



LA MAMA

**LA MAMA'S IMPACT SURVEY:
ALL WRITTEN RESPONSES TO
QUESTIONS**

La Mama has been a part of the theatre landscape in Melbourne for decades and offers extremely good theatre. It would be a travesty if La Mama lost funding.

Why does the system always want to get rid of its voice and the cultural institutions like La Mama that represent the people!

La Mama is an iconic and treasured part of Melbourne's theatre scene and much valued we need it !

legendary theatre of Melbourne

La Mama is extraordinary and quite unique in its contribution to the past, present and future of Australian theatre. We need it and it needs government support - now.

I still think about shows I saw years ago. Both for ideas and pleasure

LaMama is an essential part of our cultural landscape

Deeply saddened by the choices being made today in Australia about our industry. We must support them and the future of arts in Australian . It must be a priority y

La Mama is an important and influential part of Australia's Arts community

La Mama is the life blood of artists. It gives them space and opportunity to create. La Mama needs to be funded to continue to provide a nurturing place for artists and a place for theater to be seen.

Don't let this crucible of to be independent theatre voice die

Thank you for many decades of support of independent artists and their work. La Mama is an integral part of the theatrical landscape in Melbourne and Australia. I hope you will be able to continue.

La Mama seeds the development of diverse performing artists , writers and stage crew. For a relatively small investment, society benefits from the training and building of the arts community. La Mama has also supported the expression of experiences of the broad diversity of Australian experiences.

La Mama is the backbone of Melbourne's independent theatre sector. It nurtures a broad spectrum of artists and in so doing needs nurturing to thrive. It is a Melbourne institution, both historically and culturally and once lock down is over, will need all the support that can be mustered as it will breathe the rebirth of theatre back into our town.

I have been going to La Mama over the last 20 years, it is a place people of all ages come to experience culture

La Mama has been the springboard for many of our best artists who have gone in to create globally recognised work.

Small arts organisations are the lifeblood of the arts industry supporting artists and arts workers at all stages of their careers. Without adequate funding for La Mama Australia will lose a major contributor to artistic excellence, ingenuity and cultural value in our country.

La Mama should be treasured and nurtured, and deserves every support and backing to ensure its survival from now and into the future.

I believe my answer to question seven sums up my feelings about this.

The lack of respect this federal government has for the arts is outrageous and extremely shortsighted

La Mama offers a world of experiences...from freedom as an artist to the excitement of being an audience member, whether it be at home or the regional circuit. Delivered by a small army...who always have the time to support, not only the work but also the humans behind it. Thank you, wonderful team who have supported me in the unexpected personal woes too!

Please don't let la mama die. It is su h an essential Melbourne cultural institution.

La Mama MUST be saved. It must always be supported. It's the trickle-up effect!

La Mama is not only an important part of the theatre scene in Victoria, but an integral part of the wider community. People from all walks of life go to La Mama to be inspired, immersed in a new world and treated to wonderful, powerful performances. We need La Mama and La Mama needs us.

La Mama is not for Melbourne people. 20 years ago I would visit Melbourne from Canberra and seeing something at La Mama was always part of a visit.

I really loved visiting La Mama when I was visiting Melbourne. Quality theatre amongst a feeling of closeness when I was there, which was interesting because I was a stranger attending a show by myself from out of town.

please keep this important theatre space open.

SAVE LA MAMA

Please support La Mama & other small to medium arts organisations to continue their great work. I want diverse options not domination by a few.

La Mama is vital to the life of theatre in Melbourne and Australia. It's history or nurturing some of our greatest talents and it's continuing role, fostering and enabling emerging artists and new work is priceless.

La Mama and other small theatre are a big part of Melbourne culture. It has a big part of live entertainments that people enjoy. Please continue funding as it cannot replace the amazing venues like this.

As an artist I one day hope to work with La Mama in the future.

La Mama is a bedrock in the arts world. It is one of a very few places in the world that support the arts in fundamental ways, but on a more local scale it is a place that broke open an Australian identity and voice and has managed to stay true to its original vision, and continue to be a centre for the identity of Australia culture. It is imperative that it continues to be fully supported, because its function, value and meaning in our culture is irreplaceable, vital and nourishing

I love and appreciate La Mama, I have seen more shows at La Mama than at the Arts Centre and I am all the richer because of it, I am devastated that we are not supporting such a vital and iconic organisation that is literally part of the heart of performing arts in Melbourne.

