

IGNITION

DEVELOPMENT

INVESTIGATION

CREATION

GET WITH THE PROGRAM!



must

Monash Uni
Student Theatre



Monash Uni Student Theatre is an engine room of creativity, a department of the MSA that creates vibrant, innovative performances by and with Monash students for all audiences.

Our work is bold, diverse and of an excellent standard, attracting awards such as the Melbourne Fringe Live Art Award (2015) and great reviews: “they create the kind of theatre that blows me away every time...” Sometimes Melbourne (2016)

Nearly all roles on and off stage are performed by students, with training and mentorship provided. Students actively shape our annual program and our growing culture at MUST and our graduates are making valuable, varied contributions to the National Arts Sector.

(03) 9905 8173
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msa.monash.edu/must
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Ground Floor, 21 Chancellors Walk
Monash University, Clayton, 3800.

MUST Artistic Director Yvonne Virsik
MUST Technical Manager Jason Lehane
And hundreds of enterprising students!

Photography by Sarah Walker
Cover Photo by Aleksandr Corke
Graphic design by Elizaveta Dilanyan

PICTURED: Shannon Brown



MUST Artistic Director
Yvonne Virsik



MUST Technical Manager
Jason Lehane

At MUST, we continue to be obsessed with unearthing great ideas, creating intriguing experiences and forging opportunities for all kinds of people. Our student artists and facilitators give us hope for the future and reinspire our fascination in humanity every day. We are privileged to be working alongside them and creating platforms for their expression and their benefit.

Recent studies demonstrate that participation in arts programs has overwhelmingly positive outcomes for young people in particular. Improved mental health and intellectual, cultural and social growth are all clear benefits. None of this is a surprise to those of us who work with emerging makers, we've seen it first hand for years, but now governments and the corporate sector are starting to take notice.

Findings from a 2017 study, commissioned by Australian Theatre for Young People, suggest an even greater impact than we suspected: participants in theatre programs received greater mental health benefits than those in programs specifically designed to address mental health issues.

Companies such as ours, where emerging makers work together to create cultural experiences, benefit us all.

Last year at MUST, 820 student cast members and crew were involved in over 150 workshops and performances. Total attendances were over 7000! Performances took place on Campus, in the Melbourne Fringe Festival HUB and at the acclaimed fortyfivedownstairs in the CBD.

Our 2018 season is again bursting with brave new artistic expression. We've got new works, adaptations, cabaret, pieces exploring unusual spaces and unadulterated fun!

In 2018, seek out surprising experiences, find us, find your voice!

We look forward to seeing you onstage, backstage or in the audience.

YVONNE and JASON

The MUST O SHOW '18 BACK to the FIRST YEAR!

19 – 22 February

Four free performances a day throughout the Orientation Festival!

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

Charge your portal guns, grab a sonic screwdriver and check your flux capacitor! This year's show is taking us to the Monash University for Interdimensional Beings.

Rick, Morty and Summer find themselves trapped at this timey-wimey, alien-filled institution by none other than Doctor Who's fast-talking arch-villain, Missy. Rick enlists the help of The Doctor, Doc Brown and Marty, and even a few Daleks, to travel through Space and Time and dismantle her dastardly plot.

Written by ALEKSANDR CORKE

Directed by GINA DICKSON

Produced by CATRIONA COWIE

Composition and Musical Direction by SAM PORTER

Proudly sponsored by Campus Community Division

Photo by Aleksandr Corke

PICTURED (in the front): Shannon Brown, Kath Kiddell and Talia Zipper



BEGINNERS and INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP PROGRAM

March – October
WORKSHOPS

19 – 22 September
SHOWINGS

Students!

Want to try acting but a bit shy?

Not feeling ready to audition for shows?

Is English your second language?

Would you like to learn new skills in
a friendly environment, meet great
people and make some theatre!?

This initiative may be just for you!

In 2018, 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.

Workshop Facilitator and Director
BRIDGET BALODIS

Assistance provided by
DIANE PEREIRA and JUE SOO

Proudly sponsored by
Campus Community Division

PICTURED: James Walker, Jue Soo
and Jecinta Arulsuthan





NEW WRITING INITIATIVES

CAREFUL, THEY MIGHT HEAR YOU

Thursday, 29 March

Some poetry is meant to be read in silent solitude, and some is meant to be spoken, shared and performed. Felix Nobis has won many awards for his poetry performances and in several short workshops he will share some of his insights. Be part of the workshops and develop your own performance style, or join us on the night for an evening of spoken words and wonders!

