

converge 2019

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THEATRE AND YOUNG PEOPLE, MELBOURNE
WED 16 OCT, ABBOTSFORD CONVENT
A THEATRE NETWORK AUSTRALIA EVENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

House of Muchness – Responses to Provocations

Sam: How does theatre make the world a better place?

Theatre makes the world a better place because people can be moved and changed. They could be stuck. They could have an old idea about something and they could get unstuck because of a theatre thing they see or a theatre thing that they were part of. They start suggesting things to other people. Even if it's a great big story, you can still relate that story to your everyday life. Theatre can be emotional. If people have locked up emotions, theatre can let it out. Theatre can be the key to change. My grandpa on my mum's side was a male chauvinist. And then my mother came. And she was an artist. Now she's a full-on feminist. Then she started giving ideas to my grandfather. And he started taking them. He lives in Chile. Where I was born. Theatre can take you somewhere else. There's dark sides and light sides to life. If you're lucky and having a light time, you can learn about the dark sides and know more and care more. If you're unlucky right now and living in a dark time, you can watch a story about hope and imagination and love and the beautiful things and remember those things. Whoever you are, it can remind you about what matters.

Charlotte: Why my voice and ideas matter (as an artist, a young person or both)

There are times I haven't been listened to or haven't had a say. When young people aren't listened to, we stop saying things out loud. We keep it to ourselves. And then we stop having the thoughts at all. Because what's the point. Sometimes the popular kids have a bigger say, a bigger voice. When they put their hand up, the teacher always picks them. But that doesn't mean they have more ideas or better ideas. The teacher just likes the kinds of things they say. I feel important when I have ideas – I feel like it doesn't matter whether my ideas make sense or are practical or logical – that maybe the point of my ideas is not to be sensible. Maybe they are the ideas that don't sound like the main ideas people are having but maybe that's right. Maybe there should be heaps of ways that ideas look, floating around, having space to fly. Ideas don't always have to be possible. You have to have practice at having ideas. Then you keep on having them. And then you can be an adult who keeps on having good ideas, not boring ones that sound the same as the ones that already exist. I wanted to be a princess warrior or princess pirate when I grew up. When Sam's friend was little, he wanted to become a bike when he was older. Like a bicycle. See, I think that's a really good idea.