

**Families are invited to have some fun under the spire this summer and autumn!**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 14 OCTOBER 2019** — Much-loved book characters brought to life on stage, dazzling acrobatics, a beatboxing superhero, mini dance parties and a transcultural dance work for babies await families in **Arts Centre Melbourne's Families Summer Autumn 2020 program**. From **January - May** children and their families will have the chance to experience engaging theatrical adventures and interactive experiences from Australia and beyond spanning theatre, dance, circus, music and creative workshops.

*"We are celebrating artists from around the world and around the corner in this season of exciting works for young audiences. Across Summer and Autumn curious children as young as 4 months old can watch and participate with delight in a season spanning dance, theatre, circus and musical theatre – we are excited!"* says **Arts Centre Melbourne Creative Producer, Families and Children, Mary Harvey**.

**Arts Centre Melbourne Families and Children program** will celebrate the start of summer with **10 Minute Dance Parties**, a free participatory event for all ages and abilities. Little groovers are invited to step inside a converted shipping container on Arts Centre Melbourne's forecourt to bust out as many dance moves as possible in just 10 minutes. Also in January will be fan-favourite **The 91 Storey Treehouse** and an internationally acclaimed award-winning work for 3 – 6 year olds, **Stick By Me**.

In February the program will presents two works as part of **Asia TOPA**, Arts Centre Melbourne's triennial festival of performing arts from the Asia Pacific. **À Ô Làng Phố**, performed by Nouveau Cirque du Vietnam is a dazzling acrobatic circus performance featuring juggling, balancing, contortion and daring feats. While **Flower** 花 is a beautiful trans-

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cultural dance/ theatre piece by Sally Chance Dance (Australia) and Masil Theatre (Korea) for babies aged 4 - 18 months and their carers.

Later in the season Arts Centre Melbourne is delighted to present the stage adaptation of the book, **Charlie and the War Against the Grannies**. This new musical comedy, commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne and created by actor, comedian and children's author Alan Brough (*ABC Spicks and Specks*) will have its world premiere on the Playhouse stage. Starring Brough himself, this hilarious and playful work combines live music, puppetry and theatre to tell the story of Charlie Duncan and his best friend Hils, two 12-year-olds trying to stop a fiendish band of grannies plotting to take over the world.

The last performance of the season will be **Dr AudiYo's Giant Adventure**, the story of a beatboxing clown-come-superhero performed by theatre-maker and comedian Holly Austin. On a bare stage Austin uses only her voice, a microphone and wireless looping technology to bring to life a wondrous world of giants, music and cats.

Throughout the year children also have a chance to unleash their creative side in hands-on in interactive workshops at **The Channel, Arts Centre Melbourne's high-tech learning lab**. Located in iconic Hamer Hall, The Channel is Arts Centre Melbourne's state-of-the-art workshop and performance space. Designed for children and their families, these workshops give participants the chance to create, mix and record their own music, create vivid posters, learn a new magic trick or try their hand at puppeteering. This year Arts Centre Melbourne is partnering with St Martins Youth Arts Centre to offer two workshops.

Arts Centre Melbourne's year-round **Families Program** was launched in August 2009 and has grown in reputation to become a highly respected program nationally and internationally. Featuring intimate and large-scale theatre from some of the world's most respected companies and a diverse range of interactive workshops, the program is robust and growing in size, scale and scope.

As part of the program Arts Centre Melbourne also presents some of the best Australian and international performances and programs for children with disability and their families to enjoy.

Watch a short video of the full program [here](#)

Arts Centre Melbourne presents

Families Summer/Autumn 2020 program on sale now

Bookings: <https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/kids-and-families> or Arts Centre Melbourne

Box Office 1300 182 183

#acmfamilies

## **FAMILIES SUMMER/ AUTUMN 2020 PROGRAM**

Arts Centre Melbourne presents a CDP Kids Production

**THE 91-STOREY TREEHOUSE**

Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton's best-selling book comes to life on stage for children aged 6+ and their adults! Andy and Terry's Treehouse has reached an amazing 91 Stories! It's now more fantastically dangerous than ever, with a deserted desert island, a whirlpool and a giant spider. The team behind the *13-, 26-, 52- and 78-Storey Treehouses Live on Stage* return with a fantastical trip through this wild, weird and wonderful world.

