



38th ANNUAL Green Room Awards WINNERS & NOMINEES

CABARET

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CABARET AWARD

[Simone Pulga](#)

OUTSTANDING ONLINE ACHIEVEMENT IN CABARET

[Lou Wall – *Lousical the Musical*](#)

(as part of Melbourne Fringe)

- Ali McGregor – *Ali McGregor's Late Nite Variety-Nite Night ONLINE EDITION!* (Producer: Ali McGregor) and *Choose your Own Variety with Ali McGregor* (work recognised across both shows) (Producer: Arts Centre Melbourne, in association with Ali McGregor and Working Management)
- Reuben Kaye – *Un-Wine-D In Isolation with Reuben Kaye* (Reuben Kaye)

BEST PRODUCTION

[Lou Wall - *Lousical the Musical*](#)

(as part of Melbourne Fringe)

- *Choose your Own Variety with Ali McGregor* (Producer: Arts Centre Melbourne, in association with Ali McGregor and Working Management)
- *The People of Cabaret Variety Spectacular* (The People of Cabaret, as part of Melbourne Fringe)

MUSICAL DIRECTION

[Sam Keevers for *Ali McGregor's Late Nite Variety-Nite Night ONLINE EDITION!*](#) (Producer: Ali McGregor) and [Choose your Own Variety with Ali McGregor](#)

(Producer: Arts Centre Melbourne, in association with Ali McGregor and Working Management)

WRITING

Lou Wall *Lousical the Musical*

(as part of *Melbourne Fringe*)

- Reuben Kaye and Andy Balloch *Un-Wine-D In Isolation with Reuben Kaye* (Reuben Kaye)
- Telia Neville *What Would John Hughes Do?* (as part of *Melbourne Fringe*)
- Maude Davey *Ode to Melbourne* piece (as part of *Love Letters to Melbourne*, Finucane & Smith Unlimited)

BEST CABARET ARTISTE

Ali McGregor

BEST ENSEMBLE

The People of Cabaret Variety Spectacular

(The People of Cabaret, as part of *Melbourne Fringe*)

CONTEMPORARY & EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2021

The Contemporary and Experimental Performance panel honours all artists in our community and especially those who were part of the extraordinary 72 works that registered with our panel in 2020. We acknowledge that as a panel of Melbourne-based independent artists we failed to see all the shows registered in 2020 and think our community will understand the reasons for this. We have made a decision to create only a list of finalists and not award a singular winner across three categories. We believe that this is the best possible expression of a year of constant recalibration, collective action, profound care, resistance and protest, advocacy and survival that reflects the contemporary and experimental artistic sector at all times, but most acutely in 2020. This is an extraordinary community of people and practice, and we are proud to be a part of it.

WORKS – list of finalists

- *A Red Square* Concept by PONY CAM (Presented by Melbourne Fringe)
- *A Suffocating Choking Feeling (Digital Experiment)* Created and Performed by Simone French In Collaboration with Tom Halls (Presented by Tom Yum Sim and Melbourne Fringe)
- *BONANZA!* Created by Harrison Hall, Sam Mcgilp and Justin Kane (Presented as part of Activators 3 by Chunky Move and Alpha 60)
- *The Loveheart Dancers*, Brunswick East Entertainment Festival (The Wholesome Hour Project)
- *Club Fringe At Home: Fringe O Vision* Featuring Di Roten Punkte (Presented by Melbourne Fringe)
- *Fast Fashion* Created by Tenfingerz and Famous Artist Sebastian Berto (Presented as part of Melbourne Fashion Festival's Arts Program)
- *HuRU-hARa* (Presented by Abbotsford Convent, Thomas Henning and TerryandTheCuz, as part of Asia TOPA 2020)
- *Let's Take Over 2020* Artists: Edwina Green, Ashleigh Morris, Lauren Sheree, Ivy Luo, Brittney Hodges, Yasmin Rose, Fardowza Yussuf, Dashiell Agar, Al Lindenberg, Tallulah McKenzie (Produced by Samantha Butterworth, facilitated by Sarah Austin, presented by Darebin Arts Speakeasy)
- *Mountain Goat Mountain* Created by Zoë Barry, Tahli Corin, Liz Francis, Nikita Hederics and Sarah Lockwood, Sound by Jed Palmer (Produced by Threshold and presented by Arts Centre Melbourne)
- *Paeonia Drive* Created by Angela Goh and Su Yu Hsin (Presented by Arts House and Campbelltown Arts Centre as part of Bleed 2020)
- *Re:Sounding* Created by James Nguyen and Victoria Pham (Presented by Arts House and Campbelltown Arts Centre as part of Bleed 2020)
- *The Crying Room* Created by Marcus Ian McKenzie (Presented and produced by Arts Centre Melbourne and Melbourne Fringe)
- *When it Rains (I feel like eating Jeon)* Created by Jihyun Kim, Madeleine Flynn, Tim Humphrey (Produced by Jin Yim and Erin Milne, Presented by Abbotsford Convent and Asia TOPA 2020)