Without a place like La Mama, independent artists and makers will lose more and more opportunities to cultivate and craft their careers and the industry as a whole. Without the roots of La Mama, main stage branches of the industry like the Melbourne Theatre Company will suffer because the artists who work there very often get to where they are in terms of skills and creativity thanks to La Mama.

La Mama is part of Melbourne's cultural heritage. It's an institution I highly value and worth protecting for the role they play in leadership, support and promotion in a small but exciting and energetic arts sector.

I completed work experience at La Mama in 2014 and I loved the creative, nurturing and hard-working environment there.

Please please help La Mama continue its valuable work. I have a show coming up later in the year and would be devastated to miss out on the opportunity to present the work.

These smaller theatres allow so many artists to stay with what they love. An opportunity, a taste a stepping stone and a platform to experiment and be something outside of the norm

I just think theatres need a wake up call and need to not be subsidised with funding for a while so they can think about what they are making and how they can be relevant again. They have developed an attitude of entitlement. They expect it. And it's wrong.

La Mama is part of the social and cultural history of Australian theatre, and continues to produce and stage important and exciting work.

Artists, and the Melbourne art scene, need La Mama to flourish

Yes. I do not know how to state strongly enough how important La Mama is to me and so many other Melbourne artists: writers, performers, musicians. And theatre goes as well. It is part of

Melbourne's heart beat. Please, please keep it alive.

La Mama's funding must be restored.

La Mama is fundamental to both Australia's theatre history and it's future.

I first heard of la mama growing up in Adelaide, and later studying theatre studies in Sydney. Although I've never worked in theatre, I believe it to be a hugely important part of Melbourne's cultural life

No

No

It would be a tragedy for Melbourne to lose such a unique arts space and the opportunities it gives to new playwrights and alternative shows.

My love for La Mama and her theatre community is so great: I can't imagine Melbourne without her.

The big arts are great but it's the little arts that make advances in ideas, styles, and techniques by exploring and experimenting and often failing so that the big institutions don't have too.

La Mama is arguably the birthplace of Melbourne theatre. We can not loose our mother. We can not loose our home.

Whilst this survey pertains to La Mama, the comments I have made could be applied to most any area in the artistic landscape - fine art; film and television; dance; music; literature etc. These local, small to medium sized venues with an eye on spotlighting and supporting fresh and emerging artists are where the household names, masters of craft and eventual success stories get their start. Without them we will be without the people who shape and sculpt our national narrative at home and represent us in the world at large.

La Mama is vital to Melbourne's art scene and arts ecology as a whole. Many artists rely on La Mama for their first big break

If I think of Australia and Melbourne without LaMama... if I imagine my career as a theatre-maker and actor over the last 20years without LaMama, I am left with a shallow, hollow and seriously restricted sector in which to work. I would close the MTC and Malthouse sooner than I would shut down LaMama, such is the importance of this organisation to the health of our theatre sector.

La mama is where everyone starts and where the most successful theatre makers will always come back to

La Mama is an institution and should be continued to be supported. It offers a great opportunity for new and emerging artists and a great affordable place for the public.

la mama is one of the most important theatres we have as in Melbournes history and it would be very sad if we lost it

The difficulties recovering from the fire were being managed but this body blow comes at a really bad time.

We cannot allow this integral institute to slip through the cracks..

My brother David Kendall was in the first show at La Mama in the 1960s, he would be devastated to know the future is in doubt.

no

Very special place that absolutely must be supported by our government

Supporting La Mama would be money well spent

We need institutions like this! We need them funded now and into the future and we need them funded well

La Mama is a valued institution in Victoria

LaMama is an important internationally recognised arts Organisation, and deserves finding from the Australian Arts Council. LaMama is an icon of Australian culture.

Stay strong and healthy.

La Mama is such a hugely valuable resource in the arts community

Once again, this is a vital ingredient in our society.