4-19 January

Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse

Recommended for aged 6+

Access: Auslan Interpreted performance: Saturday 11 January, 12pm

Relaxed Performance: Saturday 18 January, 12pm

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**Arts Centre Melbourne**

100 St Kilda Road,

Melbourne VIC 3004

PO Box 7585, Melbourne VIC 3004

[artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)



# Media Release

## **Arts Centre Melbourne, Andy Manley and Red Bridge Arts (UK) present STICK BY ME**

Creators behind the internationally acclaimed children's show *White*, Andy Manley and Ian Cameron *return to present* a beautifully crafted production for 3–6 year-olds about friendship, play and the importance of treasuring little things.

4 - 18 January  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse Rehearsal Room  
Recommended for children aged 3 – 6

## **Arts Centre Melbourne and Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) present 10 MINUTE DANCE PARTIES**

This free, interactive dance party invites groovers to shimmy, shake, bop and boogie inside a converted shipping container for 10 minutes. Led by artist JOF and DJed by young locals, join family and friends on the dance-floor in celebration of the universal nature of dance.

16 - 24 January  
Arts Centre Melbourne Forecourt  
Open daily 11am – 3.30pm  
FREE

No bookings required  
All Ages

## **Arts Centre Melbourne and Insite Arts present**

### **FLOWER 꽃**

**By Masil Theatre (South Korea) and Sally Chance Dance (Australia)  
As part of Asia TOPA**

Flower 꽃 is a playful, transcultural dance/theatre piece for babies about babies. Using movement, sound and tactile elements, the work for little ones aged 4 -18 months and their carers overturns old ideas about a child entering the world as a blank slate, instead offering the view that parents have as much to learn and gain from their baby as their baby does from them.

11 - 15 February  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse Rehearsal Room  
Ages 4 -1 months  
TICKETS ON SALE SOON

## **Arts Centre Melbourne presents**

### **À Ó LÂNG PHÓ**

**Vietnamese Bamboo Circus**

**As part of Asia TOPA**

The title translates as 'from village to city,' and over the course of this magical performance an expanding metropolis is constructed from bamboo poles, woven boats and baskets. From the idyllic beauty and rich culture of life in rural Vietnam to the bustle and sensation of cities on the rise, this transforming landscape is the playground for some of Vietnam's most talented acrobats as they fuse daring feats with contemporary dance and stunning visual theatre.

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# Media Release

27-29 February  
Arts Centre Melbourne, State Theatre  
Recommended for children aged 7+

**Arts Centre Melbourne presents  
CHARLIE AND THE WAR AGAINST THE GRANNIES**

A rampaging musical comedy for children aged 5 and up! Written by and starring Alan Brough (*Spicks and Specks*), this world premiere production comes to life with shadow puppetry, live music and three really stinky farts. All 12-year old Charlie Duncan wanted was a simple paper round. What he uncovers is a league of evil grannies plotting to set up a 'Granny State', where everyone will be forced to wear brown cardigans, go to bed early and there will be NO CHILDREN!

28 March – 5 April  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse  
Recommended for children aged 5+  
Auslan Interpreted Performance: Wednesday 1 April, 12pm  
Relaxed Performance: Saturday 4 April, 12pm

**Arts Centre Melbourne and Froudist present  
DR AUDIO'S GIANT ADVENTURE**

Follow the quest of Dr AudiYO, a beatboxing clown-come-superhero who using her 'magic looping bum bag' (and a little help from the audience), sets off on a surreal adventure to slay The Beast. On a bare stage, using only her voice, a microphone and wireless looping technology, theatre-maker and comedian Holly Austin brings to life a wondrous world of giants, music and cats.

9 – 10 May  
Playhouse Rehearsal Room  
Recommended for children aged 8+

## WORKSHOPS

**Arts Centre Melbourne and Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) present  
10 MINUTE DANCE PARTIES DJ WORKSHOPS**

Collaborate with internationally acclaimed musician and artist JOF to make *10 Minute Dance Parties*, a free all-ages event. Help us bring this party to life and bring your set to the dancefloor. If you are aged between 13 - 18 years and would like to learn how to DJ, sign up to this free, one-day workshop.

