

## BACK TO BACK THEATRE

Back to Back Theatre creates new forms of contemporary theatre imagined from the minds and experiences of a unique ensemble of actors with a disability, giving voice to the social and political issues that speak to all people.

Through a process of research, improvisation and scripting, and collaboration between the ensemble, Artistic Director and invited guests, new work is realised over extended timeframes.

Celebrating its 25th birthday in 2012, Back to Back Theatre has developed a reputation for its unique ability to present the issues of our times with a distinct outsider focus. Back to Back Theatre's last four major works – *Soft* (2002), *small metal objects* (2005), *Food Court* (2008) and *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich* (2011) have all premiered to critical and audience acclaim at Melbourne International Arts Festival. *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich* won the 2009 Kit Denton Fellowship for Courageous Writing, the 2011 Age Critics' Award for best new Australian work at the Melbourne Festival, and three Green Room Awards – for Best Ensemble Performance (Alternative and Hybrid Performance), Best Direction (Theatre) and Best Production (Theatre).

Over the last five years alone Back to Back Theatre has toured to 49 cities around the world. Based in Geelong, it is now one of Australia's most globally

recognised and respected contemporary theatre companies.

[www.backtobacktheatre.com.au](http://www.backtobacktheatre.com.au)  
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 #B2Bhellhouse

## THANK YOU

With our great appreciation and thanks to all at Arts House and City of Melbourne, Adrian Aderhold, Anglesea Performing Arts, Stephen Armstrong, Sarah Bartak, Amanda Bavin, Emma Beinke, Tanya Bennett, Shelly Blake, Peter Bridges, Joe Calafiore, City of Greater Geelong Arts Bulletin, Bill Colby, Julie Cotter, Jane Crawley, Diversitat, Drysdale Coach Services, Peter Eckersall, Duncan Elser, families, friends and long-term fans of Back to Back Theatre, Marcia Ferguson, Geelong Lyric Theatre, Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Geelong Repertory Theatre, Vicky Guglielmo, Tom Howie, Leigh Johnson, Jackie Johnston, Susanne Kean, Lainie Kluska, Lesley Lightfoot, Melbourne Festival, Melbourne Theatre Company, Colin Mockett, Kaz Paton, Tucker Rader, Justyn Rowe, Joelene Schembri, Theron Schmidt, Jill Smith, St Laurence, Ben Starick, Jim Stenson, Swinburne University, Theatre of the Winged Unicorn, Andrew Thomas, Torquay Theatre Troupe, Chi Vu, Lexie Wood, Chis Wooton, Angharad Wynne-Jones.

## ARTS HOUSE

[artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au)  
[artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:artshouse@melbourne.vic.gov.au)  
 (03) 9322 3719  
 521 Queensberry Street  
 North Melbourne VIC 3051

Arts House presents contemporary arts in programs encompassing performance, exhibitions, live art, residencies and other activities that nurture, support and stimulate cultural engagement. We value work in which artists at different stages of their careers, as well as our diverse audiences and communities, are actively involved in creating an imaginative, just and environmentally sustainable global society.

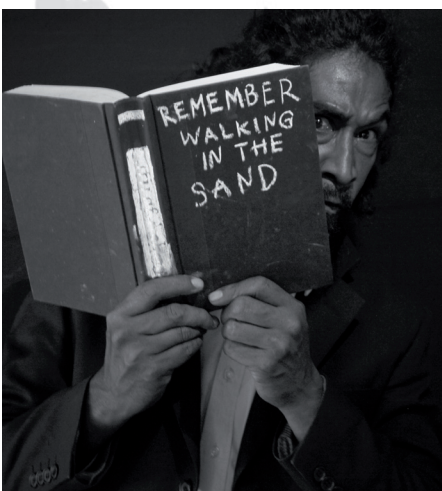
Arts House's programs include two curated public seasons of multidisciplinary work each year. From 2013, approximately half of this work will be selected through a new Expression of Interest process. We seek artists who are responding to the urgent issues of our time in imaginative and surprising ways, taking artistic risks and offering multiple ways for audiences to engage with or co-author their work. For more information, please contact us on (03) 9322 3720 or visit [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au).

## ARTS HOUSE



Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative

## COMING SOON TO ARTS HOUSE



## Black Lung DOKU RAI

(you, dead man, I don't believe you)

Potent, high-intensity theatre from Australia  
and Timor-Leste – created upriver, at the end of the road

Arts House, Meat Market

29 AUG – 2 SEP

BOOKINGS: [artshouse.com.au](http://artshouse.com.au) or 03 9322 3713

Arts House & Back to Back Theatre present

Back to Back Theatre

# Hell House



Provocation, Belief & Morality

## ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE, MEAT MARKET  
FRI 3 – SUN 5 AUG 2012

## DURATION:

Performance: 40 mins / Forum: 60 mins

## WARNING

Themes and subject matter not suitable for persons under the age of 18. Performance explores moralistic and political views that may be sensitive to some. Also contains loud music, strobe lighting, fake blood, hay, loud effects, a smoke machine and confined spaces.

