3	17	0	7	0	24	25%	2	Development of New Australian Work	
Sky Symphony	HQ (Balcony)	88	11	0	26	0	37	42%	6	Development of New Australian Work	
Strange Locutions	HQ	3	38	0	15	0	53	55%	4	Development of New Australian Work	
Ballads from the Brink	HQ	4	91	0	22	0	113	88%	7	Development of New Australian Work	
Everybody Wants to Be Emma	CH	4	230	0	53	0	283	101%	7	Development of New Australian Work	
Dear Sun, Love Joy	CH	3	86	0	37	0	123	59%	11	Development of New Australian Work	
Seduction	CH	3	169	3	26	0	198	94%	5	Development of New Australian Work	
Worlds Where Life Might Exist	CH	3	64	2	6	0	72	34%	8	Development of New Australian Work	
Cry Baby	CH	3	58	2	37	0	97	46%	4	Development of New Australian Work	
Cherry Bomb	CH	3	170	4	17	0	191	91%	9	Development of New Australian Work	
GO/NO GO	CH	3	168	1	25	0	194	92%	15	Development of New Australian Work	
Fantastic in Plastic	CH	3	78	0	7	0	85	40%	8	Development of New Australian Work	
Noise	CH	3	78	0	11	0	89	42%	12	Development of New Australian Work	
Gary is Jesus	CH	3	100	0	20	0	120	57%	10	Development of New Australian Work	
Waves (Wave)	CH	3	40	0	76	0	116	55%	11	Development of New Australian Work	
TOTALS		172	2035	18	603	0	2656	71%	180	26	

Melbourne Puppet Festival

Pupperoos: Haenyeo: Women of the Sea	HQ	3	99	0	0	1	0	100	79%	12	New Australian Work
Bonkai: Rolling!	HQ Forecourt	3						0	NA	3	Roving Performance
Lemony S Puppet Theatre	Outside CH	3						0	NA		Roving Performance
Children's Workshop: UB: Shadow Puppets	kathleen Syme	1	15	0	0	0	0	15	60%	1	Workshop
Mark Penzak: Labyrinth in the Library	CH	3	96	0	0	29	0	125	40%	4	Existing Australian Work
Dream Puppets: Dreamer and the Rainbow Tiger	CH	3	151	0	0	4	0	155	65%	3	Existing Australian Work
Children's Workshop: Paris Balla: Sock Puppets	kathleen Syme	1	15	0	0	0	0	15	60%	1	Workshop
Artist Talk: Sonny Tilders	COASIT	1	95	0	0	0	0	95	95%	1	Artist Talk
Children's Workshop: Georgie Rose: Rod Puppets	kathleen Syme	1	15	0	0	0	0	15	60%	2	Workshop
Black Hole Theatre: Kuthurni	CH	4	117	0	5	30	0	152	48%	7	Existing Australian Work
Curious Legends: Adventures of Bin Chick	Outside Motley Bauhaus	4						0	NA	8	Roving Performance
Murray and the Murrayonettes: They Came from Uranus	Motley Bauhaus Downstairs	4	72	26	0	25	0	123	58%	9	Existing Australian Work
Perri Campbell	Outside Motley Bauhaus	4						0	NA	1	Roving Performance
Showko: One Night Sushi Stand	Motley Bauhaus Upstairs	4	59	27	0	12	5	103	64%	3	New Australian Work
Shake Shake Theatre: The Story of Mr. B	HQ	3	98	0	0	4	0	102	81%	2	Existing Australian Work
Georgie Rose and Jules Chappel	HQ Forecourt	2						0	NA	2	Roving Performance
Emilie Bloom: Fritz	HQ	3	96	0	0	7	0	103	82%	7	New Australian Work
Children's Workshop: Paris Balla: Junk Puppets	kathleen Syme	1	10	0	0	0	0	10	40%	1	Workshop
Sydney Puppet Theatre: In Search of the Giddy Gird Bird	CH	2	91	0	0	14	1	106	44%	2	Existing Australian Work
Em Chandler: Moonspell	HQ	3	70	0	0	5	0	75	60%	2	New Australian Work
Little Wing Puppets: A Little Bit of Blue	CH	2	163	0	0	10	0	173	72%	6	Existing Australian Work
One Orange Sock: Things that Wiggle & Squirm	HQ	3	62	24	1	5	0	92	73%	8	New Australian Work
Adult Workshop: Philip Millar: Digital Tools for Analog Makers	kathleen Syme	1	16	0	0	0	0	16	62%	1	Workshop
The Gardeners	Outside HQ	1						0	NA	2	Roving Performance
Pearly Whites: Sanctum	Carlton Highrise Estate	1						0	NA	5	Puppet Picnic - Free Event
Adult Workshop: Jacob Williams: Manipulation	kathleen Syme	1	16	0	0	0	0	16	62%	1	Workshop
Adult Workshop: Things of Foam and Wood: Mould Making	kathleen Syme	1	15	0	0	0	1	16	62%	2	Workshop
Adult Workshop: Sydney Puppet Theatre: Marionette Workshop	kathleen Syme	1	18	0	0	0	0	18	69%	2	Workshop
	TOTALS	64	1389	77	6	146	7	1625	64%	98	5