Created and Facilitated by FELIX NOBIS
Assistant Producer LAUREN ABRAHAMS

PRONTO: Performed Readings of New Theatrical Offerings

9 – 14 April

Across a dedicated week, adventurous new playwrights will be paired with emerging directors and actors to present rehearsed readings of their diverse works. The PRONTO curators will host discussions between artists and audiences to further support the development of the playwrights' work.

Get involved in the conversation!

Curated and produced by KATE SPEAKMAN
and KELLY WILSON (Pictured)

prontomust@gmail.com

Also note "Works in Development"

COSMIC WARS: EPISODE IV—SADOR RETURNS; The RETURN of SADOR

A MUSTBOP Production—MUST B-Grade Overdubbing Project

17 – 18 April
IN THE CINEMA

The 'summer blockbuster' you've been waiting for, *The Cosmic Wars: Episode IV—Sador Returns: The Return of Sador* is a cinematic journey through outer space with cowboys, lasers, starships, and tacky one liners! This intergalactic live over-dubbing project will keep you laughing all night, just as long as you don't think too hard about it.

A skewering of sci-fi ideas from decades gone by, 'The Cosmic Wars' will run the gamut from interstellar dictators to mystical warrior orders and snarky computer companions, all voiced live before you!

Written and Directed
by LACHLAN LIESFIELD
and EAMONN JOHNSON
(Pictured with Simran Giria)



THE PHONE-IT-IN FILM FESTIVAL

Monday, April 30

SHOWCASE SCREENING
IN THE CINEMA

The Phone-It-In Film Festival is back for its brilliant fourth year and we want your films!

Our aim is to inspire both novice and experienced filmmakers to bring their ideas to life and share them with enthusiastic audiences.

The festival could not be more accessible to anyone who wants to enter—simply shoot a short film using your smartphone and submit it to see it premiered on the big screen at our Showcase Screening.

We welcome all genres, styles and themes, and have great prizes up for grabs. So get your phone and get filming!

Co-curators: KRYSTAL GAYTON
and DYLAN MARSHALL (Pictured)

phoneitinmust@gmail.com



VINEGAR TOM

by CARYL CHURCHILL

10 – 19 May

Scapegoats. Witch Trials. Torture. Death.

17th Century England is no place for strange behaviour. Rising Puritan extremism and a resurgence of plague-era isolationism has created an air of tension and fear.

Caryl Churchill's *Vinegar Tom* is a fascinating 'play with music', inspired by some of the works of Bertolt Brecht. It's a witty, but ultimately dark piece, that examines the interplay of Gender and Power.

No woman is safe. Hide your hats, hide your cats, lest you be named a witch.

Directed by GINA DICKSON

Assistant Directed by OLIVIA STAAF

By arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French, Ltd.

PICTURED: Aleeah Gabriel



A U S T R A L I A ' S
1 U N I V E R S I T Y
F O R G R A D U A T E
E M P L O Y A B I L I T Y
S E E K S Y O U.*



Today's employers look to Monash University for the best and brightest. In a recent report commissioned by Times Higher Education, Australian recruiters ranked us number one for graduate employability in Australia.* Worldwide, we are number 57 in the Global Employability ranking.^

If you want to make an impact in the real world, join the thought leaders at Monash.

www.monash.edu

*Times Higher Education Top universities in Australia for graduate employability (2017)
^Times Higher Education Global University Employability Ranking (2017)



The IMPORTANCE of BEING EARNEST

by OSCAR WILDE

24 May – 2 June

Jack loves Gwendolen and Gwendolen loves Jack... Or at least, she's in love with his alter ego. After creating a new identity to escape his dull country life, Jack (or as he is known in the city, Ernest) finds himself caught between a disapproving, rich, soon to be mother-in-law and a mischievously charming best friend, whose meddling threatens to bring it all crashing down.

