

12PM – 6PM  
TUESDAY 26 AUGUST

THE LAWLER  
MTC SOUTHBANK

2014  
VICTORIAN  
THEATRE FORUM

POWER  
PLAY.

TWEET  
#VicTheatreForum

THEATRE NETWORK VICTORIA

# FORUM SCHEDULE

<b>12:00PM</b>	REGISTRATION, LUNCH AND NETWORKING (Downstairs & L1 Foyer)
<b>12:30PM</b>	SESSION 1 (The Lawler) Annie Get Your Gun Sector Updates Discussion Panel: Is Theatre Political in 2014?
<b>3:00PM</b>	AFTERNOON TEA (L1 Foyer)
<b>3:15PM</b>	SESSION 2 (Various) Group breakout sessions (The Lawler, L1 Foyer, L2 Conference Rooms) Report back/wrap up (The Lawler) Special General Meeting* (The Lawler)
<b>5:00PM</b>	NETWORKING DRINKS (L1 Foyer)
<b>6.30PM</b>	MTC'S PRODUCTION OF <i>THE EFFECT</i> (The Sumner)

# WELCOME TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL VICTORIAN THEATRE FORUM – POWER PLAY.

**This year, we will explore how, when and if, theatre is political in 2014. Our program will contemplate the implications, responsibilities and challenges of making art that’s culturally relevant and provocative to a broad and diverse audience.**

As always, delegates are encouraged to stay for a drink to continue the conversations sparked by an afternoon of discussion.

We know that putting people in a room together is often enough to create that first spark which forms lasting connections. Be sure to flick through the delegate list and introduce yourself to new people.

Finally, it is your financial membership that has allowed us to continue the work that we do in connecting, knowledge building, leading and advocating for the theatre sector – **thank you!**

## ANNIE GET YOUR GUN

**Ian Pidd** is a freelance director of theatre and events, is co-artistic director of The Village and regularly directs work for Men Of Steel, Polyglot and Mr Barry Morgan. Ian has an ongoing practice in participatory and community contexts with ongoing projects throughout Australia and internationally.

## SECTOR BRIEFINGS

**DAVID WILLIAMS**  
[AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FORUM  
CURATOR] – ATF 2015: ‘MAKING IT’

Produced by Theatre Network Victoria (TNV), the Australian Theatre Forum is a national, biennial event that generates discussion around contemporary practice, policy, sustainability and audiences. Attended by artists, presenters, producers, managers and policy-makers, the fourth ATF will be held in Sydney in January 2015. It is funded by the Australia Council for the Arts and David is the Curator.

**SUZANNE DALEY**  
[LIVE PERFORMANCE AUSTRALIA] –  
GREENER LIVE PERFORMANCES.

Suzanne is Director, Policy & Programs for Live Performance Australia. She works on a broad range of industry issues including economic research, best practice and compliance guides and producer development. Suzanne also leads LPA’s environmental sustainability initiative, Greener Live Performances – which is presently focused on making productions, tours, venues and outdoor events more energy efficient.

**LYN WALLIS**  
[AUSTRALIA COUNCIL FOR  
THE ARTS] – IMPACT OF THE  
NEW STRATEGIC PLAN.

The Australia Council’s new Strategic Plan 2014 to 2019 and the new grants model were announced on Monday 18 August. The Strategic Plan reflects an ambitious vision for the arts in Australia and is comprised of four goals:

Goal One - Australian arts are without borders

Goal Two - Australia is known for its great art and artists

Goal Three - The arts enrich daily life for all

Goal Four - Australians cherish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and culture

# INDUSTRY PANEL

## Panel Topic – Is Theatre Political in 2014?

**Chair:** Emily Sexton

**Panel:** Bindi Cole, Ben Eltham, Bruce Gladwin and Kate Just.

Many theatre makers would frame their practice as political. Australian theatre can point to a number of key 20th century plays and current practitioners whose work is inspired by social debate: from Jack Davis to Melbourne Workers' Theatre, Moira Finucane to Stephen Sewell, Ilbijerri Theatre to Back to Back Theatre.

But what happens when politics marches out of the theatre and into broader public debate? How does theatre affect government cultural policy, and do we want it to? What kinds of change do we wish to enact, and who is best placed to make it happen? Are visual artists doing it better? Where does this leave theatre?

**Emily Sexton** is a festival director and curator, most recently for Next Wave (2010-14), and Melbourne Fringe (2008-10). She is a Board Member with Theatre Network Victoria, and Arena Theatre Company.