La Mama Mobile

	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists	New Australian Work
Birthday Book of Storms in New Zealand	Hannah Playhouse, Wellington, NZ	7	90	50	0	20	0	160	32%	11	Existing Australian Work
Uncle Vanya in Krivinia	Krivinia, Bulgaria	3	0	0	0	85	0	85	100%	14	International Work
Prague Quaddrenal: Panel Presentation & Discussion	Prague, Czech Republic	1	160	0	0	0	0	160	100%	2	Australian Presentation
Prague Quaddrenal: Rebuild La Mama Exhibition	Prague, Czech Republic	Multiple	3000	0	0	0	0	3000	NA	11	
TOTALS		11	3250	50	0	85	0	3405	70%	38	

La Mama Special Events										
	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists
Musica: The Music Between	Forecourt	0	0	0	0	0	300	300	NA	13
Carlton Harmony Day	Carlton Primary	Multiple	0	0	0	0	450	450	NA	NA
Remembering Frank Bren	HQ	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	NA	0
Midsummica	CH	1	25	21	0	24	0	70	100%	8
Open House Melbourne	CH and HQ	0	0	0	0	0	171	171	NA	0
Myth, Propaganda, Disaster and the Australian Theatre	CH	1	5	1	0	1	0	7	10%	1
The Puppet Picnic	Carlton Estate	Multiple	0	0	0	0	360	360	NA	12
Carlton Christmas Activation for Carlton INC	Lygon St roaming	Multiple	0	0	0	0	1500	1500	NA	18
Theatre Tours	HQ and CH	10	0	0	0	0	70	70	NA	0
	TOTALS	12	30	22	0	25	2867	2944	55%	52

La Mama Playreadings										
	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists	New Australian Work
Who Saved JFK	HQ	1	7	0	3	0	10	31%	2	Existing Australian Work
My Father's Story	CH	1	40	5	24	1	70	100%	2	New Australian Work
Tuesday Lunch	HQ	1	25	0	7	0	32	100%	4	New Australian Work
Chessed Off	HQ	1	14	1	1	0	16	50%	8	New Australian Work
Hans Loves Tom But There's a Problem	HQ	1	13	0	0	0	13	41%	6	New Australian Work
EVA 4 EVER	HQ	1	24	0	4	0	28	88%	2	New Australian Work
Gehenna	HQ	1	19	0	1	0	20	63%	8	New Australian Work
Why We Took the Car (Tschick)	CH	1	31	0	8	0	39	78%	8	International Work
Vivaldi's Park	CH	1	9	0	2	0	11	34%	2	New Australian Work
The Passing	HQ	1	9	0	2	0	11	34%	6	New Australian Work
Thin Threads	HQ	1	19	0	14	0	33	103%	4	New Australian Work
I Shall Go Out Across the Snow-Covered Fields	CH	1	5	0	0	0	5	7%	5	New Australian Work
Kookaburra Players Present	CH	1	10	0	5	0	15	21%	7	New Australian Work
Various Characters	HQ	1	13	0	0	0	13	41%	4	Existing Australian Work
The Butcher, the Baker...	HQ	1	32	0	5	0	37	100%	12	New Australian Work
Hoppy Young	CH	1	9	0	0	0	9	13%	5	New Australian Work
TOTALS		16	279	6	76	1	362	57%	85	13

La Mama Musica

SUMMER - The Story of Here	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists
AUTUMN - The Watermill	CH	1	37	22	0	19	0	78	111%	8
WINTER - How Do We Listen?	CH	1	39	21	0	8	0	68	97%	8
SPRING - Maps for Losing Oneself	CH	1	20	9	0	33	0	62	89%	5
	CH	1	39	15	0	11	0	65	93%	4
	TOTALS	4	135	67	0	71	0	273	98%	25