Filled with mistaken identity, spectacle, and more cucumber sandwiches than you can stomach, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is a timeless farce that pokes fun at societal expectations with a relentless barrage of witticisms, in classic Wilde fashion.

Directed by BERND FAVEERE

Assistant Directed by GEORGIE WOLFE

PICTURED: Elly D'Arcy and Matthew Wanford



**MONASH
SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY**



The MONASH SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in 2018

A theatre club dedicated to exploring and celebrating the works of Shakespeare and his contemporaries.

shakespeare@monashclubs.org

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

PICTURED: Ashleigh Gray



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

26 April – 5 May

At a company retreat, Beatrice and Benedick, loving their hate for each other, are confronted by Claudio and Hero's true love. It will be a roller coaster of emotions. Chuckling will happen.

Directed by SKY COTTIS

ROSENCRANTZ and GUILDEN- STERN are DEAD by Tom Stoppard

16 – 25 August

In this iconic absurdist piece, two of Hamlet's minor characters are thrust onto centre stage (or rather, into the wings).

Directed
by REILLY HOLT

Assistant Directed
by GABRIELLA
HEATHCOTE

By arrangement with ORiGiN™
Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel
French, Ltd.

ANTONY// CLEOPATRA

Off Campus,
Melbourne Fringe
Festival, September

Fear, rage, lust, love and power. *Antony//Cleopatra* is a new feminist work devised from Shakespeare's classic text. It is an interrogation of a world in which the word "matriarch" has become synonymous with tragedy.

Adapted and Directed
by ALICE STEWART
and NIAMH HASSETT

SEASON 2018

DISCOVER MORE

VISIT MONASH.EDU/MLIVE

 **MONASH**
University





2018 MUST CABARET FESTIVAL

31 July – 11 August

Enjoy dynamic, diverse performances in a two-week celebration of all forms of cabaret. Each evening's line up will be different, showcasing a variety of innovative, exceptional new music, magic, theatre, dance, drag, burlesque, comedy and more!

Escape from the winter cold and join us in the buzzing MUST Cabaret Club for evenings of themed entertainment, or immerse yourself in the magic of cabaret surprises.

The MUST Cabaret Festival will provide a wonderfully inclusive opportunity for diverse performers to entertain, entice and showcase their talents across a curated season.

Curated and Produced by
SOPHIE ASHKANASY and NESCEDA BLAKE

Information and applications:
mustcabfest@gmail.com

PICTURED: Earl Marrows, Sophie Ashkanasy,
Catriona Cowie, Georgia Kate Bell, Patrick Collins,
Jimmy Yin, Gillian Lee and Griffin Walsh

END TRANSMISSION

4 – 15 September

< START TRANSMISSION >

Calling all space detectives:
Planet Earth needs your help!

A specialist mining craft has reappeared in Earth-space many years past its due return. The craft is currently inaccessible and scans have shown abnormal readings. We have it held in quarantine and require immediate assistance. Explore the ship, uncover its secrets, solve the mystery.

Apply now for mission briefing at
UnderPlunder Pty Ltd HQ.

< END TRANSMISSION >

In this immersive, interactive performance experience, audiences will move through the abandoned space ship, engaging with cutting-edge technology to piece the mysterious story together.

Created by Wholegrain Ears:
HUMPHREY CHEUNG
and MICHELLE NGUYEN (Pictured)
Contributing Director YVONNE VIRSIK



HOLLOWAY: A NEW MUSICAL

4 – 13 October

What happens when trauma fractures a community?

Holloway Residential College is meant to be the first taste of freedom for many uni students, yet Amelia feels trapped. She wants to get out, but what does that mean for the people she leaves behind?

Holloway: A New Musical explores the impact of mental health in the lives of young Australians. Charged with contemporary rock music, Holloway challenges us to embrace each other in a time of isolation and false connections.

