



Lachlan Plain
artistic director
curriculum vitae

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Press/Testimonial

The Man Who Cannot Sleep (2018)

"And The Man Who Cannot Sleep...forged a dark and surreal dystopia, packed with visual surprises, from a fusion of soundscape, sculpture and full-body puppetry."
The Age.

The Final Journey of Pedro Piscator (2012)

"On the one hand whimsical, but with a darker side...ambitious and thought provoking," Jason Smith, director Heide.

lament: candles & compost (2006)

"...full of striking images...shadowplay and puppetry were absorbingly innovative..."
The Age

"...startling work that is at once confronting and yet comforting..." **Inpress**

Publications/Prizes

- 2024 [‘Chrysalis’](#) in *Island Magazine*, short story.
- 2012 - 2016 *The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator and other tales*: illustrated collection of short stories. Winner of the 2012 Impress Prize. Published by Impress Books (UK).
- 2013 [‘The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator’](#) in *Going Down Swinging*: interactive digital fiction.
- 2013 ‘The Mandrake in the Marsh’ in *Page Seventeen*: short story. Second Prize, Page Seventeen Short Story Competition.

Film

- 2024 *CHRYSSALIS*.
- 2023 *BANKSIA*. Melbourne International Animation Festival (AUS). Semi-Finalist: CLIMAX Internacional de Cinema Independente. **Semi-Finalist**: FilmHaus (GER).
- 2022 *CORREA*. St Kilda Film Festival (AUS). Revelations Perth International Film Festival (AUS). Imagina Anifest (US). Lebanese Independent Film Festival (LEB). 7th International Short Film Festival, Pune (INDIA). Tabriz Cinema Awards, **Best Animation** (IRAN). Semi-Finalist: Nocturna Brooklyn Online Film Festival (US).
- 2021 *CLOUDHEAD visits GRANDMA*. St Kilda Film Festival (AUS). Revelations Perth International Film Festival (AUS). Melbourne International Animation Festival (AUS). A Night of Misfit Films (US).
- 2020 *LANIMALS*: short film.
- 2010 *the ferryman and his wife*. American Independent Film Festival & Melbourne Underground Film Festival.

Exhibitions

- 2022 *CORREA*. Hume Winter Lights Festival. Town Hall Gallery Broadmeadows. Solo.
- 2014 *The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator*. Light Factory Gallery. Solo.
- 2010 *Nillumbik Prize*. Montsalvat. Group.

Live Art

- 2018 *The Man Who Cannot Sleep*: giant puppet installation & performance. White Night. In partnership with Magic Lantern Studio.
- 2017 *Life is a Carousel*: giant puppet show. Melbourne International Festival of Puppetry. Winner Green Room Award for Puppetry. In partnership with Magic Lantern Studio.
- 2017 *Bug Lab*: giant puppets. Melbourne Museum. In partnership with Magic Lantern Studio.
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Cabinet of Antiquated Recording Devices*: silent film, live music. Montsalvat.

- 2009 *Zero Projects 2009*: five site specific performances in seven months. Brunswick & Northcote.
- 2008 *The Plains: a play*. Grant Street Theatre, Melbourne.
- 2007 *Silent Revolution*: exhibition. Fitzroy.
- 2006 *lament: candles & compost*: play. The Abbotsford Convent.

Other performing arts companies Lachlan has worked for include:

- 2005/present **Puppeteer, tour manager**. Snuff Puppets. Australia, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, South Korea, Chile & Brazil.
- 2017/present **Puppeteer**. a blank canvas.
- 2015/16 **Script development, puppet construction, performer**. *Everybody*. Snuff Puppets. Testing Grounds (Melbourne), Somersault Festival (Melbourne), Cultural Virada (Sao Paolo, Brazil).
- 2009/10 **Performer and designer**. *Beast of Hoof and Trunk*. Tar Pit Productions. Next Wave Festival (Melbourne).
- 2007 **Puppeteer**. *The Legend of Ned Kelly*. Festival Theatre (Adelaide) & Arts Centre (Melbourne).
- 2007 **Puppet maker**. *Sharing Stories*. Bunjilaka Centre, Melbourne Museum.
- 2004 **Puppet design & construction**. *The Now Hour*. Winner Melbourne Fringe Visionary Award.