La Mama Cabaretica										
	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists
SUMMER - Sing Out the Summer AUTUMN - Caricatures and Comedy WINTER - Winter Variety Show	CH	1	14	7	0	10	0	31	44%	6
	CH	1	9	8	0	9	0	26	37%	5
	CH	1	15	4	0	3	0	22	31%	4
	CH	1	26	11	0	14	0	51	73%	5
SPRING - Cabaretica	TOTALS	4	64	30	0	36	0	130	46%	20

La Mama Poetica										
	Venue	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	No of Artists
SUMMER - Poetry of the Times	CH	1	28	25	0	10	0	63	90%	5
	CH	1	32	26	1	14	0	73	104%	5
	CH	1	35	13	1	15	0	64	91%	5
	CH	1	23	13	0	9	0	45	64%	5
	TOTALS	4	118	77	2	48	0	245	87%	20
AUTUMN - The Poetry of Rethinking										
WINTER - The Poetry of My Generation										
SPRING - Four Women Writing										

TOTALS												
	Prod. No	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	Artists	New Australian Work	
PRIMARY	45	416	5675	3797	91	3032	1952	14547	71%	509		36
ONLINE	41	41	925	NA	NA	97	603	1625		357		23
KIDS	4	27	235	210	0	76	0	521	48%	23		3
EXPLORATIONS	26	172	2035	NA	18	603	0	2656	71%	180		26
PUPPET FESTIVAL	28	64	1389	77	6	146	7	1625	64%	98		5
MOBILE	4	11	3250	50	0	85	0	3405	70%	38		0
SPECIAL EVENTS	9	12	30	22	0	25	2867	2944	55%	52		2
PLAYREADINGS	16	16	279	6	6	76	1	362	57%	85		13
MUSICA	4	4	135	67	0	71	0	273	98%	25		NA
CABARETTICA	4	4	64	30	0	36	0	130	46%	20		NA
POETICA	4	4	118	77	2	48	0	245	87%	20		NA
TOTAL 2023	185	771	14135	4336	123	4295	5430	28333	67%	1407		108
TOTAL 2022	161	710	11102	4220	0	4594	6231	26147	75.00%	1051		60
Increase/Decrease from 2022	24	61	3033	116	123	-299	-801	2186	-8%	356		48

5 YEAR TOTALS

	Prod. No	Perf. No	Full	Conc	Mob	Guest	Other	Total	Capacity	Artists	New Aus Work (Primary)	Online	Total Online Audience	Total Festival Shows	Total Learning Shows	Total Mobile	Total Kids Shows
TOTAL 2023	185	771	14135	4336	123	4295	5430	28333	66.53%	1407	36	41	1625	78	3	2	27
TOTAL 2022	161	710	11102	4220	NA	4594	6231	26147	75.23%	1051	38	143	2726	7	3	6	99
TOTAL 2021	199	459	3799	2359	NA	2781	33156	42109	74.71%	1109	22	28	9276	10	3	2	10
TOTAL 2020	30	99	1423	812	NA	646	21485	24366	NA	326	22	14	20880	10	2	2	3
TOTAL 2019	120	467	6601	4444	NA	4449	4886	20380	69.05%	1163	26	NA	NA	6	3	4	1
TOTALS	695	2506	37060	16171	123	16765	71188	141335	71.38%	5056	144	226	34507	111	14	16	140

TOTALS OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS: 695 PRODUCTIONS, 2506 PERFORMANCES, 141335 AUDIENCE @ 71.38% CAPACITY, 5056 ARTISTS

Financial Overview

La Mama's overall finances are contained within three separate entities: La Mama Inc, La Mama Trust and La Mama Trust 2.

Please see a summary below and audited accounts for each body in the pages following.

LA MAMA INC. is an incorporated association and a registered charity.

La Mama Inc accounts:

- La Mama General (Operations)
- La Mama Box Office (Box Office only. 80% belongs to artists)
- La Mama Long Service Account (Restricted reserves for Long Service Leave)

LA MAMA TRUST is registered for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status.

La Mama Trust accounts:

- La Mama Reserves (For the long-term investment of La Mama) La Mama Trust (Reserves used for operations.)

LA MAMA TRUST 2 is the land and building at 205 Faraday Street.