**Bindi Cole** is an award-winning artist who lives and works in Melbourne. She studied at Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE and the University of Ballarat. Cole's artworks focus on explorations of identity. Mixing photography, video and installation, her work exposes the latent and unspoken power dynamics of global culture in the here and now. She subtly but powerfully reveals some uncomfortable truths about the fundamental disconnection between who we are - the communities and identities by which we shape our sense of self - and how the prevailing culture attempts to place and define us.

**Ben Eltham** is Arts Hub's industry columnist, New Matilda's national affairs correspondent and a Research Fellow at Deakin University's Centre for Memory, Imagination and Invention.

**Bruce Gladwin** is an Australian artist and performance maker. He has been the Artistic Director of Back to Back Theatre since 1999. The work Gladwin has created with the company is recognized for innovation and excellence, touring regularly to major international arts festivals and institutions.

**Kate Just** is an American-born Australian artist known for her large scale knitted sculptures and mixed media installations that reframe iconographic representations of gender from an autobiographical, subjective or embodied perspective. Just has exhibited her work widely across Australia and shown internationally in the US, New Zealand, Austria and the UK. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Sculpture) from Monash University, Master of Arts from RMIT and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Painting) from the Victorian College of the Arts, where she has been a Lecturer in Art since 2005.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Delegates are invited to sign up to two breakout topics (30min each). Facilitated by industry experts, these sessions will be invigorating discussions inspired by our 2014 theme of Political Theatre.**

## **DAVID WILLIAMS – MAKING IT POLITICAL (L1 FOYER)**

David is a Sydney-based theatre maker whose productions open spaces for public conversation about political and social issues. He works as a director, writer, producer, dramaturg, and performer with companies across Australia, and is the curator of ATF2015: MAKING IT.

## **LYN WALLIS – AUSTRALIA COUNCIL: WHAT NOW? (L2 CONFERENCE ROOMS)**

Lyn Wallis is Director of Theatre for the Australia Council for the Arts. She has worked as a director, producer, programmer, performer and teacher for over 25 years, including a nine-year stint as Downstairs Theatre Director for Company B (Belvoir).

## **MAUDE DAVEY AND EMMA J HAWKINS – THE BODY AS POLITICAL (THE LAWLER)**

Maude Davey has been creating provocative theatre for over twenty years. Since training as an actor at the Victorian College of the Arts, she has worked in theatre, film and television as an actor, director and writer. She is a founding member of the theatre group, Crying In Public Places, performs regularly with Finucane & Smith, and has toured nationally and internationally.

Emma J Hawkins is a triple threat Green Room Award nominated performer with a bag of tricks bigger than herself. She has performed across Australia in many events, festivals and productions, from Shakespeare to Burlesque and all things in between. Her alter ego 'The Divine Miss Em' is known for her onstage sauciness and dancing prowess. Emma has produced her own award winning shows, is a proud member of the Equity Diversity Committee which actively promotes the many faces of performers in Australia and is the treasurer of the Victorian actors Benevolent Trust, which helps performers and crew in their time of need.

**MARK WILSON –  
UNCOMFORTABLE THEATRE  
(THE LAWLER)**

Mark is a Melbourne-based maker, performer, dramaturg and director. He trained at the VCA and Monash and is an International Fellow of Shakespeare's Globe in London. Performance work ranges from plays to performance art. In 2014 he is a Dramaturgy Intern at MTC and PlayWriting Australia and is the Dramaturg in Residence as MKA: Theatre of New Writing.

**GORKEM ACAROGLU –  
THE ROLE OF PLACE IN THEATRE:  
SITE SPECIFIC WORK AND  
EMBRACING TEMPORARY  
SPACES AS A PERMANENT  
PART OF OUR PRACTICE.  
(L1 FOYER)**

Gorkem is a theatre director and producer, currently working as Arts Participation Program Manager at the City of Melbourne. She has a long-standing commitment to political and culturally diverse perspectives in performance making having written, directed and produced documentary, site specific, digital, and narrative theatre in Australia and abroad, as well as having worked extensively in community engaged arts practice.

**VERONICA PARDO –  
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP  
(L1 FOYER)**

Veronica has been Executive Director of Access Arts Victoria for five years. She has experience at senior levels in the not for profit sector, with a major focus on change management, policy and advocacy. She is also Co-convenor of the Arts Industry Council, Victoria's peak body for the arts.