As I mentioned, the arts are very much the soul of society...and local theatre like La Mama help support and develop talent. We, the taxpayers, as represented by our elected Government, should be supporting the arts. Thank you

The way people are coping with coronavirus shows how critical arts and artists are to the well being of society and all its members. We need to support small and medium arts organizations just as much as large prestigious ones in order to support the system that sustains Australia's rich cultural life, and cultural exports.

Small to medium arts organisations are integral for a healthy sector, for audiences and for artists in offering the pointy ended, innovative mirror to our society and ourselves, a fertile ground for creativity.

The impact of La Mama losing funding will have long term effects on the quality of theatre produced in Melbourne and Australia. La Mama is often the seed from which big things grow.

Right now the arts are not as important as nurses. It's that simple, and, y'know, the arts are not special in any way. As a practicing artist and arts worker for 40 years its very embarrassing to see the arts pleading for special treatment when people are dying...don't you think??

Defunding this organisational a national treasure when there has been such crisis following the fire is frankly disgraceful.

To withdraw La Mama's funding is an act of cultural vandalism which will do immeasurable damage to our future.

La Mama is the yeast in the dough, the gin in the tonic, the song in the heart and the fire in the belly of grass roots live theatre. Without places like La Mama we may survive, but what for?

La Mama is an integral part of Melbourne theatre's ecosystem. It's been the bedrock of independent theatre for over 40 years, providing opportunities for both emerging and established artists to take risks, explore new territory, and develop their craft.

La mama needs to be supported as it holds a valuable space in the theatre landscape- it develops small productions and previews new writing that other venues and institutions are too large and financially hamstrung to risk showing. La mama is both experimental and honours tradition- it also importantly shows mid and late career artists whose work it has shown over many years, which allows an audience to really follow an artists career. We need this in Australia. Artists deserve this.

Australian theatre needs La Mama, to defund it is sheer vandalism

What is the reason to remove the funding from all these companies and arts community?

Defunding la mama is unfathomable and devastating after all the other trials youve been through, and so remarkably still delivered throughout .. what more could a productivity oriented gov want than massive output in the smell of an oily rag. Lets not take the rag away thats just not fair.

Just give me the opportunity...!!!!!!

La Mama provides all artists the opportunity to develop, create and produce theatrical works. You can fail and 'succeed' at La Mama, this is but one of its unique features. Without funding, you are turning off the life support for many artists, administrators, designers and musicians. You are killing their voice, their stories and what is uniquely Melbourne!

La Mama has survived the disastrous fire of almost 2 years ago, due to the strength of community support and the extraordinarily high regard it enjoys in the arts community and beyond. In its greatest hour of need, it cannot be destroyed now with the stroke of a political and bureaucratic pen. The decision to de-fund La Mama's Australia Council grant must be reversed immediately.

La Mama but provides affordable and inclusive programs that engage a broad range of community members and therefore contributes to community well-being.

It is critical to Australian culture that La Mama is supported with long term and substantial funding.

It is vital to allow this proven model to continue, particularly as they work to recover from the fire.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the Australian arts industry. I really hope La Mama can continue to deliver excellent theatre.

I have enjoy my experiences at La Mama that I have not experienced at other theatres. It is unique

I love La Mama. It would cause me deep grief if it did not exist. There would be a great big hole in our culture without La Mama.

It's hard to imagine Melbourne's without La Mama as its theatre icon

A lack of support for La Mama and other smaller independant performing arts companies is a tragedy when in all the amount of money involved to support them is so small in relativr terms.

Audience building for cultural & creative industries happens at Small and Medium art undertakings. To defund them is to kill the avant garde. It is bound to arrest innovation and new development. It might also lead to marginal players (indigenous and racially diverse people) getting pushed out of arts.

Art is life. Support those that help make ours worth living!

La mama is not only a theatre venue, but a significant, loved and national/regional performing institution!

La Mama provides support to people with disabilities to enable them to build self esteem

Please support La Mama

Arts are critical for our communicate, discover, reconnect, and innovate.

We need to keep Melbourne's theatre history alive! Art is life.