La Mama Trust 2 accounts:

- La Mama Rebuild (used for the requirements of the La Mama building)

2023 Financial Report

La Mama's financial circumstances continued to be constrained, having finished 2023 being unsuccessful in our application for multi year funding from Creative Australia.

However due to our conservative budgeting and expenditure, La Mama is currently in a stable financial position.

La Mama Inc. finished 2023 with a surplus of \$22,556.

Ben Grant

Treasurer

La Mama INC

La Mama Incorporated

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	31 st December 2023 \$	31 st December 2022 \$
REVENUE			
Grants			
Creative Victoria Core		225,000	225,000
Creative Victoria –Other Program Funding		117,300	217,300
Melbourne City - Core		105,357	103,800
Total Grants		447,657	546,100
Productions and Donations			
Box Office, Venue		414,362	402,209
Donations		425,058	125,971
Auspiced productions		9,500	147,962
Total Productions and Donations		848,920	676,142
Other Income			
Project Funding and Script & Service Income		184,916	106,783
Interest Income		3,725	1,207
Other Income		21,639	14,201
Bar Sales		64,436	59,463
Total Other Income		274,716	167,453
Grant carried forward from last year		0	815,031
Income carried forward to 2024/Contract Liabilities		(19,690)	(310,640)
TOTAL REVENUE		1,551,603	1,908,287
EXPENDITURE			
Cost of Sales Front of house		50,887	47,865
Salaries and artist fees		682,023	812,529
Venue and Production		68,675	92,006
Marketing		70,637	78,279
Administration		151,714	165,086
Other Programs		173,954	53,476
Box Office Expense		320,174	299,495
Depreciation Expense		2,065	1,554
Auspiced Productions		7,124	330,284
Donations and Awards		1,794	2,127
Banksia Festival		0	19,726
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,529,047	1,902,427
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		22,556	5,860
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME:			
Other Comprehensive Income for the year		0	0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS FOR YEAR		22,556	5,860

La Mama INC continued

La Mama Incorporated

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Note	31st December 2023 \$	31st December 2022 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	394,999	721,132
Trade and Other Receivables	4	6,865	25
Other Current Assets	5	26,537	19,888
Total Current Assets		428,401	741,045
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	5,834	7,899
Total Non-Current Assets		5,834	7,899
TOTAL ASSETS		434,235	748,944
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	7	25,212	21,880
Provisions	8	108,120	157,767
Other Liabilities	10	19,690	310,640
Total Current Liabilities		153,022	490,287
TOTAL LIABILITIES		153,022	490,287
NET ASSETS		281,213	258,657
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings		281,213	258,657
TOTAL EQUITY		281,213	258,657

La Mama INC continued

La Mama Incorporated

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
2021		
Balance at end of financial year	252,797	252,797
2022		
Surplus attributable to members	5,860	5,860
Balance at end of financial year	<u>258,657</u>	<u>258,657</u>
2023		
Surplus attributable to members	22,556	22,556
Balance at end of financial year	<u>281,213</u>	<u>281,213</u>

La Mama INC continued

La Mama Incorporated

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2023

	Note	31st December 2023 \$	31st December 2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	13		
Grants Inc GST		492,423	600,710
Box Office Venue & Publications Inc GST		455,798	442,430
Donations and Auspiced Productions		434,558	273,933
Other Earned Income Inc GST		298,090	184,198
Banksia Festival		0	19,726
Total Cash Flows		1,680,869	1,520,997
Payments to Suppliers & Employees		(2,010,727)	(1,987,969)
Interest Received		3,725	1,207
NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		(326,133)	(465,765)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchases of Property, Plant and Equipment		0	(7,218)
NET CASH GENERATED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES		0	(7,218)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		(326,133)	(472,983)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year		721,132	1,194,115
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR		394,999	721,132

La Mama Trust

The La Mama Trust
ABN 74 925 853 734

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December 2023

	31st December 2023 \$	31st December 2022 \$
INCOME		
Interest Received	24,848	12,416
Donations	119,376	16,839
Total Income	144,224	29,255
EXPENSES		
Donations to La Mama Trust No 2	0	0
Donation to La Mama Inc	322,771	130,689
Total Expenses	322,771	130,689
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(178,547)	(101,434)

