

Mission Statement

Melbourne Theatre Company aims to produce classic and contemporary Australian and international theatre with style, passion and world class artistic excellence in order to entertain, challenge and enrich audiences in Melbourne, Victoria and Australia.

History

MTC was founded in 1953 by John Sumner who led the Company for 35 years. The Company began its life as the Union Theatre Repertory Company, taking its name from its original home, the Union Theatre at The University of Melbourne. From the outset the Company's mission was to develop the basis for professional theatre in Australia. Its output was characterised by an ambitious choice of plays and in addition to employment for actors, there was a strong emphasis on training and development.

In its very early years, the Company served as a launching pad for the acclaimed international careers of Barry Humphries, Reg Livermore, Zoe Caldwell, Frank Thring and playwright Ray Lawler. MTC celebrated Ray Lawler's connection with the Company in 1995 by presenting the 40th Anniversary production of his play, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*. The legacy of excellence created in the early years of the Company has been carried on with such outstanding performers as Rachel Griffiths, John Wood, Lisa McCune, Helen Morse, Geoffrey Rush, Pamela Rabe, David Wenham, Guy Pearce and Sigrid Thornton working with MTC.

In 1968, the Company changed its name to recognise its connection to Melbourne. The connection with the University of Melbourne also continued. Melbourne Theatre Company is a semi-autonomous department of The University and is governed by a Board of Management which is responsible to the University Council.

Over the years, MTC has used a variety of theatres starting with the Union Theatre and including Russell Street, St Martins in South Yarra, the Athenaeum, the Merlyn and the Beckett in the Malthouse and the Playhouse and the Fairfax Studio in the Arts Centre. The most exciting venue to come on line is the MTC Theatre in Southbank, designed by Ashton Raggatt McDougall and containing two theatres: the Sumner Theatre and the Lawler Studio.



MTC has produced and presented over 765 plays including 270 Australian plays. Our other artistic strengths include an active program of commissioning plays and an extensive education program. In recent years, MTC has commissioned the best of Australian contemporary theatre by playwrights including Joanna Murray Smith, Hannie Rayson and Matt Cameron.

Melbourne Theatre Company is the longest established professional theatre company in Australia. MTC has been an integral part of the development of a strong theatre industry in Australia and is a cornerstone of Melbourne's performing arts activity along with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and The Australian Ballet.

We build our productions in a refurbished car show room in Southbank. Our HQ includes set and costume workshops as well as rehearsal rooms and offices.

The Present

Melbourne Theatre Company

- Is the major provider of theatre in Melbourne.
- Is lead by Australia's most award winning theatre, opera and music theatre director, Simon Phillips.
- Brings entertainment and excitement to 250,000 people a year in Melbourne.
- Performs all year around using in the MTC Theatre and the Playhouse and Fairfax Studio in the Arts Centre.
- Produces 10-12 plays each year in a Melbourne subscription season as well as occasional small scale work in the Lawler Studio.
- Regularly tours productions to other capital cities in Australia.
- Provides an education program for over 30,000 high school students throughout Victoria each year.
- Has a loyal group of 19,750 subscribers.
- Employs about 80 ongoing staff including carpenters, publicists, accountants, designers, costume makers, scenic artists, theatre technicians, front of house and ticketing staff.
- Contracts over 200 creative people such as actors, directors, designers, writers and composers each year.
- Obtains about 85% of its revenue from box office, sponsorship, touring and fundraising with only 13-14% coming from State and Federal Government Grants.
- Has 245 donors and foundations that support the work of the Company.
- Website: www.mtc.com.au for more information.

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