Arts are essential industries that shape quality of life and democracy

La mama has had a crucial role in establishing playwrights and theatre personnel

La mama is the heart beat of independent theatre in Melb. It provides the space and resources for 'new' and 'old' artists alike to trial works that often can then step into the larger institutions and touring statewide, nationally and internationally. A truly independent theatre

La Mama is part of Melbourne and to discontinue it's funding is failing to recognise the harm caused by destroying one of Melbourne's most treasured and iconic theatre spaces. How dare they!

bring it back soon. thanks,thanks,thanks!!!!

I became the first Australian member of The Actors Studio and have an international career thanks to La Ma Theatre in Melbourne.

During this Covid self-isolation situation people are relying on the arts to keep them entertained and save their sanity. Independent theatre productions, and all the organisations that support these artistic endeavours such as La Mama are 'on hold' for now, but there will come a time when people will be able to return to the theatre and it needs to be there for them. La Mama supports these productions in many ways, including financial, and is a Melbourne institution. People will want to immerse themselves again in the world of live theatre, that entertains, encourages us to see the world through another lens and create conversations.

La Mama is part of the fabric of Melbourne and a treasured creative force in Carlton. Despite the horrible fire last year la Mama has rallied to rebuild this institution. Arts Council has a responsibility to support La Mama, particularly during the covid-19 crisis and it's aftermath.

Please for the sake of the mental health of Melbourne and Australia, do not let this go unfunded.

Community is built around spaces that are conducive to people coming together irrespective of

financial means or other privileges. La Mama is one such space. A hub of creativity allowing artists to perform and engage in a unique way. The audience is intimately engaged in such a welcoming space as well.

I am currently living and working in Wellington, New Zealand and La Mama has a huge influence here as well as in Australia. Practitioners here are well aware of La Mama and BATS theatre in particular take much inspiration from them

Thank you beyond words and theatre for being there, for containing both ... here's hoping you are still there in future!

Please support the arts. We are as important as the sporting sector.

The courage and resilience of La Mama crew and participants and performers is just what everyone needs in our current universal crisis.

La Mama is a vital institution for the creative arts. Fledgling artists and experienced alike can only survive and prosper with a theatre like La Mama.

It's always a pleasure to enjoy a glass of wine after a show and mingle with like minds and discuss the show in the beautiful courtyard

La Mama is a part of Melbourne's theatre history and is a valuable, accessible resource for present and future generations

The arts is integral to the health of Australia as a whole. It connects people of both differences and similarities. La Mama show cases new work from emerging writer's and directors, new stories, or new interpretations of old stories. It is also the beginning stage for many actors - my son who has just left school, is about to do his first play at La Mama later this year. I'm not from Melbourne, but when I first arrived here 26 years ago, La Mama was where I saw my first play. It engaged me with the city I was about to live in and connected me to an industry that has a huge impact on peoples lives and the country's economy.

Please, please allow these wonderful humans to continue their generosity, so we can all take care of each other...let the arts heal.

Please help La Mama to continue to create, make and explore

SAVE LA MAMA!!!

On behalf of the entire family of writers, actors, musicians, indigenous leaders and thinkers and all who've made us who we are, and teach us what we can be a whole centre of life will close if La Mama is allowed to die

Supporting independent institutions like La Mamma Theatre is crucial to our cultural in the Arts and diversity that Melbourne is renowned for.

La Mama must be supported

Theatres like La Mama are the grass roots of our entertainment industry. Small scale productions, intimate experiences for an audience, are vital for the development of theatre in this country. La Mama has been a Carlton tradition for 50 plus years. Don't let it die now.

La Mama theatre and her community has recently dealt with being burned down to the ground. The Corona Virus shutting down shows dealt the next blow. I am deeply concerned that being defunded by the Australia Council will be too great an additional blow to an already struggling community.

There has been surveys on what attracts the most intelligent and innovative people to a city. It has been documented that people who lead their fields whether from science, business, technology or arts, choose to come to cities where they can be inspired across the board in all areas of endeavour. This cross pollination of creativity drives innovation, wealth and vibrancy to that city. La Mama is one of the cornerstones to the cultural psychology of Melbourne. It has provided Melbourne and Australia with cutting edge creativity, production, and talent development for so long. It would be a great tragedy to lose such an important part of Melbourne's rich and varied culture by not funding La Mama.