13 & 14 January  
The Channel  
Recommended for 13 -18 year olds

**Arts Centre Melbourne and Australian Music Vault present  
LYRIC WRITING WORKSHOP**

Starting with a guided tour of the Australian Music Vault exhibition, this workshop takes participants deep into the art of lyric writing. Inspired by some of Australia's finest lyricists, such as Sia, Courtney Barnett and Midnight Oil, participants will have the opportunity to analyse what makes a great lyricist using examples from the Vault, then create your own masterpiece with guidance from experienced songwriters at The Channel.

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# Media Release

8 January  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 10 -16

## **Arts Centre Melbourne presents Lee Cohen's MAGIC WORKSHOP**

Step behind the velvet curtain and uncover the mysteries of magic with *The Magic Workshop*. Once participants have sworn the magician's oath, they will be let into a world of secrets and mind-boggling twists and turns! Participants also receive a goodie bag of tricks to take home.

9 January & 3 April  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 10 -12

## **Arts Centre Melbourne presents INSTANT ROCKSTAR**

Future rock stars can compose their own piece of music using our library of thousands of sound samples. Participants can choose from an array of styles including dubstep, jazz or rock and use your song to create your own music video.

January – June  
(10 & 15 January, 15 February, 21 March, 2 & 7 April, 9 May, 6 June)  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 8 -12

## **Arts Centre Melbourne presents PUPPETMASTERS WORKSHOP**

This workshop dives deep into the magical world of puppetry. Led by an experienced puppeteer, participants will learn how to operate a puppet using the Bunraku technique. Bunraku is a Japanese traditional puppet theatre in which three puppeteers work together to bring a puppet to life! In this workshop participants will have the opportunity to use professional Bunraku puppets, and work on a prototype of your own.

16 January & 1 April  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 8 -12

## **Arts Centre Melbourne and St Martin's Youth Theatre present JOURNEYS MISCHIEF AND MONSTERS**

In this engaging workshop children will bring their imaginations to life through maps, artefacts, costumes and characters. Combining creative play and visual art, the group will invent their own story of sailing the seas to far off places with their family members.

22 January  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 5 – 8

## **Arts Centre Melbourne and Australian Music Vault present HIP-HOP LYRIC WRITING WORKSHOP**

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Hip-Hop culture has, and continues to be, a forum through which people can express opinions, raise issues, and have their voices heard. In Australia, Hip-Hop offers artists from diverse backgrounds with important conversations to start, a platform to promote Hip-Hop's core values of respect, inclusion and individuality. In this workshop, students will be encouraged to think about issues that affect them and impact their lives. Working with N'Fa Jones at The Channel, students will be led in crafting those ideas into lyrics and song form.

6 April  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 12 – 16

**Arts Centre Melbourne and Australian Music Vault present  
ALBUM COVER DESIGN WORKSHOP**

This workshop encourages participants to explore examples of music marketing from the Australian Performing Arts Collection currently on display in the Australian Music Vault exhibition, before creating their very own album cover design. Learn some simple ways to create kaleidoscopic digital images using a photograph of themselves, or from those selected from an online collection. Participants then use Photoshop software to combine participant's image with text in the style of an album cover, and leave the workshop with both a digital and hard copy of the design.

9 April  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 10 - 16

**Arts Centre Melbourne and St Martin's Youth Theatre present  
NEW PAPER WORLD**

Take the old daily news and make a magical new world out of it! Using recycled newspapers we will design a maze of spaces, objects and wearable items. We will invent stories and characters to populate a New Paper World. Step into our immersive paper fantasia for a guided show and tell.

9 April  
The Channel  
Recommended for ages 5 - 8

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For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne visit [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au) or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/artscentremelb) or follow [@artscentremelb](https://www.instagram.com/artscentremelb) on Instagram and Twitter.

For further media information and interviews, please contact: Suzanne Robson, Media Advisor on 03 9281 8526 / 0407 443 271 or [suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au](mailto:suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au)

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