WORKS THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

- *Those that couldn't, Those that wouldn't*
- Casey Jenkins

ARTIST-LED ACTIONS (actions that showed leadership, foregrounded care, voice, community and making urgent change)

- *Australian Artists amidst COVID-19 Facebook group* - Administrators: Vyvienne Abla, Sue-Lyn Aldrian-Moyle, Bron Batten, Alex Desebrock, Dan Goronszy, Katrina Italiano, Jen Jamieson, Isobel Marmion, Erica McCalman, kelli mccluskey, Katherine Quigley, Sally Richardson, Paul Terrell, Anya Trybala, Thom Smyth, Hineani Tunoa Roberts, Creatrix Tiara, Steve Mayhew, Gareth Hart, David Haidon, Janet Carter, Ayeesha Ash
- *Big Day In* Curated and Produced by Ian Pidd, featuring: The Wikimen and Guests (Presented by Melbourne Fringe)
- *Black Lives Matter Protests Melbourne* (BlakWrights Master Labs 2020)
- *Ilbijerri Ensemble Online* (Produced by Caleb Thaiday and Ilbijerri Theatre)
- *Community Transmissions Online Art Residency* - Artists: Angela Louise Powell & Jessie Burrows, Arika Waulu, H.mur & Bigoa Chuol, Georgia Banks, Laurent Labourmene, Matt Cornell & Merinda Davies, Mara Erin Staller, Sam Mcgilp, William McBride (Initiated and Facilitated by Ana Tiquia and Luna Mrozik Gawler)
- *Dance it Out* (Rawcus)
- *Digital Dance Clubs and Victorian Seniors Festival* (All The Queens Men)
- *Sub30 Collective* (Western Edge Youth Arts)
- *Hi-Viz Practice Exchange* (Produced and created by Chamber Made)
- *House of Muchness Workshop Program* (Created and facilitated by Alex Walker)
- *Listening* (series) Jo Lloyd, Reuben Lewis, Félicia Atkinson, Peter Knight and Fia Fiell, David Shea, Aviva Endean and Matthias Schack-Arnott, Alexandra Spence, Tilman Robinson and Mindy Meng Wang, KMRU 'From The People I Met' (The Substation with Room 40 and Australian Art Orchestra)
- *Manus Recording Project Collective* Farhad Bandesh, Farhad Rahmati, Samad Abdul, Shamindan Kanapathi, Thamush Selvaraj, Yasin Abdallah, Abdul Aziz Muhamat, Behrouz Boochani, Kazem Kazemi, Michael Green, Andre Dao, Jon Tjhia (Produced by Liquid Architecture)
- *The Generator* (Polyglot Theatre)

MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE IN 2020 AWARD

a joint award on behalf of Contemporary & Experimental Performance and Independent Theatre Panels

Melbourne Fringe

GEOFFREY MILNE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CONTEMPORARY AND EXPERIMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Erin Milne

DANCE

The Dance Panel acknowledges the 'unprecedented' year that kept us at home, out of studios, online, untouched and off the stage. The Dance Panel wants to recognise and honour the entire Victorian dance community for its resilience, inventiveness and generosity. Communities are made of people.

INDEPENDENT THEATRE

WRITING

David Finnigan – *Are You Ready To Take The Law Into Your Own Hands*

(Sipat Lawin ensemble in association with Arts House)

- Kim Ho *The Great Australian Play* (Theatre Works & Montague Basement)
- Cheryl Ho 落叶归根 (*Luò yè guī gēn*) *Getting Home* (Cheryl Ho & Rachel Lee as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- James Jackson, Elizabeth Brennan and Justin Gardam – *Bad News* (The Bloomshed as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- David Williams – *Smaller* (Presented by Arts Centre Melbourne in association with Melbourne Fringe)

DESIGN

The Wholesome Hour

(PO PO MO CO)

- Antoinette Tracey & September Barker (lighting and sound design) *Shadow Piece* (Tedious Theatre as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- Rachel Lee, Vanessa Bong and Brooke Lee (lighting design, illustrations & animation) 落叶归根 (*Luò yè guī gēn*) *Getting Home* (Cheryl Ho & Rachel Lee as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- Justin Gardam (sound design) *Paradise Lost* (The Bloomshed as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- Justin Gardam (sound design) *Bad News* (The Bloomshed as part of Melbourne Fringe)

ENSEMBLE

This Bitter Earth

(Theatre Works & bub)

- *The Wholesome Hour* (PO PO MO CO)
- *Paradise Lost* (The Bloomshed as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- *Shadow Piece* (Tedious Theatre as part of Melbourne Fringe)

PERFORMER

Cheryl Ho 落叶归根 (*Luò yè guī gēn*) *Getting Home*

(Cheryl Ho & Rachel Lee as part of Melbourne Fringe)

- Lachlan Martin *Party Snake* (U Mad? Productions)
- Isabella Perversi *Ember* (Mad Hatter Films)
- Elizabeth Brennan *Paradise Lost* (The Bloomshed)
- Ash Flanders *End Of* (Darebin Arts Speakeasy)