La Mama is an integral part of Carlton's community life and of Melbourne and Australia's theatrical history. If there can be grants for football theatre companies deserve them.

La Mama is a leading community-run theatre organisation in Australia that helps the local arts community to flourish. It needs Government funding to survive and nurture the artistic survival of Australian theatre makers.

Viva La Mama

La Mama is unique; timeless and ageless. It offers actors and audiences of all backgrounds the opportunity to experience messages; stories and tales like no other venue.

La Mama is part of Melbourne. It has nurtured so many great talents, been a forum to try out ideas and been a support to thousands of people allowing them to find their voice.

As a Community owned and run theatre La Mama is just so important - giving access to creative and cultural ideas that would otherwise be denied a voice in an increasingly commercialised space where privilege not merit is the currency.

The Arts are integral to our society. The Arts provide mental stimulation, socialisation and entertainment and are essential to a functioning society. The Federal and State Governments need to financially support Artistic venues and performers, directors , producers etc many of whom are casual employees who do not fit in the categories for jobkeeper or jobseeker. Arts will provide a welcome relief to many post COVID19 and need continual funding to ensure their survival.

As an emerging artist still in uni, it is paramount that these packages extend to the arts and entertainment community. It is a spit in the face otherwise considering how much money and tourism is pulls and attracts to our city, supports our rural communities and educates our future talent

Save La Mama!

La Mama shows never fail to impress us as an audience. I have always rated the venue highly as a performer

La Mama would be sorely missed. It is irreplaceable.

La Mama is a cultural icon of Melbourne and it would be a devastating blow if what it currently offers the community has to be curtailed or abandoned. Please do not jeopardize its future by slashing funding.

La Mama has provided accessible opportunities for experimentation, provocation and practice of immeasurable benefit to generations of Australian theatre practitioners and audiences. This space has enabled the development of artists and produced some extraordinary work. A loss of La Mama would be a loss to our community now and in the future. The impact of the art and artists nurtured through la mama and other small and medium arts organisations - who do so very much with so little - is not contained to any one year or season of work. It builds with each artist that discovers something about their craft, and shares it with the next. It multiplies with each audience member who is moved or inspired, of which there have been countless in La Mama's history. It is essential that this company is valued and supported.

La Mama is such an important historical theatre. It was central in the second wave of Australian theatre and has a long history of supporting and showcasing emerging theatre artists. There is no other theatre quite like it in the country. It offers a unique experience for an audience member. It would be a huge loss to Melbourne and the country's cultural production to lose this venue.

We need La Mama to continue its valuable insights into the needs of aspiring artists and performers. Small theatres like LaMama embrace those who have something vital to communicate to an audience in an intimate environment

La Mama has been an institution that is part of the fabric.of Carlton. Losing this valued part of Carlton will have social and commercial impacts on the livelihood of Carlton and Melborune's vibrancy in general.

I have had a reciprocal business relationship with lamama through our regional remote venue in Gippsland. La mama gives artist "on the ground freedom to create" this mentality is a vital stepping stone in a society of manufactured entertainment. Our venue is also in serious danger of not surviving, not through lack of involvement, lack of support or lack of audience but simply a lack of being able to operate to potential since the bush fires and now total hibernation due to

Covid 19. The smaller ground roots arts practices and associated supporting venues need support and especially through this time.

La Mama, and art sectors like it, require support. It isn't a hobby, it's a form of education, a footing to larger economic revenue and social change.

Small independent theatre is vital for a career start in this industry

La Mama is a place and a community that makes Melbourne what it is. It's places like La Mama that establish what Australian culture *is*, and it radiates outward from here into the rest of our country and the world surrounding. Melbourne *needs* La Mama.

La Mama is a lean machine. It has a well tested model that cheaply produces multiple shows all year, with parallel shows in multi performances spaces. Each one of these shows has the potential to develop careers of writers, directors, performers, set designers, musicians, composers, dancers, choreographers, photographers. Can't think of another institution where you get so much creative endeavour for such few dollars! (Big bang for your buck) AND it has a new theatre. Why cut it off at this point?

