

IGNITION
DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATION
CREATION
GET WITH THE PROGRAM!





must

Monash Uni
Student Theatre



Monash Uni Student Theatre (MUST) is an engine room of creativity, a department of the Monash Student Association that creates vibrant, innovative performances by and with Monash students, for everybody.

Our work is bold, diverse, and of an excellent standard, attracting awards such as the Melbourne Fringe Live Art Award and great reviews: "they create the kind of theatre that blows me away every time..." (Sometimes Melbourne).

Nearly all roles on and off stage are performed by students, with training and mentorship provided by professional staff. Students actively shape our annual program and our growing culture at MUST.

Our graduates are making valuable, varied contributions to the National Arts Sector.

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msa.monash.edu/must

📍📱 [musttheatre](#)

Ground Floor,
21 Chancellors Walk
(Campus Centre),
Monash University, Clayton

MUST Artistic Director YVONNE VIRSIK
MUST Technical Manager JASON LEHANE
and hundreds of enterprising students!

Photography by SARAH WALKER
Cover photo by THERESA HARRISON
Graphic Design by ELIZAVETA DILANYAN

PICTURED: Kelly Wilson



MUST Artistic Director
Yvonne Virsik



MUST Technical Manager
Jason Lehane

Each year, as we brainstorm content and initiatives for the MUST program, and articulate our values with students, the threads of preoccupation that emerge are very telling.

In 2019 we are investigating the manipulation of language; our identity as a post-colonial country, as individuals online, and as weavers of stories; and our relationship with capitalism and gender discrimination. A disquieting theme that has emerged with clarity is of stories set on the brink of war or amidst its aftermath. Asked about the resonance of these stories, our artists describe their craving for a more effective, expressive voice in a world where representative democracy is under siege—a world in which they feel corralled by those stoking values they don't subscribe to, towards a future they don't want.

Nurturing voices must also involve growing diverse cultural participation and connection. This year our students are working with refugees and children, expanding opportunities for international students, reinforcing mentoring initiatives and creating large-scale joyous collective experiences!

We're thrilled to be partnering with three organisations that share our values—empowering exciting new voices and creating great art, conversation and community. Women's Circus will be mentoring the unique work of a few of our female artists. La Mama is presenting *The Bacchae*: "Euripides' version is largely a couple of men talking about what the women offstage are getting up to, whereas ours will fill the stage with a huge mob of women in all their glory" (creator: ROBERT REID). We're also remounting Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five* with Theatre Works. It's "a piece that will resonate as long as there are wars and we send children to fight them" (creator: FLEUR KILPATRICK).

At MUST we continue to be obsessed with unearthing great ideas, creating powerful, intriguing experiences, forging opportunities for all kinds of people, and having fun!

In 2019, seek us out. We'll look out for you.

Yvonne Virsik
MUST Artistic Director

The O SHOW: **The D'OH SHOW**

Feb 25 – 28

4 free performances a day throughout O-Fest!

The O Show is a fun, informative spoof of student life at Monash, created by students to a different theme each year and designed to give first years handy tips.

Ay Caramba! Get ready to eat your shorts, as *The Simpsons* spring onto the **MUST** stage just in time for the 30th anniversary of the beloved TV classic!

The D'Oh Show will delight audiences with its huge cast, original music, witty satire, and Willie the Groundskeeper. So much Willie.

Written by LACHLAN LIESFIELD

Directed by EAMONN JOHNSON

Music by SAM PORTER

Produced by GEORGIA KATE BELL

Proudly sponsored
by Campus Community Division

PICTURED: Amanda Dhammanarachchi as Bart





SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE by **KURT VONNEGUT**

April 24 - May 5

This all happened, more or less.
The war parts, anyway, are pretty much true.
The aliens, spaceships and human zoo,
perhaps less so.

But there really was a city called Dresden that was firebombed during a war fought by children. And Kurt Vonnegut really did witness all that fire and death as a prisoner of war and wrote a book about it. And that book became one of the 20th Century's most beloved and important novels. And award-winning playwright, Fleur Kilpatrick, really has adapted it to be performed by people no older than the ones we once sent to war.

It will begin like this, "Listen: Billy Pilgrim has come unstuck in time."

It will end like this "Poo-tee-weet?"

Adapted and Directed by **FLEUR KILPATRICK**
Assistant Direction by **KITTY MALAM**

**Presented by MUST and Theatre Works at
Theatre Works, 14 Acland Street, St. Kilda**
theatreworks.org.au

\$15 student rush

**PICTURED: Alanah Allen, Samuel Barson,
Talia Zipper and Philip Dallas**

PHOTO by Nura Sheidaee





BEGINNERS and INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

**WORKSHOPS March – October
SHOWINGS September 26 – 28**

Throughout 2019, MUST is again undertaking a program of fun, accessible performance workshops, designed to build confidence, self-expression and performance skills —and to inspire new voices!