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December 2023

	31st December 2023 \$	31st December 2022 \$
TRUST FUNDS		
Settled Sum	100	100
Retained earnings	1,259,894	1,438,441
Total Trust Funds	1,259,994	1,438,541
Movement in Equity Represented by:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Trust – Sandhurst Account	160,126	523,240
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit	602,956	600,472
Bendigo Bank Operating	482,298	299,041
Trade and Other Receivables	0	4,333
Accrued Interest	12,322	9,163
Total Current Assets	1,257,702	1,436,249
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Artworks		
Artworks at Cost	2,292	2,292
Total Artworks	2,292	2,292
Total Non-Current Assets	2,292	2,292
TOTAL ASSETS	1,259,994	1,438,541
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	0	0
NET ASSETS	1,259,994	1,438,541

La Mama Trust continued

The La Mama Trust
ABN 74 925 853 734

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Settled Sum	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
Opening balance	100	1,539,875	1,539,975
Surplus (deficit) for year ended 31/12/2022	0	(101,434)	(101,434)
Balance 31st December 2022	100	1,438,441	1,438,541
Surplus (deficit) for year ended 31/12/2023	0	(178,547)	(178,547)
Balance 31st December 2023	100	1,259,894	1,259,994

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash Inflows			
Interest Received		24,848	12,416
Donations		119,376	16,839
Total Cash Inflows		144,224	29,255
Cash Outflows			
Donation to La Mama Inc		322,771	130,689
Total Cash Outflows		322,771	130,689
Increase (Decrease) in Cash at Bank Balance		(178,547)	(101,434)

La Mama Trust 2

La Mama Trust (No 2)

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December 2023

	31st December 2023 \$	31 st December 2022 \$
INCOME		
Donations including from La Mama Trust	0	220
Income Grants	0	20,000
Grant Carried Forward	0	100,578
Interest Income	126	366
Total Income	126	121,164
EXPENSES		
Dues and Subscriptions	0	1,880
Depreciation	111,943	109,776
Building Expenses	550	3,208
Total Expenses	112,493	114,864
Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(112,367)	6,300
Other Comprehensive Income		0
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(112,367)	6,300

La Mama Trust 2 continued

La Mama Trust (No 2)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December 2023

	31st December 2023 \$	31 st December 2022 \$
TRUST FUNDS		
Settled Sum	100	100
Retained Earnings	4,203,781	4,316,148
Total Trust Funds	4,203,881	4,316,248
 Movement in Equity Represented by:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	11,499	6,293
Total Current Assets	11,499	6,293
 NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property		
Artwork at Cost	30,084	26,709
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	205,902	205,602
Accumulated Depreciation FF & E	(68,404)	(38,912)
Building at Cost	3,298,022	3,298,022
Accumulated Depreciation Building	(228,443)	(145,992)
Land at Cost	955,167	955,167
Total Property	4,192,328	4,300,596
Total Non-Current Assets	4,192,328	4,300,596
TOTAL ASSETS	4,203,827	4,306,889
 Current Liabilities		
GST Payable (Receivable)	(54)	(9,359)
Total Current Liabilities	(54)	(9,359)
Total Liabilities	(54)	(9,359)
NET ASSETS	4,203,881	4,316,248

This statement should be read in conjunction with the attached Notes to the Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Settled Sum	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
Opening balance	100	4,309,848	4,309,498
Surplus (deficit) for year ended 31/12/2022		6,300	6,300
Balance 31st December 2022	100	4,316,148	4,316,148
Surplus (deficit) for year ended 31/12/2023		(112,367)	(112,367)
Balance 31st December 2023	100	4,203,781	4,203,881

La Mama Trust 2 continued

La Mama Trust (No 2)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Donations including from La Mama Trust		0	220
Income Grants inc GST		0	20,000
Interest		126	366
GST Received		8,755	3,237
Total Cash Inflows		8,881	23,823
Cash Outflows			
Dues and Subscriptions		0	1,880
Building Expenses		0	3,208
Building Costs Capitalised		0	75,445
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment Purchased		300	14,600
Artwork Purchased		3,375	15,670
Total Cash Outflows		3,675	110,803
Increase (Decrease) in Cash at Bank Balance		5,206	(86,980)
Opening Cash at Bank 31/12/2022		6,293	93,273
Closing Cash at Bank 31/12/2023		11,499	6,293

Supporters, Partners and Donors

Thank you to all who supported La Mama in 2023. We are so grateful to all our philanthropic partners and donors, advocates, volunteers, audiences, artists, staff, Front of House, Committee of Management, the Rebuild La Mama team and our entire community.