Street Art/Public Art

- 2015 *Life on Planet Daisyworld*: mural (30m x 10m). Commissioned by City of Yarra & Department of Justice. Fitzroy, Melbourne. (Featured in *Inside Street Art: Melbourne* Thames & Hudson 2016)
- 2015 *The Belle and the Bull-Headed Ranger*: mural (8m x 2.5m). Interlandi-Mantesso Architects & Grollo Group. Fitzroy, Melbourne.
- 2015 *Basement Redux*: mural (2.5m x 2m). Mont Albert, Melbourne.
- 2012 *The Final Voyage of Pedro Piscator*: mural (5m x 11m). BAAG.
- 2010 *Rose the Turtle* fibreglass sculpture (2.5m x 2.5m x 1.5m), BAAG.

Giant Puppet Commissions

- 2024 Braxadragon for *Planet Lulin*. ABC TV.
- 2020-25 *Bird Colourful Jelly Sparkle. Sock Puppets. Ladybirds.* Moomba Parade.
- 2017 *Bug Lab.* Melbourne Museum.

Community Development

Sanctum Community Development (SCP):

- 2022 *Warrandyte Festival:* Working with community members to create 16 giant sculptural lanterns to be installed on the festival grounds.
- 2020 *1,000 Star Project:* Producing 1,400 lantern making packs for families and schools to create lanterns during lock down. City of Banyule.
- 2019 *Trail of Lights Festival:* Working with 250 children from 2 primary schools located in the Wyndham area to construct 52 large sculptural lanterns over 6 weeks. These lanterns were included in a parade at the festival launch, and installed along the trail for 2 weeks.
- Look, a Book! -* Working with 7 pre-school age children living with intellectual disabilities, and their families, to write and illustrate a picture story book, *Choo Choo the Magic Train*. City of Banyule. Kalparrin Early Childhood Services.
- Invisible Dancers -* Engaging adults with intellectual disabilities to build giant puppets. DVA Theatre. City of Banyule.
- 2018 *The Beginning of Everything-* Engaging adults with intellectual disabilities build giant puppets. City of Greater Dandenong.
- Ghost Turtle (鳌, Áo) -* Collecting stories of recent migrants, then working with them to build a turtle for a video and sculptural installation. Heritage Hill Museum Residency. City of Greater Dandenong.
- 2016 *Unmasked -* Working with people suffering mental health issues and issues of social isolation to construct large sculptural masks. Barking Spider Visual Theatre. Kew Uniting Church.
- 2015 *Cogs of Consciousness -* Working with people suffering mental health issues and issues of social isolation to design and construct a permanent kinetic sculpture. Hawthorn Community House.
- 2012/13 *Montsalvat Solstice Celebration & Bonfire -* Working with members of the Eltham community to construct 7 giant sculptural lanterns to display and carry in the parade. Nillumbik Living and Learning Centre. Shire of Nillumbik.

I have worked with the following organisations in a community development role:

2005/present **Show director. Snuff Puppets. People Puppet Projects.**

Enhancing social cohesion and adult learning through constructing and performing with giant puppets:

- Somali Community. Braebrook. (2022).
- Vietnamese community. Sunshine (2020).
- VCAL students. Croydon (2019).
- Pacific Islander community. Sunshine (2015/16).
- Rural youth. Swan Hill (2013).
- Local artists, activists and young people interested in drawing attention to the plight of hill tribe people. Chiang Mai (2012).
- Young people. Seoul (2012).

2014/18 **Drama Teacher. Flag Theatre.**

Engaging youth and children through drama workshops and games:

- Culturally diverse young people. Footscray (2017).
- At risk students. Kensington Community High School (2017).
- Children. Montmorency Primary (2015).

2006–16 **Artist in Community, City of Boroondara.**

- *Unmasked*– 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 (2016).
- *Cogs of Consciousness* - 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 (2015);
- CROP Program – Facilitating art and creative writing classes 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 (2006 – 2015).

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.