



**MUSIC THEATRE**  
GUILD OF VICTORIA

**36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
BRUCE AWARDS  
CEREMONY**

**9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**



# PRESIDENT'S WELCOME



Welcome to the 2023 Music Theatre Guild of Victoria's Annual Bruce Awards!

It is my absolute privilege to welcome you to this evening's celebration. We're so pleased to be back in Geelong for this evening's celebrations, and massive thanks must go to our host company, Geelong Lyric Theatre, for looking after us so well, and bringing their expertise to the proceedings.

Congratulations to all of our nominees tonight – it was an incredibly competitive field this year, with Victorian companies continuing to push the boundaries of what's possible to create outstanding and memorable theatre.

Our panels of volunteer judges have travelled countless kilometres this year, from one side of the state to the other, and have been rewarded with productions of the highest calibre. I

do not envy their job in determining tonight's recipients, and thank them for donating their time and expertise throughout 2023.

Thank you also to our MTGV Committee of Management, another incredible group of volunteers, who go above and beyond behind the scenes, and constantly look for ways for us to improve and grow. I'm super excited about what the team has planned for next year, and the positive impact that it will have in our community.

My unending gratitude goes to our Production Managers for tonight's event – Elly Foster, Damien Calvert & Daragh Wills, along with our Director Tamara Finch, and Musical Director Brad Treloar. Thank you for your commitment, your attention to detail, your talent, and your passion for bringing together the theatre community for this night of nights.

To our members – tonight is for you. Never underestimate the power of the arts to create connection, inspire and bring joy. Thank you for creating safe and welcoming spaces in a world that is not always as kind as it could be. Thank you for sharing those spaces with us in 2023, and we can't wait to see what you have in store for 2024!

See you in the foyer!

**Ang Cuy | President**  
Music Theatre Guild of Victoria



## OPEN JUDGES

Elise Dahl, Elly Foster, Trevor Osburn, Nick Rees  
Sandy Wills and Liam McWhinney (resigned)

## JUNIOR JUDGES

Sarah Carruthers, Bryce Dunn  
Ann Hubbard, Kathy Lang, Lynette Williams  
and Jaimie McAllister (resigned)

## RELIEF JUDGES

Amanda Stevens, Amanda Wilson, Caroline Leavey,  
Christine Duff, Deana Jacobs, Elyce Carmichael,  
Marco Pezzimenti, Lynette Williams, Nick Rees and Peter Maver

# CHAIR'S REPORT



Welcome everyone to the 2023 Music Theatre Guild of Victoria's annual Bruce Awards. We come together after another year to celebrate the excellence achieved by the non-professional theatre community across Victoria. Congratulations to all those who have received both nominations and commendations. This year each of the judges' panels have recognised so many examples of excellence across the theatre community, which has resulted in many challenging decisions.

The 2023 nomination list alone is representative of 58 individual productions judged this season, which also highlights the extremely high standards of performance achieved across our member schools and companies. Whilst the nomination and commendations lists are capped at a maximum of 8 entities each, the high standards achieved across so many productions created an extremely difficult task for the judges in reaching their final decisions.

I am also excited that tonight we present our inaugural award categories introduced from the 2023 season, those of junior cameo / minor role, junior ensemble, and junior dancer awards. In addition, the decision was made to expand the sound and lighting categories to include co-nominating the designers and operators to better represent the criteria for these categories. In a similar line of thinking, the creative design and technical achievement awards have been combined into a single category. This year as well, the decision was made from a committee level to alter the performance categories to remove the gender label from the individual performers themselves.

This year it is safe to say that The Guild has effectively returned to a baseline number of productions being judged. For the 2023 season, the Open Panel saw 58 individual productions, a 53% increase compared to the 2022 season. This included 24 regional shows and 34 metropolitan shows, with judges travelling as far as Warrnambool, Horsham, Traralgon, Echuca, and Albury. The most commonly judged open production was Fiddler on the Roof and Shrek the Musical with three separate productions each.