**FELIX CHING CHING HO –  
CROSS CULTURAL  
COLLABORATIONS  
(L1 FOYER)**

Felix is a Hong Kong born Melbourne based independent theatre director and maker. She initiated TRANS COLLECTIVE in 2013 to explore multilingual performance practice. Her latest stage appearance was in Sisters Grimm's *The Sovereign Wife* in MTC's NEON Festival; and has recently worked as the assistant director of Malthouse's *The Good Person of Szechuan*.

**EMMA VALENTE –  
INDIVIDUAL VS. SOCIETAL:  
THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL  
THEATRE  
(L2 CONFERENCE ROOMS)**

Emma is the co founder and artistic director of avant garde theatre company THE RABBLE and a freelance director and designer. THE RABBLE are currently the theatre company in residence both at the Malthouse Theatre and The Melbourne Writers' Festival and will produce *Orlando* as part of The Brisbane International Arts Festival.

**ESTHER ANATOLITIS –  
POLITICS AND PLACE:  
WHAT DOES PUBLIC ART DO?  
(L1 FOYER)**

Esther is a writer, arts advocate, Director of Regional Arts Victoria and Co-Curator of Architecture+Philosophy. Esther is currently undertaking an 18-month self-directed Artistic Leadership program with the support of the Australia Council.

**SARAH AUSTIN AND  
DAVID MANEY –  
ARTS, DISABILITY AND  
THE POLITICAL ECONOMY  
(THE LAWLER)**

Sarah Austin is a theatre maker, researcher and curator and Board Member of Theatre Network Victoria. She has worked for companies in Australia and overseas as an artist, programmer and academic and currently leads a joint University of Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria research project investigating the creative case for inclusive arts practice.

David Maney is a writer, performer, director and invisi-crip. He has written for Time Out, Kyoto Journal, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's disability forum, Ramp Up.

**SIMON ABRAHAMS –  
PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED:  
PROGRAMMING AND MARKETING  
POLITICAL WORK  
(L1 FOYER)**

Simon is Head of Programming at the Wheeler Centre, Chair of Theatre Network Victoria and maintains a practice as an independent creative producer and arts management consultant. Previously, Simon served as Executive Producer at Polyglot Theatre, Artistic Development Program Manager at Arts Centre Melbourne and Producer at Gasworks Arts Park.

# ATTENDING DELEGATES AND SPEAKERS

Xan Colman	A is for Atlas
Iain Finlayson	A is for Atlas
Rosemary Joy	Aphids
Alexandra Macalister-Bills	Arena Theatre Company
Lee Casey	Arena Theatre Company
Kim Durban	Arts Academy
Veronica Pardo	Arts Access Victoria
Richard Watts	Arts Hub
Ben Eltham	Arts Hub, New Matilda, Deakin
Gorkem Acaroglu	Arts Participation, City of Melbourne
Debra Jefferies	Arts Victoria
Linda Lucas	Arts Victoria
Meg Upton	Arts-in-Sync/Freelance
Lainey MacCulloch	Auspicious Arts Projects
Selene Bateman	Auspicious Arts Projects
Rohan Shearn	Australian Arts Review
Bruce Gladwin	Back to Back Theatre
Pauline Cady	Back to Back Theatre
Marcia Ferguson	Big West Festival
Tim Stitz	Chamber Made Opera
Clare McKenzie	Circus Oz
Angela Pamic	Dance Massive/Independent
Lydia Fairhall	Footscray Community Arts Centre
Erin Milne	Freelance
Jeannie Haughton	Freelance
Mark Wilkinson	Freelance
Sarah Austin	Freelance
Emily Sexton	Freelance
David Williams	Freelance
Rani Pramesti	Freelance
Tamara Jungwirth	Gasworks Arts Park
Annie Bourke	Hot Mess Productions
Patti Stiles	Impro Melbourne
Katherine Weaver	Impro Melbourne
Helen Scott	Independent
Felicity James	Independent
Geoff Pinfield	Independent
Clare Reddan	Independent
Wolf Heidecker	Independent
Vanessa Chapple	Independent
Alison Richards	Independent
Kate Hunter	Independent
Holly Cooper	Independent
Louise Howlett	Independent
Jane Thompson	Independent
Mark Wilson	Independent
Felix Ching Ching Ho	Independent
Ian Pidd	Independent
Bindi Cole	Independent
Dave Maney	Independent