Book and Lyrics by FRASER MITCHELL

Music by EARL MARROWS

Directed by KATHRYN YATES

Musical Direction by EARL MARROWS

Produced by SOPHIE ASHKANASY

PICTURED: Fraser Mitchell, Alana Dare and Agata Dmochowska



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- Leadership development
- Tracking your employability skills
- Volunteering opportunities
- Meeting with employers
- Finding part time work

www.monash.edu/career-connect



WOMEN'S CIRCUS PARTNERSHIP

Throughout 2018

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

We're partnering with Women's Circus to offer special mentorships towards the development of new work and the unique voices of the following female artists:

DIANE PEREIRA

(Pictured)

Dance and crime are seemingly unconnected. However, both are universal. *Fingertips* will explore their relationship, using movement to guide audiences through true crime stories.

women's circus


GEORGIE WOLFE and GEORGIA KATE BELL

The first stage of this project will consist of recording interviews with women of different ages, ethnicities, education, and abilities, focusing on their personal experiences and the intricacies of their daily lives.

This rich material will then be drawn together by female artists to create a responsive performance work.





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SET YOU UP
FOR SUCCESS.

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WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2018

Q

'Q' explores the mysteries surrounding the afterlife and the systems of power within our world. An existentialist play with a heavy dose of absurdism and a touch of black comedy, 'Q' places your life in a file and asks you to analyse what you've made of it.

Written and Directed by ALEKSANDR CORKE

DETENTION

We are no strangers to headlines labelling male juvenile detainees as "thugs", yet we rarely hear about their personal experiences of incarceration. *Detention* seeks to shift the focus from the external to the internal, and investigate the isolated lives of these vilified young men.

Created by EDAN GOODALL

ALICE

All societies produce people of ambition, with an earnest desire for some type of achievement or distinction. *Alice*, is an adaption of Lewis Carroll's work for an uneasy crowd, taking a good look at status anxiety and good intentions.

Written by JAMES WALKER

Directed by DIANE PEREIRA

PICTURED: Aleksandr Corke

MONASH SECURITY INFORMATION

Whether you're a student, staff member or visitor to Monash, you'll find our security service team working around the clock to ensure our campuses remain safe and enjoyable places to live, work, study and play.

If you're ever concerned about your own or someone else's safety, see something suspicious or just want some security advice, then help is just a phone call away anytime on 9902 7777 for inquiries, or 9905 3333 for a campus emergency.

It makes good sense to add these numbers to your mobile phone in case you ever need us.

For useful security contacts, information and advice, or to find the nearest Monash University, Campus Security Office check out <https://www.monash.edu/about/safety-security>
You're in safe hands at Monash, so enjoy your time with us.



Awakening. 2017. Created by Daniel Lammin. fortyfivedownstairs.

Photo by Teresa Harrison.

The BACCHAE

Development and actor training: Throughout 2018

The Bacchae is a new trilogy of plays about the rise of the Ancient Greek all-female cult of Dionysus, their war on patriarchal Athens and their tragic end. This work by Robert Reid tells the story of these women, weaving in classic and pop culture references from Sophocles to Charles Manson...

The epic Bacchae project has been in development since 2012 and will finally be staged in 2019 at La Mama Courthouse, in conjunction with MUST.

During 2018, Robert will be staging a series of workshop explorations, actor training sessions and internal showings at MUST.

Written and Directed by ROBERT REID

PICTURED: Gina Dickson, Roxana Paul Triffin and Athalie Down



MUST creates “the kind of theatre that blows me away every time... with an intelligence and a freedom that doesn't restrict ideas... so original and unique that I wonder why it hasn't been done before.”

Anne Marie Peard
SOMETIMES MELBOURNE

“radical and devastatingly effective adaptation... brilliant, deeply moving.”

★ ★ ★ ★

Cameron Woodhead
THE AGE

“A stunning reimaging.”

Bradley Storer
THEATRE PRESS

“some of the finest theatre happening at the moment.”

Myron My
MY MELBOURNE ARTS

of Daniel Lammin's *Awakening*,
MUST and fortyfivedownstairs

An “impressive breeding ground for talent in recent years.”

THE MUSIC

“MUST is the place where I became an artist.”

Celeste Cody, Director, ex Artistic Director
RIVERLAND YOUTH THEATRE

Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. 2015.
Adapted and Directed by Yvonne Virsik.

Photo by Debbie Yew.

“MUST provides limitless scope for artistic development while consistently producing top tier theatrical performance.”

Danny Delahunty
MELBOURNE FRINGE

“The vast array of ideas and methodologies emerging from MUST never cease to amaze me.”