I implore you to do the right thing and show your support for artists that have had a terrible blow as a result of this pandemic. Do this by providing Australia Council with a recovery package so that they can support the survival of La Mama!

Defunding one of the country's main nursery grounds of performance theatre will have irrevocable outcomes, none of which are good for any of us, let alone the future of the performing arts in this country

Without tat which we call the performing arts and those companies or venues or individual makers who present and /or promote the new, exciting , profound ,wildly frivolous and dangerously challenging ; what are we ?

This organisation has given so much to the Australian cultural landscape and needs to be supported to continue to do so

Australia needs to have theatres reflecting all that goes on in our country. Theatres are the way to do this as they contribute so much to the artistic scene and they need full support.

Losing funding to La Mama will have a devastating and lasting impact on our performing arts industry.

La Mama has shown again and again over the years just how important they are to arts and culture in Australia. This was particularly evident with the outpouring of community support after the fire. It seems unfathomable to leave it unsupported at such a time.

We can't lose La Mama. It's not just a theatre to many of us, it's an institution. You'll hear that a lot, to the point of cliché, but it's said so often because it's true. A place of learning and growth, a hub of community, a place to network and meet peers, elders and future collaborators. Also in the times we're living in right now, small theatres and venues are going to have an even more important role to play. When we finally come out of our burrows after the coronavirus, people are going to be frightened to go to festivals and large scale venues, even assuming that becomes possible in the near future. We're going to need live art and the chance to spend time around other people, but going to a stadium concert is just not going to be a possibility that many of us will be comfortable with. We're going to need our smaller theatres and performance spaces as part of the process of getting back to our lives. Sharing a drink and seeing a show at La Mama is one of the things I'm dreaming of when we're allowed out again. I can't imagine my city without La Mama, and I hope never to need to.

I am very upset by the Australia Council's defunding of La Mama . We need to value the contribution of artists to our society.

La Mama is beyond a theatre company or an arts organisation. It's a family that has supported creatives and their followers for over 50 years.

Viva La Mama!

I am appalled at this decision, not for ideological reasons (though that comes in to it) but because La Mama is demonstrably one of the most important institutions in Australian Theatre and has been consistently recognised as such, both locally and nationally.

It is astounding that this valuable theatrical institution has been left out of the 4-year funding. La

Mama is the only theatre who supports such a huge number of artists annually. This is a massive blow to thousands of artists and audience members in Victoria.

funding for virtual theatre experience and technology

I'm a volunteer at the theatre and know what unique opportunities are available to artists through La Mama. What they offer is valuable and needs support

La Mama is an institution, as important as art galleries and universities, and as important as the AFL, Australian Open and other major events and clubs many of which receive government assistance. The State government and Local Council should also assist. It would be a travesty of culture and history to allow La Mama to close.

The survival of La Mama and others similar is vitally important. We all need theatre etc in our lives, quite apart from the fact so many people depend on it.

We need iconic places that have historical significance from past to present to continue on for artists of the future.

La mama's programs have nurtured Australia's most profilings cultural exports. This is cutting Australian exports off at the knees.

Innovation is paramount in theatre. Last Mamma has been at the helm of this for many years, and continues on its journey to collaborate with new writers, actors, directors and artists within the sector. We cannot lose it!

n/a

La Mama is the most egalitarian arts organisation that exists in Melbourne, it provides a platform for all, be they emerging or veteran theatre makers. It is part of the soul of the city of Melbourne.

The arts industry: -is an ecology that is interdependent. The large companies need the small to medium activities to keep up the connections, the inspiration, the places where writers, performers musicians develop. Without these stepping stones what a hollow thing is the arts. - contributes enormously to the economic and cultural vibrancy of the city. At a time when the arts industry is so severely impacted we desperately need to keep the ecology sustained.

Grassroots arts and artist development is an integral part of modern psychic and cultural health which La Mama fosters.