Want to try acting but feel a bit shy?
Not feeling ready to audition for shows?
Are you an international student?
Is English your second language?
Like to learn new skills in a friendly
environment, meet great people and make
some theatre? This new initiative may
be just for you!

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**PICTURED: Shreyas Lokesh, Rebecca Wang
and Frances Paton**

CLIMBERS

May 16 – 25

It's midnight in Newnham College, Cambridge, 1939. Rosalind wants adventure, Lucy wants romance, Ruth wants a Marxist utopia, Tommy wants to be a tortured artist and Jane just wants to be left alone.

The arrival of three night-climbing students from the men's colleges changes their lives in unexpected ways. But this newfound 'Jolly Good Fun' comes with a darker side.

Climbers is what happens when you take the plucky boarding school heroine out of the boarding school to face the harsh realities of gender discrimination and worse.

Written by ELLY D'ARCY

Directed by ELLY D'ARCY and NATALIE SPEECHLEY

PICTURED: Gregor Campbell and Jemima Middis



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Seagulls

WORKSHOPS from March

SHOWINGS September 18 – 21

A story-telling project and performance created by professionals with the collaboration of refugees, asylum seekers and recent immigrants from within the Monash community.

Proudly sponsored
by Campus Community Division

Created by: JAIME DORNER,
ROXANA PAUN-TRIFAN
and collaborators

Intercultural Practices Advisor:
GIANLUIGI ROTONDO

PICTURED: Liam Paternott

Project Pollinate

Performances from June

A devised work exploring the lives and experiences of children, and the themes of respect, belonging and identity.

Created through storytelling and sharing, *Project Pollinate* asks the questions: “Who are you and how do you belong to your environment and community?”

Created for children by PARIS BALLA,
SIMONE LOUEY and SIMRAN GIRIA,
with ideas from the students
of Winter’s Flat Primary School.
Project Mentor: JOLYON JAMES,
Arena Theatre Company



The GOLDEN AGE by Louis Nowra

May 30 – June 8

“Nowt More Outcastin”

Two young men discover a forgotten tribe of European settlers, isolated in the Tasmanian wilderness for nearly a century—remnants of penal colonies and gold rushes. With the tribe on the brink of extinction, and the world descending into war, the clan returns to Hobart in the hope of preserving their unique culture. Instead they are stripped of their long-held autonomy and secluded in a mental asylum. The few who know of their existence develop dangerous obsessions.

Inspired by a true story, *The Golden Age* is a truly mesmerising play that addresses the inherent flaws in Australian culture and questions our identity.

Directed by OLIVIA STAAF

Assistant Direction by KATE SPEAKMAN

**The Golden Age is exclusively licenced
by HLA Management Pty Ltd**

PICTURED: Alana Dare and Matt Wanford





The BACCHAE

July 10 - 21

A new, heartbreakingly truthful exploration of the Bacchae myths, steeped in ritual and rebellion. A cast of both professional actors and current MUST students tells stories of women and "cults" who have challenged the patriarchal status quo throughout history. This fierce retelling, inspired by Richard Schechner's *Dionysus in '69*, weaves in classic and pop culture references from Sophocles to The Manson Family.

Join the Cult.

Created by ROBERT REID and The Bacchae Project Development Workshop

Assistant Direction and Musical Direction by KELLY WILSON

Written and Directed by ROBERT REID

Presented by MUST at La Mama, Carlton Courthouse, lamama.com.au



PICTURED: Kate Speakman, Molly Forshaw, Laura Aldous, Savanna Wegman and Roxana Paun-Trifan

2019 MUST CABARET FESTIVAL

August 6 - 17

PICTURED: Elly D'Arcy, Diane Pereira,
Earl Marrows and Nesceda Blake

You are invited to a diverse, two-week festival of dynamic performances and undiscovered talent! Embrace an exceptional array of performers each night, with delectable offerings in music, theatre, comedy, burlesque and more!

Join us in the MUST Cabaret Club, and kick back amidst the vibrant art, intimate cabaret tables, all-night bar and welcoming atmosphere. Let MUST dim the lights and serve you a smorgasbord of zest with a mix of surprising performances every night!

Curated and Produced by NESCEDA BLAKE
and EAMONN JOHNSON

Info and applications: mustcabfest@gmail.com



DISINHIBITION

August 29 – September 7

"Do people who complain about the performative nature of social media not realise how performative reality is?"

Disinhibition explores the gulf between our online profiles and our everyday lives; a world where social disconnection, technological anxiety and the disinhibition effect have taken us full-throttle.

George fantasizes about leading a normal life—he's got countless followers watching his every move. Flick's FODMAP cooking website has similarly sent her instant fame, and Tay slowly begins to gain human traits from her interactions with strangers—humour, desire, love... and racism.

What happens when you accrue a following of 30,000 fans before you've even finished high school? Moreover, how far would you go to make them leave you alone?

