



MUSIC THEATRE
GUILD OF VICTORIA

**35TH ANNUAL
BRUCE AWARDS
CEREMONY**

10TH DECEMBER 2022



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



It is with absolute delight that I welcome you to our first in-person awards presentation since 2019!

It's been a joy to see our theatre community come back to life and live performances over the last year, and I want to say a massive congratulations and thank you to every single one of you for your contribution – whether it be on or off stage, front or back of house. Tonight is not just about celebrating the award recipients, it's about celebrating our beautiful, resilient theatre community, and all the people who work so hard to keep it connected and thriving. You have created welcoming, inclusive, affirming environments, that empower people to be the best version of themselves. What a privilege it is to be with you all again tonight.

Thank you to our volunteer judges across both panels and our relief pool, as well as our Judges Administrator Mitch - we literally couldn't do this without you! The time and talent you have given us is invaluable, and we are truly appreciative of all that you do.

My heartfelt thanks must also go to the MTGV committee of management for another year of outstanding work. It's such a pleasure to work with a group of people who are so passionate, hard-working and insightful – and also know how to have a good laugh along the way!

Thank you to our brilliant Production Managers for tonight's ceremony; Elly Foster, Damien Calvert and Karl McNamara - I'm so grateful for the herculean effort you have all put in to make tonight happen.

And lastly to you – our members. I'm so proud and thankful for the way that you have all supported and celebrated each other – not just tonight, but all throughout the year. In a time when so many people are feeling isolated and disconnected, theatre brings us together in a way that is not just enjoyable, challenging and fun – but crucial.

So please, sit back, reflect with us on the year that was, and enjoy some of the best talent this planet has to offer, tonight, at the 35th Annual Bruce Awards!

See you in the foyer!

Ang Cuy | President
Music Theatre Guild of Victoria

OPEN JUDGES

Elise Dahl, Elly Foster, Trevor Osburn,
Liam McWhinney and Sandy Wills

JUNIOR JUDGES

Sarah Carruthers, Bryce Dunn
Ann Hubbard, Kathy Lang
and Jaimie McAllister

RELIEF JUDGES

Amanda Stevenson, Caroline Leavey, Christine Duff
Deana Jacobs, Elyse Carmichael, Nicole Lylak, Nick Rees
Peter Maver, David Cenzato and Lynette Williams

CHAIR'S REPORT



Tonight is a night of celebration, representing the visible culmination of all your time and efforts in the pursuit of excellence in an art form we all share a common passion for. To all the nominees, good luck and to the recipients, congratulations. Whilst there might be only a single recipient of an award, numerous examples of excellence have been recognised by all judges and myself, for that you should all be proud.

It has been a pleasure to see theatre make such a strong comeback after the strain the last few years has placed on people, community and The Arts. It has also been a delight, shared by many, that despite challenges still being faced, community spirit is stronger than ever, with so many people volunteering to step in when the need called. My personal gratitude extends to members of both the open and junior panels for their countless hours of work and in addition to the relief judges who have been supportive and flexible, ensuring that productions can be officially judged.

This year, the Open Panel saw 38 individual productions, a 90% increase compared to the combined 2020 - 2021 judging seasons 20 shows. This included 19 regional shows and 19 metropolitan shows, travelling as far as Warrnambool, Horsham, Traralgon and Albury. The Junior Panel has seen 45 shows, amounting to over a 540% increase from the 7 productions able to be seen across the 2020 - 2021 season. They saw 9 shows by youth companies and 36 productions presented by schools, with 39 metropolitan shows and 6 regional shows, travelling as far as Ballarat, Bendigo and Mooroopna for productions this year.

Next year I am excited as we continue to recognise the excellence especially in our junior productions with the inclusion of three new categories for the 2023 award season including ensemble, cameo or minor role performance and dancer's award. It is invigorating to see the applications we have already received, in addition to companies and schools already announcing their 2023 seasons. I am sure it will not take long to return to our pre-COVID number of shows in our 2023 judging season.