For more than half a century LaMama has shone a light on and for new writers, actors, theatre workers, performance methodologies, the young and the old, and audiences from all cultures and backgrounds. LaMama has been a home for poets, musicians and souls in search of inspiration, experimentation and a community, a sense of place that is safe and one that nourishes the life of the imagination. This is the very stuff we yearn for and need now as our society becomes more and more inequitable and the 'arts' are downgraded in universities and institutions/bureaucracies where bums on seats and marketing departments rule. This is why we have seen the flourishing of small presses, magazine culture, pop up galleries, home concerts - people will make their own communities. LaMama has survived calamities that very few small organisations would and could survive such as the threat of the loss of the building and then some years later the consuming fire that destroyed the bricks and mortar but never the spirit of LaMama. This is because LaMama has created a dedicated community of ordinary folk, professional people from all walks and indeed governments and businesses - people who have recognised LaMama's standing in the community, her generosity and preparedness to take the risks which enable the new, the unknown and voices from the edges to be heard.

There is no doubt in my mind - we need La Mama - for what it stands for, it's values and what it gives to our community

Please reinstate this vital theatre's funding and if you can't, please advocate as hard as you can for a lifeline to be offered. It's too important to lose.

No

i think in these trying times a place like la mama is particularly important

I value La Mama as a place that fosters emerging talent. I particularly like the Poetica sessions.

Will write and pray. And buy another lottery ticket. I need some extra cash - will give you as

much as possible should a winning ticket come along.

We have already lost many great businesses...why jeopardise culture, education, community and artit is what we will need in the future more than a job..

Without a healthy small-to-medium sector, to which La Mama is of national importance, the entire - delicate - ecosystem of our performing arts industry in Australia is put at risk. Remove the base, the structure loses its foundations. Cut off the roots, and nothing will grow. In small-to-medium, we are the base. And we are the roots. And La Mama is where we thrive.

In a fast changing world where your opinions and values seem of so little importance it is so important to have LaMama where one can come back to and relive and recover again and again the touch stone to live theatre

The Arts has always been and always will be a means to lift human spirit out of trauma, heart ache and suffering. Without the arts, society is meaningless. The Arts industry must survive in these uncertain times.

DON'T KILL LA MAMA!!

LaMama is a unique organisation and venue that assists original artist to produce and perform their own works. There is no other venue in Melbourne so dedicated. We need it. We want it. We see and understand more about who we are through the opportunities of LaMama gives our artistic community. Please support it.

It must survive! Shocking state of affairs!

Venues like LaMama need to survive. They are a backbone to the arts

This institution has gotten through so much, don't let it die now!

The artists..backstage crew..the musicians...the front of house crew..producers..directors..advertisers..marketing managers all should be receiving assistance. Make It Happen sooner rather than later.

Love you La Mama

Without La Mama, my career would not have developed in the way it did. La Mama proper provided a space in which artist felt free to experiment and learn - there is very few professional venues in Melbourne (if any) aside from education facilities, in which this is possible. La Mama Courthouse is again, one of the few venues left in Melbourne operating as professional independent venue, in which artists can gain support for new work and new writing. La Mama are champions of women in theatre and I will always be grateful to them for the opportunities they have provided me and for those I hope in the future!

Please allow us to remain to be a part in Lamama theatre by supporting the actual theatre place. #weallcomefromlamama

I would like at some point to perform and share my art at La Mama. It's really important this institution remains open and funded

La Mama is an iconic theatre & MUST be saved for future artists/performers and lovers of live theatre.

Not really

Save La Mama!

La Mama's impact is high for such little investment compared to any of the MPAB. We have tired of seeing the MPAB's funded to the detriment of the S2M sector. There just needs to be more funding for these organisations. Be more like Scandanavia & the UK - not like the US or Asia. Australia has world-class art, but is not funded as such. It exploits artists & requires only privileged artists (ie those who can take the risk) to make art. This is not the art I want to see. This is not Australia's stories.

Theatres like this are vital for the Australian Arts Community and ensuring Australian stories are told & voices are heard. We need LaMama to ensure the longevity of Australian work for artists

Keep fighting the good fight

Without the services that LaMama provides our community would be so much poorer. We need

these affordable experiences for ourselves and our students. The experiences offered here help our community to be educated and to explore the full gamut of what it is to be human

La Mama supports the development of drama productions that are unique and engaging.. but would likely not be able to make it to theatres because of the complexity of creating a production and the expense. These productions hold so much value to the community and they are essential!

I travel 300km to go there and never been let down. Thanks for such an amazing environment and shows.