THANK YOU!!!

Operational Funding

Across 2023 La Mama was financially assisted through Creative Victoria (Creative Enterprise Program) and the City of Melbourne (Arts and Creative Partnerships Program.)

Pathways: The 2023 Pathways Program was run in partnership with Australian Plays Transform (APT) and supported by Creative Australia.

Connect: As the commencement of the Pathways Program (2024 – 2026), John T Reid supported the initial Connect consultations sessions.

Puppet Festival: Carlton Inc, COASIT, Market Lane Coffee, Brunetti's, Melbourne Young Writers Studio, Readings, Kathleen Syme Centre

Explorations: ADFAS proudly supported four Explorations

Rent Support: We gratefully rent La Mama Courthouse from Working Heritage.

Bar Sponsors: Thank you to the many suppliers who donate and provide discounted drinks for our seasonal launches.

La Mama HQ Carpenter: We thank Rob Cooke for his ongoing carpentry work and general support following the La Mama Rebuild.

We look forward to growing new partners and supporters as we navigate the next chapter of La Mama operations. If you are interested in partnering please contact CEO Caitlin Dullard: caitlin@lamama.com.au, (03) 9347 6948





2023 Donors List

Adam Yee
Alex May
Angela Campbell and Tom Gutteridge
Anne Myers
Anonymous (3)
Armin Radan
Bev Roberts
Cameron Lam
Carol Nichols
Christine Hill
Colin Donald
Daniel O'Farrell
Darryl Emmerson
Dianne Toulson
Ernie Gruner
Eugene Schlusser
Gordon Russell
Helen Sandercoe
Howard Brown
Jack Huston
Jane Bolding
Jasmin Chen
Jennie Dibley
Jennifer Bates
Joanna Baevski
Judi Appleby
Julie and Michael Landvogt
Kath Harcourt
Katherine Hastings
Liz Murray
Louise Tomlins
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Mary Clare Adam
Mary O'Shannassy
Meredith Prain
Michael Cowen and Sharon Nathani
Mike Brindley & Karin Altmann
Murray Garnsworthy
Myf Clark
Nan Brown
Natalie Warren
Naylor Stewart Foundation.
Petra Kalive & Tim Stitz
Sharen Chant
Sue Kirkham
Susanne Dahn
Tony Reck
Vivienne Halat
Xanthe Beesley and Allen Laverty

Kaine Hansen and **Ellen Marning** 'Strange Locutions'.
Photography by **Darren Gill**

Statements of Impact

"LA MAMA holds a unique and essential place in the theatre ecology...this is an institution that the sector could not exist without..."

RACHEL MAZA AM – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ILBIJERRI THEATRE

"it has launched the careers of an astonishing number of Australia's performance artists ... who have gone on to create the backbone of Australian performing arts"

ALISON CROGGON – WRITER, CRITIC, ARTS EDITOR THE SATURDAY PAPER

"I believe La Mama is the most important theatre/ cultural institution we have, not just in Victoria, but in Australia. La Mama is essential, not just for emerging artists but to ALL artists."

SUSIE DEE – PERFORMER, DEVISOR, DIRECTOR

"La Mama is the space to experiment, take risks... We need La Mama so that people can keep discovering the new and the possible... I can't imagine my city without it"

CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS - WRITER

"La Mama...provides access in all shapes and sizes... encourages its artists not to shy away from the perceived challenges of access, but to embrace and actively invite community in."

MILLY COOPER – DIRECTOR, WRITER, PERFORMER

"it was only thanks to La Mama and the risk they took programming new work that we were able to create theatre that was so innovative and disruptive"

EMMANUELLE MATTANA, ACTOR, WRITER, MAKER

"La Mama is a true gem in the Australian art scene, providing a valuable platform for emerging artists like myself to showcase our work and grow our careers. Their commitment to accessibility is a testament to their dedication to supporting the arts"

DAX CARNAY – ARTIST, THEATRE MAKER

"La Mama provides opportunities for our and other Aboriginal community members to share stories, songs, and dances within our own cultural context, while building capacity and expertise in all aspects of theatre production. "

SIMON FLAGG - CEO WATHAURONG ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE

"La Mama is vital to the arts ecosystem in Australia. The opportunities it provides to diverse artists across the spectrum of age, culture, gender, with new stories and old is unique."