Mitchell Brusamarello | Chair and Administrator
Open and Junior Judging Panels

PRODUCTION TEAM



Liam Charleston | Director

Growing up in the Latrobe Valley, Liam performed several principal and ensemble roles with local companies Class Act Productions, Latrobe Theatre Company, Off the Leash Theatre and Warragul Theatre Company. Some performance highlights from his time in the Latrobe Valley include The Baker in Into the Woods, Uncle Fester in The Addams Family and Horton in Seussical.

In 2017 Liam was fortunate to travel with Class Act Productions to New York City to perform as part of the choir in Manhattan Concert Productions Crazy For You. Liam was lucky enough to be immersed with industry professionals, making this trip a true highlight in his performance career.

Liam now resides in Melbourne where he has performed with a number of companies including PLOS, MLOC, CPAC, Phoenix, Fab Nobs and Stage School Australia. Liam has more recently taken time off the stage and has tried his hand in directing including If/Then with Theatrical, Beauty and the Beast with WTC and he was awarded the Music Theatre Guild Award for direction in 2021 for Wicked with Warragul Theatre Company. He now works as a Secondary School Drama teacher.



Peter Nguyen | Musical Director

Peter Nguyen studied at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, majoring in Piano Performance, followed by a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at Monash University.

Internationally, Peter has toured overseas twice to China as music director (piano/conductor) for Australian International Productions. He toured in 2018 with Australian artists and again in 2019 with American Broadway stars Brad Little, Kimilee Bryant, Chuck Wagner and Diana Huey, accompanied by a ten piece Australian orchestra.

In Melbourne, Peter has musically directed Panorama Theatre Company's 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', where he received a Music Theatre Guild nomination for Best Musical Direction and, most recently, Theatrical's 'Freaky Friday'. He was also honoured to receive a Lyrebird nomination for Best Musical Direction of the Windmill Theatre Company production 'The Next Big Thing.'

Peter is best known as a pit performer and accompanist who has had the pleasure of being affiliated with a wide variety of shows playing the piano, keyboard, and violin.

ORDER OF EVENTS

Overture

Acknowledgment of Country
Welcome

Carnaval De Barrio • *In The Heights* • OCPAC

Special Awards
Open Awards of Excellence

Astonishing • *Little Women* • Ballarat Centre of Music

Design Award (Peter Blizzard-Allen Award)
Junior Design Award
Cameo Performance
Dancer's Award (Tony McShanag Award)

The Winner Takes It All • *Mamma Mia* • Williamstown Music Theatre

Lighting
Sound
Junior Awards of Excellence

What You Want • *Legally Blonde* • Loyola College

Wardrobe (Hazel Rodgers Award)
Settings (Grahame Murphy Award)
Junior Male Performer in a Supporting Role
Junior Female Performer in a Supporting Role

Moses Supposes • *Singin' In The Rain* • Yarra Valley Grammar

This Side of the Tracks • *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* • PEP Productions

First Performance in a Featured Role (Gladys Moncrieff Award)
Junior Performer in an Open Production (Anna Marinelli Award)
Open Ensemble

No More Fear • *Freaky Friday* • Theatrical

Open Male in Supporting Role (Rob Constable Award)

Open Female in a Supporting Role

Junior Male in a Leading Role

Junior Female in a Leading Role

Lovely • *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* • Babirra Music Theatre

Junior Choreography

Open Choreography (Marie Cumisky Award)

Good Girl Winnie Foster • *Tuck Everlasting* • Fab Nobs Theatre

Velma Takes The Stand • *Chicago* • PLOS Musical Productions

Open Male in a Leading Role (Harold Burrows Award)

Open Female in a Leading Role (Doreen Burrows Award)

Run Freedom Run • *Urinetown* • Ringwood Secondary College

Junior Musical Direction

Open Musical Direction (Geoff Tomkins Award)

Learn To Do It • *Anastasia* • Emmaus College

Can't Take My Eyes Off You • *Jersey Boys* • CLOC Musical Theatre

Junior Direction

Open Direction (Vin Foster Award)

Junior Production of the Year (Catchment Players Award)

Open Production of the Year (Bruce McBrien Award)