Written by CHRISTOPHER BRYANT
Directed by MUST Artistic Director
YVONNE VIRSIK

PICTURED: Geo Valentine and Ian Cormick





DO NOT COLLECT \$200

October 9 – 19

To begin, you roll a dice. This determines how much you start with. The more you have, the easier to increase your wealth. The rich get richer, the poor get the picture. Dazzling performances exist within this world of one-on-one experiences and installations. It's all yours, if you can afford it.

An immersive theatre adventure that'll leave you with something to think about. In this live-action game of Monopoly you can visit the bank, go to jail or compete for a high-flying job. Will you suffer the guilt of acquiring an outrageous fortune, or take arms against the injustices of inequality?

Created by HARLEY HEFFORD
with a team of MUST collaborators

PICTURED: Harley Hefford, Simran Giria
and Lucy Rosenblum

R & J
Your Lives Shall Pay
the Forfeit of the Peace

May 2 – 11

Power. Rage. Passion.

This brutal portrayal unearths the duality of desire and destruction.

With little control over their lives, how do the young and privileged fight to gain the right to choose? In this energetic recontextualization of *Romeo and Juliet*, manic desperation thrusts two families into their greatest sorrow.

Directed by MOLLY FORSHAW

Assistant Direction by SAVANNA WEGMAN

MONASH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY is a student-run theatre club dedicated to exploring and celebrating the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. We produce theatrical performances, run workshops, readings and social events. We aim to create excellent works whilst providing a fun and accessible way for students to connect with the bard.

shakespeare@monashclubs.org

📍 [monashshakespearecompany](https://www.monashshakespearecompany.com)

PICTURED: Aleks Corke and Simone Louey

MONASH
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY



WOMEN'S CIRCUS PARTNERSHIP

Continuing throughout 2019

The award-winning Women's Circus offers a year-round circus and performance training program and produces socially engaged arts projects for women and their communities.

MUST is partnering with Women's Circus Artistic Director, Penelope Bartlau, to offer special mentorships developing the unique work of the following female artists:

Nina Robertson (pictured) creating *Tangle*

Aerial rope brings bodies into focus: the things they enable and restrict, their strength, and the movement that can result from interaction with an apparatus. And where a woman's body is brought into focus for its actions and abilities, there are stories to tell.

Kitty Malam creating *The Snow Queen*

Using physical theatre, puppetry, and lots of imagination, Kitty Malam, co-creator of Left Lane Outreach Theatre, will be developing her interactive primary-school incursion based on Hans Christian Anderson's beloved fairy-tale.

women's circus



WORKS in DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2019

Identity Crisis—A New Musical

Is social media healthy? Are we ourselves online? To solve identity theft do you need a chic-but-functional trench coat?

Written by THOMAS THORPE

Composed by ALICE PRYOR

Directed by KITTY MALAM

Signs

A series of performance pieces investigating different uses, forms and systems of language. How do they each engage and affect us?

Written by LACHLAN LIESFIELD

Cry Wolf

Words no longer have meaning.
Facts can have alternatives.
Cry Wolf is a highly stylised articulation of the manipulation of language and power.

Created by ALEKSANDR CORKE

The Fall of House Usher

A gothic, immersive theatre piece exploring the connection between stories and our existence, drawn from the works of Dickens and Poe.

Developed by KELLY WILSON

in collaboration with writer JAMES WALKER

PICTURED: Olivia Staaf



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2019 MUST will continue to initiate and deliver a range of programs designed to nurture the development of original work, students' professional growth, artistic collaborations and dynamic cultural conversations, including:

- Internships with MUST staff
- Workshops across a wide range of artistic and practical skills
- Direct mentoring from skilled students and professionals
- Forums encouraging discussion and critical thinking
- Showings of new works in development
- Engagement and placements with professional companies

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PICTURED: Paris Balla, Ryan Hamilton and Justin Heaton





2019 MUST Interns

To the Technical Manager:

ASHLEIGH BAXTER and MATT WANFORD

To the Artistic Director:

AGATA DMOCHOWSKA, NESCEDA BLAKE
and KITTY MALAM

Community and Social Officer (a new role):

KATE SPEAKMAN

MUST Boot Camp

Run in Early December

50 student artists and facilitators, removed from their comfort zones (and Melbourne) for a week of intensive workshops, provocations and art-making in beautiful Falls Creek. Training and inspiration for new emerging makers for 2020 and onwards!

Wrap Party and Awards Night!

Run in Late November

Our legendary Wrap Party incorporates student performances, humorous recaps of the year, awards, celebrations and general post-exam revelry. Awards for performers, creators, managers, facilitators and generally amazing contributors are nominated by and voted on by the whole MUST cohort. This night is a MUST!

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PHOTO by Debbie Yew

The Government Inspector

Created by James Jackson and team, after Gogol



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