Joseph Simons  
Joel Evans  
Debra Low  
Jodee Mundy  
Simone Schinkel  
Caitlin Dullard  
Liz Jones  
Suzanne Daley  
Claire Bradley  
Josh Wright  
Sarah Neal  
Mark Pritchard  
Alex Desebrock  
Jayne Lovelock  
Martina Murray  
Corey Reynolds  
Yana Taylor  
Lucy McNamara  
Daniel Santangeli  
Rose Godde  
Lis Blake  
Gail Southwell  
Julie Wright  
Sarah Greentree  
Josephine Daly  
Jude Anderson  
Sarah O'Dwyer  
Dianne Toulson  
Michaela Nutt  
Rosie Dwyer  
Kane Forbes  
Dale Packard  
Esther Anatolitis  
Peita Collard  
Lynne Ellis  
Neal Harvey  
Sheah Sutton  
Simeon Moran  
Narda Shanley  
Clare Watson  
Lucy Freeman  
Lyn Wallis  
Emma Valente  
Simon Abrahams  
Bethany Simons  
Nicole Beyer  
Daniel Clarke  
Tom Gutteridge  
Eddie Paterson  
Jim Lawson  
Kate Just  
Wendy Lasica  
Sue Broadway  
Simon Clarke  
Devon Taylor  
Steph Kehoe

Independent  
Insite Arts  
Jacaranda Theatre  
Jodee Mundy Collaborations  
KAGE  
La Mama  
La Mama  
Live Performance Australia  
Lucy Guerin Inc  
Malthouse Theatre  
Malthouse Theatre  
Malthouse Theatre  
Maybe ( ) Together  
Melbourne Fringe  
Melbourne Theatre Company  
MKA/Independent  
Monash Arts/Freelance  
Next Wave  
Next Wave  
Platform Youth Theatre  
Polyglot Theatre  
Polyglot Theatre  
Polyglot Theatre  
Produce This  
Pump Theatre/Independent  
Punctum  
Red Stitch Actors Theatre  
Red Stitch Actors Theatre  
Regional Arts Victoria  
RePlay theatre, freelance  
RMIT Link Arts & Culture/Freelance Director  
Sidney Myer Fund  
Snuff Puppets  
Snuff Puppets  
St Martins  
St Martins  
Straightjacket Productions  
The Australia Council for the Arts  
The Rabble  
The Wheeler Centre  
Theatre Network Victoria  
Theatre Network Victoria  
Theatre Works  
Union House Theatre  
University of Melbourne  
Vessel  
Victorian College of the Arts/Independent  
Wendy Lasica  
Westside Circus  
Westside Circus  
Women's Circus  
Women's Circus

# THEATRE NETWORK VICTORIA

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

## NICOLE BEYER - DIRECTOR

Nicole has been the Director of Theatre Network Victoria since its establishment in 2009. She sits on boards including the Arts Industry Council Victoria (Co-Convenor), Deakin University's Arts Participation Incubator, Australian Performing Arts Centres Association, and Performing Arts Touring Alliance. Past positions include CEO roles at Back To Back Theatre, Arts Access Victoria and Young People and the Arts Australia.

E: [nicole@tnv.net.au](mailto:nicole@tnv.net.au)

## BETHANY SIMONS – PROGRAM MANAGER

Bethany is a two-time Green Room Award nominated writer and performer. Her work has toured extensively throughout Australia, appeared on the VCE Playlist and been awarded the RAVE Touring Award from Regional Arts Victoria for outstanding contribution to regional arts and culture. She has experience as a workshop director, producer, presenter, arts administrator and is a feature writer for Aussie Theatre.

E: [bethany@tnv.net.au](mailto:bethany@tnv.net.au)

## KIM WEBSTER – BUSINESS MANAGER

Kim joined TNV in 2011. She has worked in the performing arts industry for fifteen years. Past roles include General Manager

of Theatreworks, The Women's Circus and the Darwin Entertainment Centre. She has been a board member for Arts Mark (Darwin) and the selection committee for Churchill Fellowship Award.

E: [kim@tnv.net.au](mailto:kim@tnv.net.au)

## TNV BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Simon Abrahams, Alice Nash, Jill Smith, Gorkem Acaroglu, Sarah Austin, Catherine Jones, Chris Mead, Erin Milne, Veronica Pardo, Emily Sexton and Brad Spolding.

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**Twitter: @TheatreNetworkV**

**Facebook: Theatre Network Victoria**  
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## THANKS

Mark Wheeler, Virginia Lovett, Corey Reynolds, Joseph Simons, guest speakers, facilitators, event curators, and our wonderful TNV members.

### Curated by:

Simon Abrahams, Sarah Austin, Emily Sexton, Nicole Beyer and Bethany Simons.

**Event Producer:** Bethany Simons