Seasons Of Love • *Rent* • BLOC Music Theatre

ORCHESTRA

Musical Director: Peter Nguyen

Keys 1:	Owen James	Reeds 1:	Christina Cirnigliaro
Keys 2:	Stephen McMahon	Reeds 2:	Belinda Sileni
Keys 3:	Lester Cheung	Trumpet 1:	Pete Oliver
Violin 1:	Eugenie Lyons	Trumpet 2:	Angus O'Shea
Violin 2:	Raymond Wei	Trombone:	Basil Rizo
Viola:	Sariah Xu	Guitar 1:	Dave Banen
Cello:	Liam Cullen	Guitar 2:	Ben Dewhirst
Bass:	Dane Sorensen	Drums:	James Ward
		Percussion:	Paul Coles

Keyboard Programming: **Patched Keyboards**

Arrangements: **Bev Woodford, Martine Wengrow,
Malcom Huddle and Peter Nguyen**

MTGV COMMITTEE

President: **Ang Cuy**, Vice-President: **Elly Foster**, Secretary: **Mark Spencer**,
Treasurer: **Leah Osburn**, Committee: **Damien Calvert, Karl McNamara,
Carole Cuthbertson, Dot Parker and Chris Anderson**

LIFE MEMBERS

**Bruce McBrien OAM (dec), Val Pagram OAM (dec), David Richards (dec),
Bettine McCaughan OAM (dec), Marie Cumisky (dec), Eileen Hattam (dec),
Peter Dale (dec), Phil A'Vard AM, Laurie Gellon, Ellis Ebell, Graeme Cope,
Judith Bradtke, Darrell Boyd, Horrie Leek, Lyn Handy, Fran Boyd, Brenton Staples,
David Dare, Wendy Tomkins, John Wallis, Alan Stone, Brett Wingfield,
Frank Simcox, Mary Ellen Wallace Smith, Beverley Meldrum,
Dot Parker, Bev Woodford, Brad Fischer, David Crawshaw,
Carole Cuthbertson and Elly Foster**

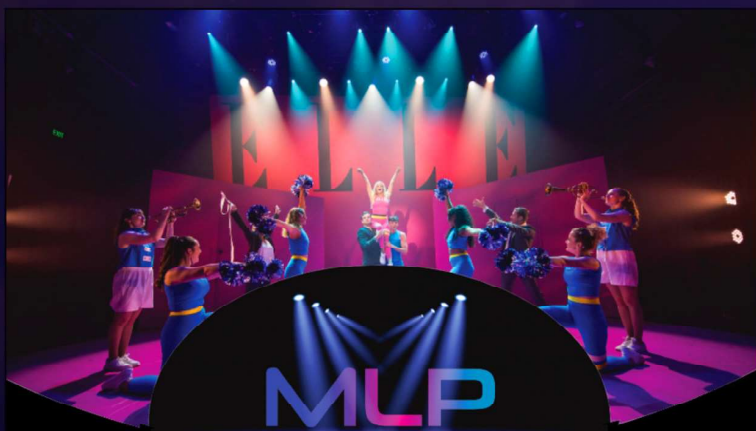
PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Management:	Damien Calvert Elly Foster Karl McNamara
Director:	Liam Charleston
Director's Assistants:	Zoe Czempinski Taylah Trew
Musical Director:	Peter Nguyen
Stage Manager:	Katie Roose
Assistant Stage Manager:	Damien Calvert
MC:	Ang Cuy
Awards Production Support:	Chris Anderson Elly Foster Carole Cuthbertson
Social Media:	Leah Osburn
Production Assistants:	Mitchell Brusamarello Amy Calvert Karl McNamara Mark Spencer
Awards Attendants:	Emillie King Zoe Czempinski
Sound Design:	Marcello Lo Ricco
Sound Operation:	Jake Sipcic
Mic Techs:	Josh Mattielli Dana Samuel
Systems/RF Tech:	Mark Crick
Lighting Supplier:	Moving Light Productions Australia
Lighting Design:	Jason Bovaird
Lighting Operation:	Ben Robison
Lighting Crew:	Ben Robison Chris Payne Mason Sweeny Justin Heaton
Graphic Design & Projection:	Chris Anderson