If you are in any way distressed by the content of this show and wish to leave the performance site, please let a member of staff know and they can assist you.

## HELL HOUSE

Each year in the American mid-west, many communities engage in a unique form of community theatre via a faith-inspired production titled *Hell House*. The promenade performance takes the form of a haunted-house tour, in which

each room is themed around a sin such as drug-taking, sex before marriage, abortion, drink-driving and homosexuality. *Hell House* presents a very black-and-white moral world, where a wrong decision might send you to hell. The production is designed to scare young audiences in an attempt to reconfirm their commitment to the Christian faith.

## A HISTORY OF HELL HOUSE

The earliest *Hell House* is thought to have been created by Trinity Assembly of God in Dallas, Texas, but it was first popularised by Jerry Falwell in the late 1970s. More recently the concept has been promoted and adapted by Keenan Roberts, who started a *Hell House* in Arvada, Colorado, in 1995. He is now the senior pastor of Destiny Church of the Assemblies of God, where *Hell House* is performed each year during the month of October, to an audience of approximately 13,000 young people.

Pastor Roberts's *Hell House* script is downloadable in kit form with how-to production information including marketing, direction for casting and performance, set design, prop lists and 'effect' recipes for making – among other things – fake blood. The detailed

guidelines offer a complete A-to-Z schematic of how to realise the production, from pre-production through to public relations.

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Back to Back Theatre has used the *Hell House* guidelines faithfully, in their entirety, to present **Hell House – Provocation, Belief & Morality** as an anthropological study of a particular faith-based community theatre of Middle America. Our aim is to present the work as a museum would exhibit a religious artefact.

What we seek to present is not solely a theatrical spectacle, but a series of three public conversations which are mediated by the spectacle that is *Hell House*.

To realise our objectives, Back to Back Theatre has collaborated with 50 volunteer actors from the Geelong and south-west Victorian community. As the presenters of this *Hell House*, we as a community face the political, spiritual and moral position of 'the other' – another community's religious beliefs – and in doing so we seek to understand our own position.

Back to Back is not a faith-based organisation and has no intention to convert or inspire audiences to embrace *Hell House's* doctrine.



CAST/CREATIVE

Director: **Bruce Gladwin**

Performed by: **Margaret Anderson, Wendy Armstrong, Moedu Augustinof, Phoebe Baker, Kerri Bayley, Bronwyn Beard, Phillip Beconson, Lisa Berry, Min Bramwell, Sue Broberg, Kat Cain, Melinda Chapman, Leah Day, Rod Day, Nel DeSalva, Maddie Field, Daniel Franks, Steven Georgiadis, Chris Hanson, Samara Hersch, Steve Howell, Charlotte Hukvari, Simon Laherty, Catherine Larcey, Shane Lee, Jess Lesosky, James Lewis, Lina Libroaperto, Zi Lin, Sarah Mainwaring, Mamwel Mano, Robyn Martinez, Janine McKenzie, Cherie Mills, Ben Mitchell, Mohammad Morzoghi, Dan O’Keefe, Rob Phillip, Amanda Rector, Genevieve Roberts, Terry Roseburgh, Anng Say, Sean Sexton, Grant Stringer, Max Sutherland, Brian Tilley, Kerry Viner, Iris Walshe Howling, Allan V Watts**

Band: **Jess Dune, Ceridwyn Gordon, Liz Gustus, Ray Hay, Kirstin Honey, Dave Jefferies**

Band Music Composition: **Kirstin Honey**

FORUMS

**Provocation** (3 Aug)  
Facilitator: **Scott Stephens**  
Panel Members: **Waleed Aly, Clare Bowditch, Dr Benjamin Myers**  
**Belief** (4 Aug)  
Facilitator: **Dr Rachael Kohn**  
Panel Members: **Desmond Cahill, Danielle Kirby, Dr Andrew Singleton**  
**Morality** (5 Aug)  
Facilitator: **Peter Mares**  
Panel Members: **Dr Leslie Cannold, Dr John Dupuche, Peter Sherlock**

