



Lachlan Plain

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Curriculum Vitae

Performing Arts

2006 – present **Artistic Director** of Sanctum Theatre

Through his work with Sanctum Theatre Lachlan has taken on the roles of **producer, administrator, writer, designer, curator and performer**. Lachlan has created six theatrical events, several roving acts, a puppet show and a short film under the banner of Sanctum Theatre.

Sanctum Theatre's inaugural production, *lament: candles & compost*, was described by The Age as, 'Full of striking images...shadowplay and puppetry were absorbingly innovative.' And it's more recent collaboration with Magic Lantern Studio for White Night 2018, *The Man Who Cannot Sleep*, was described by The Age as, 'forg[ing] a dark and surreal dystopia, packed with visual surprises, from a fusion of soundscape, sculpture and full-body puppetry.'

- 2018 *The Man Who Cannot Sleep*, in partnership with Magic Lantern Studio, White Night Melbourne, Ballarat, (giant puppet installation & performance)
- 2017 *Life is a Carousel*, in partnership with Magic Lantern Studio, Melbourne International Festival of Puppetry, Winner Green Room Award for Puppetry, (giant puppet show)
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Cabinet of Antiquated Recording Devices*, Montsalvat (silent film, live music)
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Conservatory of Singular Specimens*, featuring work by Sanctum Theatre designers and puppet makers, Bulleen Art & Garden (exhibition)
- 2010 *the ferryman and his wife*, American Independent Film Festival & Melbourne Underground Film Festival (short film)
- 2009 *The Zero Projects 2009* season, Brunswick and Northcote (five site specific performances in seven months)
- 2008 *The Plains: a play*, Grant Street Theatre, Melbourne, based on the novel by Gerald Murnane (play)
- 2007 *Silent Revolution*, curated by Jasmine Powell, in the artist's home, Fitzroy (autobiographical exhibition)
- 2006 *lament: candles & compost*, The Abbotsford Convent (site specific performance)

As part of Sanctum Theatre Lachlan also hosts puppet classes, community projects and tours roving acts to schools, community centres, festivals, parades, parties and weddings, including for: Moomba, So Frenchy So Chic, Ballarat Heritage Weekend, Rainbow Serpent,

Rock Above the Falls, Rancho Relaxo, Castlemaine State Festival, The Practically Green Festival (Edendale Farm), Kid's Arty Farty Fest (Banyule), Maldon Puppet Festival, The Village Festival and CERES.

For further information please visit sanctumtheatre.org or themanwhocannotsleep.com.

Other performing arts companies Lachlan has worked for include:

- 2017 Puppeteer for *Messenger* by Blanck Canvas at White Night, Ballarat (www.ablanckcanvas.com)
- 2015 – 2016 **Script development, puppet construction & performer** for *Everybody*, Snuff Puppets, at Testing Grounds (Melbourne), Somersault Festival (Melbourne) and Cultural Virada (Sao Paolo, Brazil) – according to the Daily Telegraph (UK) the online video of *Everybody* has had one billion views (www.snuffpuppets.com)
- 2005 – present **Performer & tour manager** for Snuff Puppets roving acts in Australia, Sweden, Denmark, South Korea and Chile
- 2009–10 **Performer and designer** for *Beast of Hoof and Trunk* by Tar Pit Productions at The Next Wave Festival (Melbourne)
- 2007 **Puppeteer** for *The Legend of Ned Kelly* at Festival Theatre (Adelaide) and The Arts Centre (Melbourne)
- 2007 **Puppet maker** for *Sharing Stories* at Bunjilaka Centre, Melbourne Museum
- 2005–6 **Performer** in *The Human Layer* at Melbourne Fringe & Adelaide Fringe, winner of the Melbourne Fringe Visionary Award
- 2004 **Puppet design & construction** for *The Now Hour*, winner of the Melbourne Fringe Visionary Award

Cultural Community Development

2012 – present **Artist in Community** Sanctum Theatre

- *The Beginning of Everything* (2018) – Engaging people with intellectual disabilities building giant puppets, a collaboration with Fusion Theatre in Dandenong;
- *Untitled* (2018) – Facilitating spoken word workshops for people from different cultural backgrounds, then setting their texts to puppetry, Springvale Community House;
- *Montsalvat Solstice Celebration & Bonfire* (2012 & 13) – Working with local communities to design and build 7 giant sculptural lanterns to display and carry in the parade.

2005 – present **Show director** for Snuff Puppet's 'People Puppet Projects' (PPPs)

- Enhancing social cohesion and adult learning through constructing and performing with giant puppets, working with groups such as:
 - Pacific Islanders in Sunshine, Melbourne (APAN 2015 & 2016),
 - rural youth in Swan Hill (Fairfax Festival 2013),
 - local artists, activists and young people interested in drawing attention to the plight of hill tribe people in Chiang Mai, Thailand (Gabfai, Third Way Theatre 2012),
 - young people in South Korea (Hi! Seoul Festival 2012).