The Junior Panel has seen 52 shows this season, amounting to over a 16% increase from last season. The judges attended 14 shows by youth companies and 38 productions presented by schools. Additionally, they saw 45 metropolitan shows and 7 regional shows, and travelled as far as Ballarat, Bendigo, and Albury for productions. The most commonly judged junior productions were Chicago (High School Edition) and Frozen Junior with four productions each.

My personal gratitude extends to all judges this year for their countless hours of volunteering. A special thank you goes to the relief judges who once again have been flexible and most supportive of the main judging panels. Relief judges step up in times of need to ensure the productions have the required minimum number of judges to enable a show to be judged. Following the Guild's annual judges' training in October, our current panels are already back on the road to view productions for the coming year. We are all more than excited for all of the performances set to perform in the 2024 season ahead.

**Mitchell Brusamarello** | Chair and Administrator  
Open and Junior Judging Panels

# PRODUCTION TEAM



**Tamara Finch | Director**

In a period spanning 45 years, Tamara has extensive experience having worked with many of Melbourne's theatre companies both on and off stage as either choreographer, producer or director. With a list of credits both vast and varied, Tamara has received many Victorian Music Theatre Guild nominations and has been awarded for Choreography - 'Chicago' (both in 2001 and in 2022), 'Pippin' (2003), 'Hair' (1996) and Directors award for 'Pippin' (2003)



**Brad Treloar | Musical Director**

Brad has been involved in musical theatre in Geelong since he was 14 years old. He has worked on over 60 musicals in Geelong, in roles including Musical Director, Vocal Director, Rehearsal Pianist, and pit musician as well as producing several shows.

Brad has been Musical Director for many shows including Oliver, The Sound Of Music, The Phantom Of The Opera, The Wizard of Oz, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Last 5 Years, Wish Upon A Song, 13 The Musical, Rent, Evita, Forbidden Broadway, The Addams Family, Cinderella, Pippin, Godspell and A Slice of Saturday Night.

Brad has been honoured to receive multiple nominations from the Theatre Guild of Victoria for Best Musical Direction and received the Geoff Tomkins award for his work on Wish Upon A Song in 2021.

Outside the theatre world, Brad is a piano and vocal teacher privately and at a number of schools in Geelong, as well as an accompanist and director of numerous choirs.



# ORDER OF EVENTS

Overture

The Ballad of Sweeney Todd • *Sweeney Todd* • Williamstown Music Theatre

Acknowledgment of Country  
Welcome

Company Life Members  
Special Awards

Don't Cry Out Loud • *The Boy From Oz* • PLOS

Open Awards of Excellence  
Junior Awards of Excellence

Can't Help Falling In Love • *All Shook Up* • Babirra Music Theatre

Creative Design (Peter Blizzard-Allen Award)/Technical Achievement (Nigel Wallace Award)  
Junior Creative Design Award  
Open Cameo or Minor Role  
Junior Cameo or Minor Role

I Dreamed a Dream • *Les Misérables* • Leibler Yavneh College

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

Days of Plenty • *Little Women* • Emmaus College

Junior Dancer's Award  
Dancer's Award (Tony McShanag Award)  
Junior Ensemble  
Open Ensemble

Getting There • *In Transit* • Lightbox Productions

In Memoriam

Stick It to the Man • *School of Rock* • Brentwood Secondary College

**Lighting**  
**Sound**  
**Costumes** (Hazel Rodgers Award)  
**Settings** (Grahame Murphy Award)

**I Know Him So Well • CHESS • CLOC**

**Junior Supporting Performer in a Male Presenting Role**  
**Junior Supporting Performer in a Female Presenting Role**  
**Open Supporting Performer in a Male Presenting Role** (Rob Constable Award)  
**Open Supporting Performer in a Female Presenting Role**

