

Melbourne Festival of Puppetry

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this project about?

- Melbourne Puppetry Festival is a curated puppet festival scheduled for one week of the Victorian winter school holidays (4 - 9th July.) The program will be co-curated by La Mama Theatre and Lemony S Puppet Theatre.
- Our definition of 'what make as a puppet show' is very wide. Non-traditional approaches to the form are encouraged. Cross-discipline works are also encouraged. All types of artists (architects, theatre makers, musicians, live artists, opera artists etc) are encouraged to apply as long as the work includes some puppetry. However, the festival is particularly interested showcasing 'innovation in puppetry.' Be bold. Try something new.
- There will be a day program of children's works and a night program aimed at adult audiences.
- There will be a daytime workshop program for children as well as workshops for adults and professional artists.
- There will be an 'Avenue of Booths' for children and adults in the La Mama forecourt. Please see 'Avenue of Booths - project outline on Lemony S website for more information.
- The children's program will run from Tuesday 4th July – Sunday 9th July
- The adult's program will run from Thursday 6th July – Sunday 9th July
- The workshop program will run from Tuesday 4th July - Sunday 9th July
- There are three venues available for the performances.
- There will be a fee per performance for all participants (except for participant in 'The Avenue of Booths' where the fee will set at a daily/nightly rate). This fee will be confirmed as soon as final funding is confirmed. The 2015 fee was \$300 per performance.
- The performance venues are the 3 spaces offered by La Mama Theatre
 - a. La Mama Theatre; seats 45 people. Suitable for smaller works
 - b. La Mama Courthouse; seats 75 people. Suitable for larger works
 - c. Courtyard Tent; seats 20 people. Suitable for intimate and tiny works
- All works must be able to share venues.

What is La Mama Theatre?

La Mama Theatre is nationally and internationally acknowledged as a crucible for cutting edge, contemporary theatre since 1967. Valued by artists and audiences alike, La Mama is treasured for its continued advocacy of those seeking to explore beyond mainstream theatre.

As a non-for-profit association, La Mama is producing work by theatre makers of all backgrounds and encouraging works that deconstruct and critique form, content and social issues. Described by its founder Betty Burstall as “essentially a playwright’s theatre, a place where new ideas, new ways of expression can be tried out, a place where you can hear what people are thinking and feeling”, La Mama is the home of alternative and experimental local theatre. Receiving annually at least two hundreds unsolicited scripts, La Mama leitmotiv is to provide a low financial risk in the face of a high artistic risk framework, by facilitating the production and presentation of shows.

La Mama’s list of Alumni reads like the Who’s Who of Australian Theatre including such greats as David Williamson, Cate Blanchett, Jack Hibberd, Graeme Blundell, Judith Lucy and Julia Zemiro. La Mama is proud to play a crucial role in fostering the distinguished careers of so many established and emerging Australian artists.

In recent years, La Mama artists such as The Rabble, Daniel Schlusser and Nicola Gunn have gone on to perform at the Melbourne International Festival and MTC’s NEON Festival of Independent Theatre. La Mama veteran Jack Charles continues to work across the country, and in 2013 La Mama regular Ben Grant was touring internationally with Robert Lapage.

Who are Lemony S Puppet Theatre

Lemony S Puppet Theatre is a small, award-winning independent theatre company with a big reputation. Our 2015 work, ‘Captives of the City’ received two Green Room Awards. With puppet theatre at the core of our work, Lemony S Puppet Theatre is the coming together of two widely respected and highly skilled puppet theatre makers, Sarah Kriegler and Jacob Williams. With over 20 years theatre experience between us, we use puppetry to disarm the audience and go deep to the core of what it is to be human – to attach meaning to symbols and signs, to empathise and access the innate human ability to “suspend one’s disbelief”. We have a commitment to extending the form of puppetry beyond what is expected and constantly re-invent our practice, developing new styles and performance techniques. Based in Melbourne, our works have been seen throughout Australia and across the world.

What are the key dates?

Friday 21st April 5pm
Applications to festival due.

Friday 12th May
Shortlisted applicants notified. Technical discussion begin.

Friday 26th May
Program announced.

Monday 3rd July
Bump In/Technical Rehearsals (times T.B.C)

Tuesday 4th July – Sunday 9th July
Children's program

Thursday 6th July – Sunday 9th July
Adult's program

Who can apply?

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS

- All types of artists are welcome to apply (architects, theatre makers, musicians, live artists, opera artists etc) if your work includes some kind of puppetry.
- Any professional artist can apply. You can be an independent artist, part of a group or company. You can apply as a individual or a duo.
- Artists outside of Melbourne can also apply but will need to cover their own travel and accommodation cost if incurred. Lemony S Puppet Theatre may be able assist in helping find accommodation. Please contact Sarah via info@lemonys.net.au to discuss your requirements.
- Any professional artist based overseas can apply but will need to cover their own to airfares/accommodation needed to partake in the festival.
- The curators will consider previously performed works as well as new works.

Where will it take place?

La Mama Theatre and La Mama Courthouse, Carlton, Melbourne, Australia

How many works will be chosen?

We are looking for approximately 6 works for children and 4 adult puppet works. More works may be considered if programming allows it.

What funds/support are available?

There will be a **fee per performance** for groups involved in the festival of approximately \$300 per performance. The more performances a group does, the higher the fee. i.e.

1 performance of your show = \$300

2 performances of your show = \$600

La Mama Theatre and Lemony S Puppet Theatre will provide in-kind support in the following ways:

- Venue hire
- Festival production management
- Venue technician
- All Front-of-House arrangements
- Ticket bookings and sales
- Promotion, publicity and marketing support
- Program printing
- Pre and post show bar/kiosk
- Assistance in finding accommodation (if necessary)

How do I apply?

From the [Lemony S Puppet Theatre website](#) download from the and complete the 'Selection Criteria' by Friday 21st April 5pm and send the completed form to <mailto:info@lemonys.net.au>

Further questions?

Please contact info@lemonys.net.au if you have any further questions