Designers: **Mark Cuthbertson, Emily Barrie, Katherine Branch (Secondment)**  
Sound Designer: **David Franzke**  
Lighting Designer: **Jennifer Hector**  
Costumes: **Emily Barrie**  
Artistic Associate for Creative Development: **Marcia Ferguson**  
Production Manager: **Andrew Livingston, Bluebottle**  
Production Coordinator: **Miles Thomas, Bluebottle**  
Stage Manager: **Anthony Noeck**  
Assistant Stage Manager: **Jo Leishman**  
Choreographer: **Melinda Chapman**

Make-Up Artist: **Michelle Rieusset**  
Make-Up Assistant: **Serena MacKartney**  
Community Liaison Coordinator/Forum Stage Manager: **Kelly Clifford**  
Assistant Stage Manager: **Pep Upton**  
Support Worker: **Leanne Stein**  
Secondments: **Cameron Birch, Augustin Mileson, Darcy Whitsed**  
Ushers: **Tirese Ballard, Amy Rudder, Joyce Tay, Marline Zaibak**

**Back to Back Theatre Staff**  
Artistic Director: **Bruce Gladwin**  
Executive Producer: **Alice Nash**  
General Manager: **Jaclyn Booton**  
Hell House/Project Coordinator: **Nikki Watson**  
Marketing and Communications Manager: **Ebony Bott**  
Marketing and Communications Assistant: **Rafaella McDonald**

Development Manager: **Pauline Cady**  
Finance Manager: **Melinda Clarke**  
Company Manager: **Alison Harvey**  
Production Manager: **Van Locker**

**Hell House** has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, Arts Victoria, City of Greater Geelong, TAC, Give Where You Live, Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, Perpetual Trustees and the City of Melbourne through Arts House. The provision of employment assistance services to people with a disability is funded by the Australian Government under the Disability Employment Assistance Program.

Image: **Jeff Busby**

CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

**Bruce Gladwin**  
Director  
Bruce Gladwin specialises in the development of adventurous theatrical work, working as director, designer and writer. For Back to Back Theatre he has created *Mental, Dog Farm, Soft, small metal objects, Food Court* and *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich*.

**Mark Cuthbertson**  
Designer  
Mark Cuthbertson endeavours to develop and deliver a sense of encounter in his art practice, through experimentation with materials and technique. Recent collaborations with Back to Back Theatre include *Soft, Food Court, The Democratic Set* and *Ganesh Versus the Third Reich*.

**Emily Barrie**  
Designer/Costumes  
Emily Barrie has designed for Arena Theatre Company, Rawcus Theatre, Back to Back Theatre, Melbourne Workers Theatre, Ilbijerri Theatre Company, Chamber Made Opera, The Women’s Circus, Melbourne Theatre Company, Full Tilt, Restless Dance Theatre, Red Stitch, Melbourne Fringe, The Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Moomba Parade, Die Roten Punkte, Federation Square, Mushroom Records and the Melbourne Museum.

**David Franzke**  
Sound Designer  
J David Franzke is a composer and sound designer living and working in Melbourne. Previous projects include the original score for *Acolytes*, visceral ambiances for *Rouge* and sound designs for video artists David Rosetzky, Andrew Hazewinkel and Stephen Hennessy, cabaret artist Eddie Perfect and theatre companies including Melbourne Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and Malthouse Theatre.

**Jennifer Hector**  
Lighting Designer  
Jennifer Hector graduated from the VCA in 1992 and has since forged a career in lighting and spatial design, travelling both nationally and internationally. Artistic credits include Back to Back Theatre’s *The Democratic Set*, Jo Lloyd’s *Future Perfect*, Paul Kelly and Paul Grabowsky’s national tour of *Meet Me in the Middle of the Air* and Federation Square’s 2011 Light In Winter Festival.

**Marcia Ferguson**  
Artistic Associate for Creative Development  
Theatre director, writer and dramaturge Marcia Ferguson is currently Artistic Director of Big West Festival. She worked with Back to Back Theatre as a freelance artist for seven years before joining the team as Artistic Associate from 2007 to 2012. During this time she directed and co-devised new work, and curated the company’s outreach and community arts programs including *Theatre of Speed*.

**Andrew Livingston**  
Production Manager  
Andrew Livingston has 12 years design and production experience working in the theatrical medium. He has worked with most of the major theatre companies and arts organisations in Melbourne, either freelance or through his involvement with Bluebottle. In 2003 he studied illuminance engineering part-time at RMIT, further developing his technical knowledge of lighting. He is committed to extending the bounds of light and performance integration.

FORUM BIOGRAPHIES

**PROVOCATION**  
**Scott Stephens**  
Facilitator  
Before joining the ABC in 2010, Scott Stephens taught theology and ethics for many years. He also trained for the priesthood and served for several years as a lay parish minister in the Uniting Church. A writer for ABC Online, *Eureka Street, The Times Literary Supplement* and a number of academic journals, he also edited and translated (with Rex Butler) the best-selling two volumes of selected writings of Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek. He is currently working on books with theologian John Milbank (on theology and civil society) and *New Yorker* literary critic James Wood (on literature and the presence/absence of God).