**Into The Fire • *The Scarlet Pimpernel* • OSMaD**

**Junior Lead Performer in a Male Presenting Role**  
**Junior Lead Performer in a Female Presenting Role**  
**Open Lead Performer in a Male Presenting Role** (Harold Burrows Award)  
**Open Lead Performer in a Female Presenting Role** (Doreen Burrows Award)

**Seventeen • *Heathers* • OCPAC**

**Junior Choreography**  
**Open Choreography** (Marie Cumisky Award)  
**Junior Musical Direction**  
**Open Musical Direction** (Geoff Tomkins Award)

**Nicest Kids in Town • *75th Anniversary Spectacular* • Camperdown**

**Junior Direction**  
**Open Direction** (Vin Foster Award)

**Preludium • *The Sound of Music* • Ballarat Lyric Theatre**

**Junior Production of the Year** (Catchment Players Award)  
**Open Production of the Year** (Bruce McBrien Award)

**It's Raining Men • *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* • CentreStage**

# ORCHESTRA

Musical Director: Brad Treloar

Keys 1:	Michael Wilding	Reeds 1:	Peter Hannah
Keys 2:	James Boon	Reeds 2:	Jim Davidson
Keys 3:	Ash Murdica	Reeds 3:	Janice Wilding
Violin 1:	Martin DeMarte	Reeds 4:	Fliss Hardiman
Violin 2:	Mae Udarbe	Trombone:	Katelyn Shirley
Viola:	Rhianna Parr	Horn 1:	Trish Kinrade
Cello:	Catie Martin	Horn 2:	Tom Nouwen
Bass:	Harry Collecutt	Guitar 1:	Kieran McNair
Trumpet 1:	Dan Heskett	Drums:	Patrick Consedine
Trumpet 2:	Jake Raimondo	Percussion:	Jacqui Anderson

Arrangements: Dan Heskett & Brad Treloar

## MTGV COMMITTEE

President: Ang Cuy, Vice-President: Elly Foster, Secretary: Mark Spencer,  
Treasurer: Leah Osburn, Committee: Damien Calvert,  
Carole Cuthbertson, David Crawshaw, Daragh Wills

## 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), Keith Stublely (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

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Production Management:	<b>Damien Calvert Elly Foster Daragh Wills</b>
Director:	<b>Tamara Finch</b>
Director's Assistant:	<b>Mark Spencer</b>
Musical Director:	<b>Brad Treloar</b>
Stage Manager:	<b>Derek Ingles</b>
Assistant Stage Manager:	<b>Shani Clark</b>
MC:	<b>Ang Cuy</b>
Awards Production Support:	<b>Chris Anderson Elly Foster Mitchell Brusamarello</b>
Social Media:	<b>Leah Osburn</b>
Production Assistants:	<b>Mitchell Brusamarello Damien Calvert Karl McNamara Mark Spencer</b>
Awards Attendants:	<b>Ella Walsh Andrew Lorenzo</b>
Sound Supplier:	<b>LSS Productions</b>
Sound Design:	<b>Marcello Lo Ricco</b>
Sound Operation:	<b>Marcello Lo Ricco</b>
Microphone Technicians:	<b>Jason Fry Dana Samuel</b>
Sound Systems Technician:	<b>Mark Crick</b>
Bump In & Out Crew:	<b>Tim Mann Nick O'Connor Courtney McCullough</b>
Lighting Supplier:	<b>ISLX</b>
Lighting Design:	<b>Ian Scott</b>
Lighting Operation:	<b>Ian Scott</b>
Lighting Crew:	<b>Emily Gorham-Nolan</b>
Dome Operators:	<b>Courtney McCullough Maddie Horne</b>
Programme:	<b>Karl McNamara Chris Anderson</b>
Graphic Design & Projection:	<b>Chris Anderson</b>

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**Special thanks to host company  
Geelong Lyric Theatre**

# AWARD SPONSORS

Kathy Lang  
Bev Woodford  
Music Theatre International, Australasia.  
PLOS Musical Productions (Sue Dyer OAM)  
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)  
CLOC Musical Theatre Inc  
Wendy Tomkins  
Wonthaggi Theatrical Group