DR EMMA O'BRIEN OAM, WRITER/DIRECTOR

"La Mama is, and has been for a long time, the most important theatrical hub in Melbourne."

PATRICIA CORNELIUS – PLAYWRIGHT, SCREENWRITER, NOVELIST

"Thank god we've got it there," says Di Stasio. "Carlton would not be the same without it."

RONNIE DI STASIO'S GUIDE TO LYGON STREET, CARLTON – GOOD FOOD GUIDE

"it has been a constant resource for well over 25 years as a place to experiment, try out new artistic ideas within supportive framework."

CLARE BARTHOLOMEW, PERFORMER, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

"La Mama provides opportunities for emerging writers, nurturing and ensuring the future of playwriting in Australia"

JOHN MARC DESENGANO, ACTOR, IMPROVISER, EDUCATOR, THEATRE MAKER, CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF WESTERN EDGE

"As a queer, trans, and neurodiverse artist, this space to develop and the support of the La Mama community has radically improved my practice allowing it to thrive and flourish."

EM CHANDLER, THEATRE-MAKER AND STORYTELLER

"La Mama Theatre has been integral to the success of The Melbourne Festival of Puppetry in 2023...Their values in risk-taking and experimenting in theatre has fostered a puppetry haven"

NADIRA SANIF, PUPPETRY ARTIST

"I believe that La Mama is such an important experience for our school students."

MARG HENLEY VCAA ASSESSOR.

"this is what it feels like to be supported in an arts context! It's just amazing! I can't sing the praises highly enough."

KIRSTEN VON BIBRA – DIRECTOR

"La Mama...has equipped me with skills and independence that allows me access to a head start on my career"

DUSTIN WATERS, LA MAMA DEAKIN UNIVERSITY INTERN

"La Mama has given me space and opportunity to create, present and collaborate on work that has been vital to shaping me as an artist."

ARTEMIS MUNOZ – PERFORMER, WRITER

"They are continuing to tell important stories, and pathway emerging and exciting new artists in the creative space. The company's contribution to supporting and engaging First Nations artists highlights that they have an important role in Melbourne's cultural and arts precinct"

BRODIE MURRAY – WAMBA WAMBA PLAYWRIGHT AND PERFORMER

"commitment to our students and families have profoundly increased their access and ownership community arts projects. These students would not otherwise have gained the confidence to develop an artistic practice or pursue careers in the arts."

BRENNA TERNUS – ARTS ENRICHMENT COORDINATOR, CARLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Volunteers:

Volunteers continued to support La Mama, providing invaluable human resources and adding to the La Mama Community in 2023. Volunteers range from weekly regular engagement such as Front of House and maintenance, to discrete project based interactions such as the Puppet Festival.

FOH Volunteers:

Natasha Broadstock, Martin Brüggemann, Kat Carrington, Myf Clark, Judy Daziel, Ezra Demchy, Vanessa Jo Di Natale, Laura Evans, Emma Fawcett, Vivienne Halat, Ruth Katerelos, Navi Naavikaran, Vivienne Price, Yogashree Thirunavukarasu, Heather Valentine, Dustin Waters, Amanda Watson.

Maintenance Volunteers:

Robert Brierley, Emily Deutscher, Racheli Naparstek.

Puppet Festival Volunteers:

Kaitlin Kearns, Robert Brierley, Alice Miles, Maddy Galea, Jenny Anne V, Jay Beckett, Helen Walker.

Deakin University Internships 2023:

Two Internships were undertaken at La Mama including:

April – July **Dustin Waters** – Co-Producer of 2023 La Mama / Lemony S Theatre Melbourne Festival of Puppetry 27 June – 2 July 2023.

August – November **Tess Nethercote Way** – Assistant Producer for La Mama First Nations / The Storyteller Production of Mi:Wi 3207 at Carlton Courthouse November 2023.

Work Experience Students 2023:

6 high school students were engaged as part of the Year 10 Work Experience in 2023, including local colleges and schools plus one regional based student.

15-19 May **Avery Feng** Northcote High School

9-16 June **Ava Heuvin-Devlin** Coburg High School

19-23 June **Marius Bernard** Thornbury High School

10-14 July **Xenon Brownsea** Thornbury High School

17-28 July **Federica Morreo** Collingwood College

11-15 Sept **Isla Woodbury** Sacred Heart College Kyneton

THANKS FOR COMING



Chanella Macri in 'Let Bleeding Girls Lie'. Photography by **Darren Gill**.