**Waleed Aly**  
Panellist  
Waleed Aly is the host of *Big Ideas* on ABC1 and News 24, and has frequently hosted *ABC News Breakfast* and 774 *ABC Melbourne Mornings*. He is currently a lecturer in politics at Monash University, working in its Global Terrorism Research Centre.

**Clare Bowditch**  
Panellist  
Clare Bowditch is a musician, writer, creative-business coach, and sometimes actor starring as Rosanna on Channel 10’s *Offspring*. She has just recorded her fifth studio album, *The Winter I Chose Happiness*, for release by Island Records in September 2012.

**Dr Benjamin Myers**  
Panellist  
Dr Benjamin Myers is a Lecturer in Systematic Theology at Charles Sturt University’s School of Theology in Sydney.

He has written books on the poetry of John Milton and the theology of Rowan Williams, and he blogs at *faith-theology.com*.

**BELIEF**  
**Dr Rachael Kohn**  
Facilitator  
Dr Rachael Kohn was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of New South Wales in 2005 for “services to the community...fostering religious understanding” through her broadcasts, public speaking and book, *The New Believers: Re-Imagining God* (HarperCollins, 2003). She has also published *Curious Obsessions in the History of Science and Spirituality* (ABC Books, 2007) and numerous chapters in books, including ‘Telling Tales of Women’ in *Preachers, Prophets and Heretics* (UNSW Press, 2012). For ABC TV’s *Compass* she has produced the documentaries *The Dead Sea Scrolls, Buddhism East and West*, and *Paws for Thought* (on the spirituality of animals).

**Desmond Cahill**  
Panellist  
Desmond Cahill is Professor of Intercultural Studies at RMIT University. He is Chair of Religions for Peace Australia, a community-based inter-faith organisation, and represents Australia for the organisation Religions for Peace Asia.

**Danielle Kirby**  
Panellist  
Danielle Kirby is a Lecturer in Communication at RMIT University. Her research crosses the fields of religion, communication, media and popular culture, with particular emphasis on contemporary manifestations of alternative religion. Recent works have addressed issues such as remix and art within occultural metaphysics, and the construction of religious practitioners as consumers. Her forthcoming book, *Fantasy and Belief: Alternative Religions, Popular Narratives and Digital Cultures*, is an inquiry into the relationship between speculative fiction, new media and emergent religion within the context of the Otherkin community.

**Dr Andrew Singleton**  
Panellist  
Dr Andrew Singleton is a Senior Lecturer in the Sociology Program, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University. His research interests in the sociology of religion include secularisation, youth religion and spirituality, personal belief and alternative religions.

He has published extensively in these areas both nationally and internationally. He is co-author of the book *The Spirit of Generation Y: Young People’s Spirituality in a Changing Australia*, and author of *Religion, Culture and Society* (forthcoming).

**MORALITY**  
**Peter Mares**  
Facilitator  
Peter Mares is a researcher and writer with a long career in journalism. He spent 25 years as a reporter and presenter with the ABC and is now a Fellow in the Cities Program at public policy think-tank, the Grattan Institute. He is also an Adjunct Fellow at Swinburne Institute and author of *Borderline*, an award-winning book on Australia’s approach to refugees and asylum seekers.

**Dr Leslie Cannold**  
Panellist  
Dr Leslie Cannold is an award-wining author and columnist, as well as an ethicist and researcher. She is regularly noted as one of Australia’s most influential thinkers, thanks to her contributions to mainstream and social media, including regular appearances on ABC TV’s *The Drum* and Q&A. In 2011 she was honoured as Australian Humanist of the Year. Her latest book is a historical novel, *The Book of Rachael*, published by Text.

**Dr John Dupuche**  
Panellist  
Dr John Dupuche is Parish Priest of Beaumaris and Black Rock in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. He is currently Chair of the Catholic Interfaith Committee and is much involved in inter-faith dialogue in Melbourne as a member of an inter-faith household. He is Coordinator of the School of Prayer for the Archbishop’s Office for Evangelisation. He has completed a doctorate in Sanskrit, specialising in Kashmir Shaivism.

**Peter Sherlock**  
Panellist  
Peter Sherlock is a historian and theologian. Educated at the Universities of Melbourne and Oxford, he speaks and writes on topics ranging from the history of Britain in the 16th and 17th centuries, to missions in the British Empire, and religious controversies around gender and sexuality.