Fleur Kilpatrick, Playwright (Max Afford Award)
Director, Artistic Coordinator MAPA

“MUST is the reason I have a job, it's as simple as that.”

Sarah Walker
Performance Photographer
and Theatremaker

“...beautiful and affecting... you are left with your heart in your mouth... Bravo... it really is that good.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Drew Lane
AUSSIE THEATRE

“We were blown away!”

Graham Ford
STAGE WHISPERS

of *Spring Awakening*, the musical,
directed by Yvonne Virsik



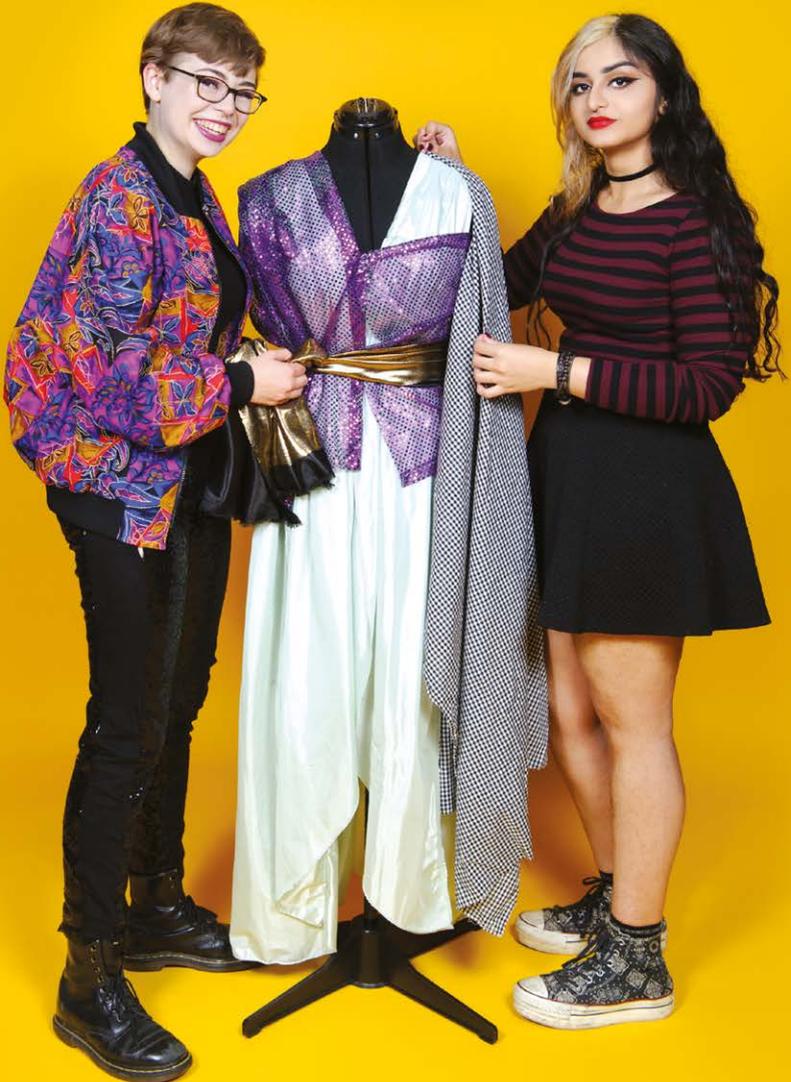
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2018 MUST will continue to deliver a range of programs designed to nurture the development of original work, students' professional growth, professional collaborations, and dynamic cultural discussion.

THESE WILL INCLUDE:

- + Year-long internships with MUST staff
- + Workshops across a wide range of artistic and practical skills
- + Direct mentoring from staff, skilled students and professionals
- + Forums to encourage discussion and critical thinking
- + Engagement and placement with professional companies
- + Support for and showings of new work in development

PICTURED: Paris Balla and Dil Kaur



MUST BOOT CAMP

Early December

50 or so student artists and facilitators, removed from their comfort zones (and Melbourne) for a week of intensive workshops, provocations and surprising art-making in beautiful Falls Creek. Training and inspiration for new emerging theatremakers so we can do it all anew in 2019!



WRAP PARTY and AWARDS NIGHT!

Late November

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

msa.monash.edu/must



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