2014 – present **Drama Teacher**, Flag Theatre

- Engaging youth and children through drama workshops and games, working with groups such as:
 - Young people from different cultural backgrounds in Footscray, (WYPIN 2017);
 - Students who risk not completing high school due to un-met personal, interpersonal and learning needs, (Kensington Community High School 2017);
 - Primary School aged children, (Montmorency Primary 2015).

2006 – present **Artist in Community**, City of Boroondara:

- *Unmasked* (2016) – Working with people suffering mental health issues and issues of social isolation to construct large sculptural masks for Barking Spider Visual Theatre’s community project at the Kew Uniting Church;
- *Cogs of Consciousness* (2015) - Working with people suffering mental health issues and issues of social isolation to design and construct a permanent kinetic sculpture in the garden at Hawthorn Community House;
- *The Enchanted Ark* (2010) - Working with children, young people, people with intellectual disability and people with mental health issues to develop puppet performances for a family fun day at Hawthorn Community House (awarded honourable mention, Victorian Government’s Live Local Awards);
- *CROP Program* (2006 – 2015) - Art and creative writing tutor for people with mental health and social isolation issues. Curated three exhibitions with a focus on collaborative installation art and compiled two anthologies in book and CD formats as part of this role.

2009 – 2014 **Teaching artist** for The Songroom

- Building resilience through art and play with children at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Flowerdale Primary School and Western English Language Schools. Developing a school puppetry program using various styles of puppetry, including hand, rod, shadow and mask.

Street Art & Public Art

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| 2014 & 2016 | <i>Still Life with Fruit</i> fibreglass sculpture (4m x 2m x 2m), Bulleen Art & Garden |
| 2015 | <i>Cogs of Consciousness</i> , kinetic sculpture (2 x 2m), Hawthorn Community House, Melbourne |
| 2015 | <i>Life on Planet Daisyworld</i> mural (30m x 10m), commissioned by The City of Yarra and funded by The Department of Justice, 117 Argyle Street Fitzroy, Melbourne |
| 2015 | <i>The Belle and the Bull-Headed Ranger</i> mural (8m x 2.5m), private commission for Interlandi-Mantesso Architects and Grollo Group, residential property, Fitzroy, Melbourne |
| 2015 | <i>Basement Redux</i> mural (2.5m x 2m), private commission, Mont Albert, Melbourne |
| 2012 | <i>The Final Voyage of Pedro Piscator</i> mural (5m x 11m), Bulleen Art & Garden, Melbourne, described by Jason Smith, director of Heide, as, “On the one hand whimsical, but with a darker side...ambitious and thought provoking.” |
| 2010 | <i>Rose the Turtle</i> fibreglass sculpture (2.5m x 2.5m x 1.5m), Bulleen Art & Garden, Melbourne |

- 2007 *Untitled* mural with ceramic relief (8m x 5m), in collaboration with ceramicist Meredith Plain, Child Psychiatric Centre, Austin Health
- 2006 *Untitled* metal relief mural (5m x 5m), in collaboration with Jody Nunn, Bulleen Art & Garden
- 2005 *Untitled* mural (8m x 2m), Organically Grown Grocery Store, Malvern

For online folio visit www.lachlanplain.com.

Publications & Prizes

- 2012 - 2016 *The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator and other tales*, winner of the 2012 Impress Prize, published by Impress Books (UK, 2014) and Lachlan Plain Studios (Aust, 2016) (illustrated collection of short stories)
- 2013 'The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator' in *Going Down Swinging*, (interactive digital fiction)
- 2013 'The Mandrake in the Marsh' in *Page Seventeen*, second prize for the Page Seventeen Short Story Competition (short story)

Exhibitions

- 2014 *The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator*, Light Factory Gallery, Melbourne (solo)
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Conservatory of Singular Specimens*, Bolin Bolin Gallery, Melbourne (group)
- 2010 *The Nillumbik Prize*, Montsalvat, Melbourne (group)
- 2007 Sanctum Theatre's *Silent Revolution*, Melbourne (group)

Educational History

- 2008 **Masters of Theatre Practice (animateuring)**, Victorian College of the Arts
- 2005 **Postgraduate Diploma in Puppetry**, Victorian College of the Arts
- 2003 **Bachelor of Creative Arts**, The University of Melbourne

Other Interests

Lachlan lives on a permaculture property with his extended family. He is interested in intergenerational land management - designing domestic and agricultural systems to sustain future generations.