DIGITAL REALISATION

Shadow Piece

(Tedious Theatre as part of Melbourne Fringe)

- *Paradise Lost* (The Bloomshed as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- 落叶归根 (*Luò yè guī gēn*) *Getting Home* (Cheryl Ho & Rachel Lee as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- *A Disorganised Zoom Reading of the Script from Contagion* (Morgan Rose & Katrina Cornwell as part of Melbourne Fringe)

PRODUCTION

落叶归根 (*Luò yè guī gēn*) *Getting Home*

(Cheryl Ho & Rachel Lee as part of Melbourne Fringe)

- *Shadow Piece* (Tedious Theatre as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- *Paradise Lost* (The Bloomshed as part of Melbourne Fringe)
- *The Great Australian Play* (Theatre Works & Montague Basement)
- *End Of* (Ash Flanders presented by Darebin Arts Speakeasy)

MUSICAL THEATRE

CELEBRATION OF ONLINE PERFORMANCE

Artist: Rhonda Burchmore *Rhonda's Rewind*

(Produced by Rhonda Burchmore & James Carroll)

Artist: James Carroll *Rhonda's Rewind*

(Produced by Rhonda Burchmore & James Carroll)

- Artist: The Company *I Need You To See Me* (Produced by Vidya Makan)
- Artist: The Company Les Miserables for Black Lives Matter *Musical Mugwumps* (Produced by James Cutler & Lala Barlow)
- Artist: The Companies *The Art Of Making Art* (Produced by Watch This)
- Artist: The 23 Companies *Musical Mugwumps* (Produced by James Cutler & Lala Barlow)
- Artist: Vidya Makan *I Need You To See Me* (Produced by Vidya Makan)
- Artist: Stacey Louise Camilleri *Musical Mugwumps* (Produced by James Cutler & Lala Barlow)
- Artists: Sonya Soares, Nick McInerney, Dean Drieberg, Mel Hillman, Nick Simpson-Deeks *The Art Of Making Art* (Produced by Watch This)

CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT / NEW WORK

Christian Cavallo, Robert Tripolino, Meg Deyell & James Millar

The Hope Initiative

(Produced by Christian Cavallo, Robert Tripolino, Meg Deyell & James Millar)

COMMUNITY BUILDING / ADVOCACY

Artists: Christian Cavallo, Robert Tripolino, Meg Deyell & James Millar

The Hope Initiative

(Produced by Christian Cavallo, Robert Tripolino, Meg Deyell & James Millar)

- Artists: James Cutler and Lala Barlow *Musical Mugwumps* (Produced by James Cutler & Lala Barlow)

RECOGNITION OF RETROSPECTIVE CONTENT

Rhonda Burchmore & James Carroll – *Rhonda's Rewind*

(Produced by Rhonda Burchmore & James Carroll)

- Crisanne Fox, Chloe Greaves, Zoë Rouse, Emily Collett, Rhiannon Irving, Rob Sowinski, Eugyeene Teh, Christina Logan-Bell, Sarah Tulloch, Milked Studios *The Art of Making Art* (Produced by Watch This)

OPERA

Melbourne's Opera scene was hit by the global pandemic with a force that could well be described as 'operatic'. An artform which involves large forces delicately balancing elastic rhythms and tonal sonorities does not lend itself to digitally layered, socially distant recordings. Nevertheless, the community, both as individuals and companies, produced many wonderful, online creations to help us move from feeling "Sola, perduta, abbandonata" to more of a "Va, pensiero" vibe.

PROGRAMMING

Innovative and adaptive programming allowing their festival not only to run but to reach new audiences

The Yarra Valley Opera Festival, Gertrude Opera

VENUE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Providing vital performance opportunities and income for Melbourne's classical musicians

Melbourne Digital Concert Hall

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Through extensive and varied online content. This included new compositions, recitals, historical retrospectives and educational content:

Victorian Opera

Note: Two live productions from 2020, Fidelio and Salome will be reconsidered by the Opera Panel for the 2022 GRA Awards.

THEATRE COMPANIES

OUTSTANDING WRITING/ADAPTATION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN STAGE

Dan Giovannoni & Christos Tsiolkas

Loaded (Malthouse Theatre)

OUTSTANDING SOUND DESIGN

Daniel Nixon

Loaded (Malthouse Theatre)

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE (2 AWARDS)

Nikki Shiels

Home I'm Darling (Melbourne Theatre Company)

Charles Wu

Torch the Place (Melbourne Theatre Company)

OUTSTANDING DESIGN

Renée Mulder

(Costume) *Home I'm Darling* (Melbourne Theatre Company)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUTSTANDING ADVOCACY FOR THE THEATRE SECTOR

The Theatre Companies Panel would like to acknowledge the work of the following people and organisations for their continued and unwavering advocacy and support for the live performance sector throughout the challenges of 2020.

- Anna Tregloan (The Impossible Project)
- Australian Arts amidst COVID-19
- Australian Production Design Guild
- Tony Burke
- Chloe Dallimore
- Martin Foley
- Live Performance Australia
- Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance
- National Association for the Visual Arts
- Theatre Network Australia