Special thanks to CLOC Music Theatre
for providing rehearsal space

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Origin Theatrical
Babirra Music Theatre (Leigh Barker)
Leongatha Lyric Theatre
Fran Boyd and Carole Cuthbertson
Osburn Family
Elly and Simon Foster
BLOC Music Theatre (Ian Morris)
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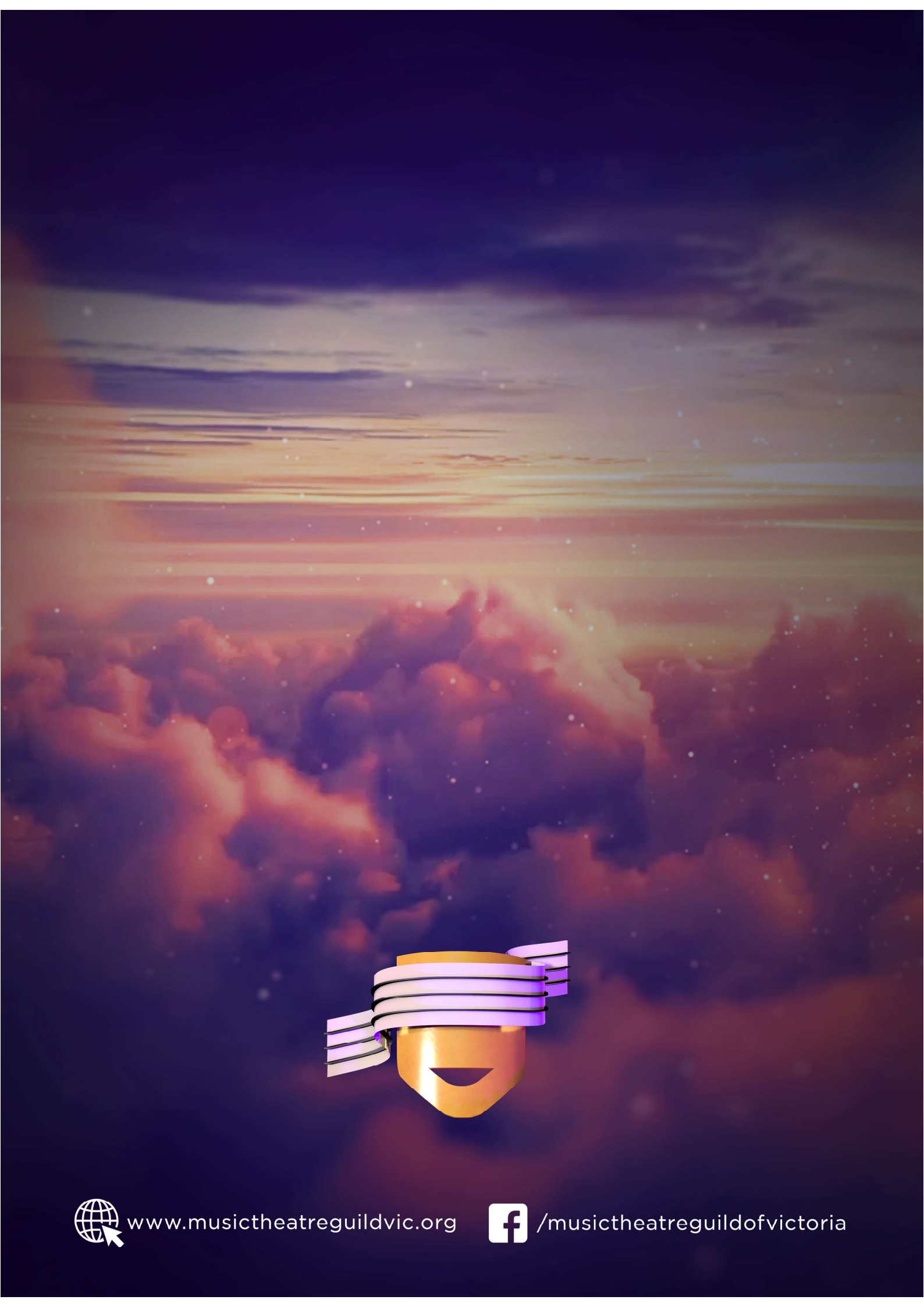


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