

## VAPAC Member Meeting #70 & Professional Development Conference

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

Williamstown Town Hall

### Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>

- 9.00am Coffee & tea on arrival
- 9.30am Welcome to Country
- 9.35am Introduction to venue – Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, Hobsons Bay City Council
- 9.40am Member meeting commences

### VAPAC Member Meeting #70 Agenda

1. **Attendance and Apologies, including introduction and welcome to new members.**
2. **Minutes of previous meeting to be tabled.**
3. **General Business**
  - Chair's Update – Tammy Ryan, Frankston Arts Centre
  - Treasurer's Update – Damien Boyle, Monash University Performing Arts Centre
  - Executive Director's Update – Patrick McCarthy, VAPAC
4. **Subnetwork Updates**
  - Box Office and Marketing Network Update – Kathy Corcoran, Wyndham Cultural Centre
  - Technical Managers Network Update – Brett Tippet, Gippsland Performing Arts Centre
5. **Technical Staff Shortage Discussion**
  - Murray Johnstone from Arts Centre Melbourne to provide update on training opportunities for venues to upskill existing staff and train new recruits.
  - Patrick McCarthy to present on VAPAC's Industry Development Initiative, supported by Entertech.
6. **Membership Applications Requiring Formal Approval**
7. **Proposed membership fees for 2023.**
8. **PAC Update from Shayne Price.**
9. **Honouring of David Lloyd.**

11.00am Morning Tea

### **From the Ground Up: Commissioning, New Work Development, and Residency Models**

How can performing arts venues facilitate and nurture the work they would most like to present in their theatres? Through commissioning models, deeper collaboration with companies and artists, and direct engagement with community, presenters have the opportunity to develop projects that meet their programming objectives and grow local audiences. Across two days we will hear from members and industry colleagues about how they've created space for (and resourced) new ways of working, and the success stories this has led to.

11.20am      **Introduction from Patrick McCarthy – Executive Director, VAPAC**

11.25am      **Panel Discussion – Partnering with Independent Companies and Artists**

What models exist for collaborating with small-medium organisations and independent artists to commission, develop, and present new projects? We hear from VAPAC members on how they have grown their programs over time.

Joel McGuinness – CEO & Creative Director, Geelong Arts Centre

Karla Conway – Artistic Director & CEO, Hothouse Theatre

Josh Wright – Artistic Director & CEO, Dancehouse

Beau McCafferty – Head of Programming, Darebin City Council

Panel Chair: Ilana Russell – Executive Director, Platform Arts

12.20pm      **This Is How We Do It – Research Report**

Theatre Network Australia's research report *This Is How We Do It* gathers data that reflects the realities of making it as an independent artist in Australia, with the aim of providing provocation for discussion, evaluation, and benchmarking; as well as leading to greater understanding, appreciation and valuing of independent artists' dedication and practice. This session will present findings from the 2022 national survey.

Yuhui Ng-Rodriguez, Sector Development and Membership Manager, Theatre Network Australia.

12.40pm      Lunch

1.30pm      **Member Case Study – Gasworks Arts Park**

Nestled in Albert Park, Gasworks Arts Park is a beautiful multi-arts venue that has developed an exciting year-round program of development and presentation opportunities for independent companies and artists. In this case study we'll explore how these programs have been built and supported by the organisation, and the impact this has had on artists and audiences.

Tamara Jungwirth - Director & CEO, Gasworks Arts Park

2.00pm      **Fostering Original Work Through Artist Residencies**

Annette Downs has drawn on her years of experience working with artists from across Tasmania to develop a best-practice residency model that is now being implemented Australia-wide. Connecting emerging and regional artists with the resources of major presenting partners, this program has led to extraordinary outcomes. Annette joins us to share insight into how you can do the same in your venue and community.

Annette Downs – Senior Producer, Performing Lines Tasmania

2.45pm      Afternoon tea

3.00pm      **Panel Discussion – Rethinking Curation**

What questions can you ask of your programming and organisation to ensure it remains relevant to your community and audience? In this session we'll hear from a number of exciting creative leaders on how they are reimagining the way they work with artists.

Nithya Nagarajan – Co-Artistic Director, Arts House

Daniel Santangeli – Artistic Director & Co-CEO, Footscray Community Arts

Jamie Lewis – Executive Director/CEO, Next Wave

Panel Chair: Gareth Hart – CEO & Creative Director, Burrinja Cultural Centre

4.00pm      Venue Tour

4.30pm      Wrap-up and networking time.

6.30pm      Dinner in Williamstown at Pier Farm

## Day 2 – Wednesday 12th October

9.00am Welcome and recap of first day.

### 9.05am **An International Perspective – Tarek Iskander**

The Battersea Arts Centre in London is one of the UK's most renowned and important performing arts centres. We are joined via Zoom by their Artistic Director and CEO Tarek Iskander to discuss their approach to new work development, community collaboration, and the future of theatres.

Tarek is Artistic Director and CEO of Battersea Arts Centre. Previous roles include Director for Theatre at Arts Council England and Resident Director at the National Theatre Studio. Tarek was also one of the founders and Associate Artistic Director of the Yard Theatre in Hackney. Prior to embarking on a career as a director and writer, he held a wide variety of senior management roles in the National Health Service.

### 9.45am **Panel Discussion – Play Development Programs**

Audiences are craving local stories more than ever. This session explores how theatres can support writers to develop new plays, and what processes have worked for some of our leading creative organisations.

Ella Caldwell – Artistic Director, Red Stitch Actors Theatre

Amy Sole – Creative Associate, Ilbjerri Theatre

Dianne Toulson – Executive Director & Creative Producer, Theatre Works

Panel Chair: Patrick McCarthy – Executive Director, VAPAC

10.40am Morning Tea

### 11.00am **Creating work of scale and ambition**

Created in Geelong and touring the world, Back to Back Theatre make work unlike anyone else. So how do they do it? Fresh from winning the Ibsen Award (the theatre equivalent of the Nobel Prize), Back to Back's Executive Producer Tim Stitz joins us to discuss how the company connects with venues, festivals, funding bodies, and philanthropists to resource and present their extraordinary productions.

Tim Stitz – Executive Producer and Co-CEO, Back to Back Theatre

11.45am      **Open Discussion and Burning Topics**

An opportunity for attendees to reflect on the conversations that have taken place throughout the meeting, and discuss any other urgent topics impacting our network.

12.30pm      Wrap, Lunch and Farewell