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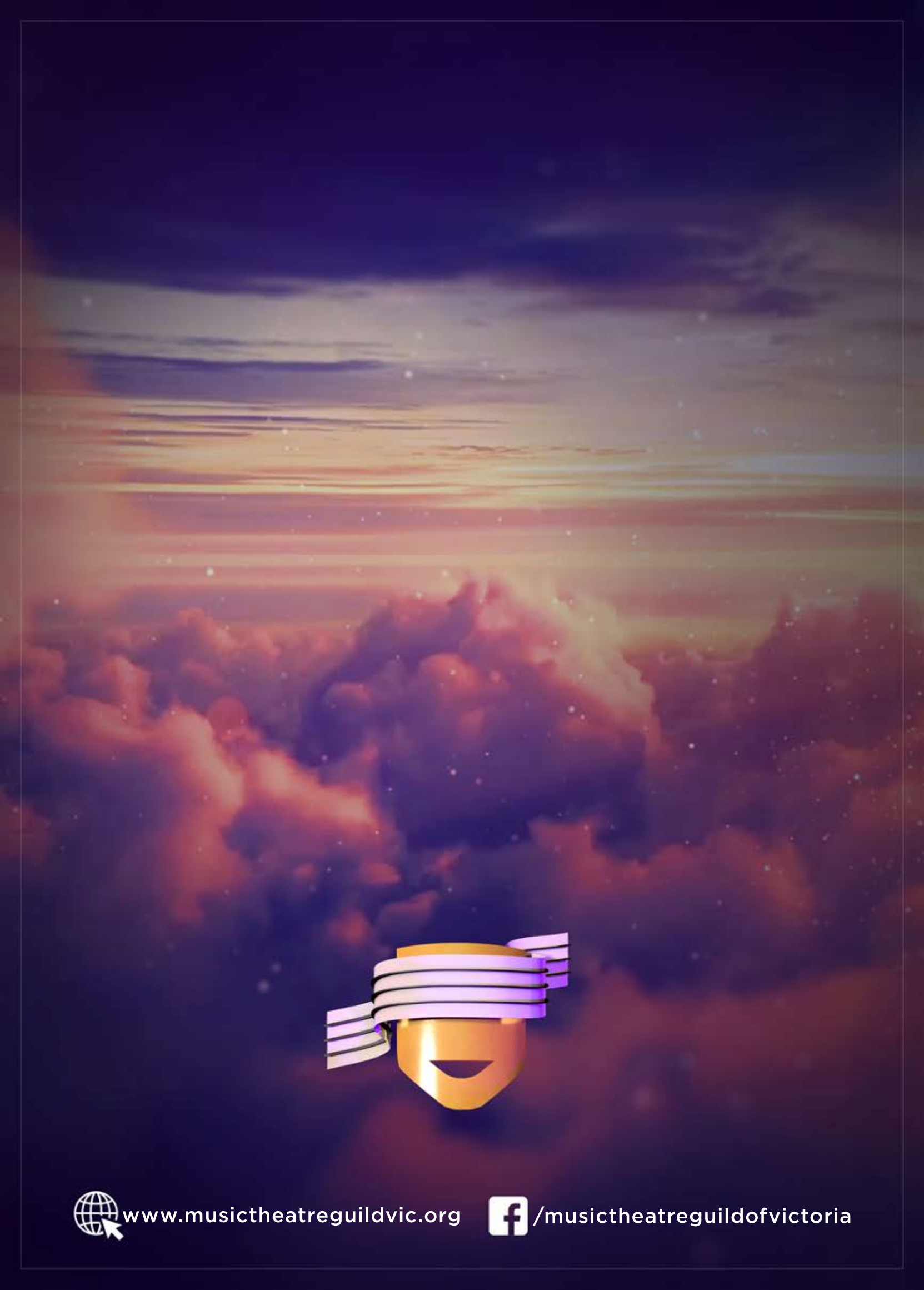


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