La Mama is so integral to the arts community in Australia as a place for artists to develop and strive.

La mama is the heart of indie theatre

A significant part of Melbourne's cultural heritage and future.

This company has opened so many of my students eyes to shows beyond the large musical, it has inspired many of them to develop diverse artistic work

La Mama is a hugely important piece of Melbourne and Australia's artistic and creative heritage and is essential to Australia's cultural health now more than ever.

La Mama is an Australian institution that both needs and is entitled to ongoing OzCo support

Like an elder in a cultural community, LaMama is the elder of experimental theatre to all Australians, a model to be valued and emulated, rewarded and treasured.

The demise of la mama is nothing short of catastrophic to Melbourne's arts landscape

LaMama is the foundation stone of artistic endeavour for Drama in Melbourne... and beyond!

Save La Mama

La Mama has been an important fixture on the Art's landscape. I first attended as a student and have attended as a VCE drama teacher. The survival of the theatre is as important as the art that we breathe and without it, important aspects of our culture as Victorians and Australians is lost forever.

We need to support the arts in these moments - there is such a loss to society when we don't.

Do NOT be short sighted about what is valuable in our community. This is an HISTORICAL space for cultural engagement of all ages, it represents connection, sharing of ideas and the exchange of ideas that supports our mental health and well being.

La Mama presents plays that are highly valuable for my students and their productions regularly appear on the playlist for VCE Theatre Studies and VCE drama students to analyse and evaluate for their studies.

The government needs to step up to ensure that somewhere like La Mama that offers such a breadth of culture and artistic wisdom can be supported.

La Mama is a part of the culture of Melbourne. The loss of this theatre would impact developing artists and make it so much harder for Australia to maintain the high standard of performance artists we have the potential to develop.

the financial cost of supporting La Mama is outweighed a million times by the value La Mama brings to our community.

Melbourne, Melbourne actors, Melbourne audiences, Melbourne writers and directors - none of us can afford to lose any more vibrant, professional and dedicated developmental and performance venues. La Mama is unique in Australia - its history alone should ensure its survival and the continued support of all Arts bodies. Too important to be lost in a time when our arts and cultural institutions have never been of greater importance to the life quality of everyone.

La Mama has such a significant place in the history and development of Australian theatre it is vital that it should be supported and protected. Without the arts we are nothing and La Mama is a very valuable part of our arts history and future.

Your service is greatly appreciated by Theatre Studies teachers and students.

Supporting friends in the industry

When times are difficult people need theatre to shine a light on the eternal question of what it means to be human.

If we don't support our artists at initiation level, the knock-on effect will be a loss of up-put and feed-through to the rest of the theatre arts further up the chain. You have to plant and nurture a seed before it can grow. No soil, no seed: no growth.

I look forward to being part of an audience again. Society itself is based on the interaction between people as personified by the theatre experience at La Mama.

The arts build our community.

As a Drama teacher of almost 20 years, LaMama not only provides supports and platforms for artists but is invaluable in providing access to performances for my students. I work in a low socio economic area where students simply cannot afford to see big productions (let's face it, as a teacher neither can I). LaMama provides opportunities for all of us to see theatre and participate in it. I saw my first production at LaMama in 1996 as a teenager and it has shaped the Drama teacher I am today. I owe a big part of who I am to LaMama. The fire was devastating, but this lack of funding, after all the communities efforts, after all the ways the community rallied together to show how important LaMama is, this is simply heart breaking.

La Mama is a vital aspect of the Performing Arts industry in Australia both historically and today.

I was a year 10 work experience student at La Mama and loved it so much

An artist's income is, most often, a tenuous one. We most often work several jobs at once in order to survive between acting gigs. The survival of theatre artists depends upon the availability of community spaces, performance spaces through which we can connect with other artists and WORK - to perform the social task with which we are charged - that is, 'to hold, as 'twere, a mirror up to nature, to show virtue her own feature, scorn her own image and the very age and body of the time, his form and pressure' (Hamlet, Act III, Sc ii). Without La Mama and other small theatre companies the purpose of theatre as an art form is denied. Theatre is for ordinary people. We cannot afford, as a nation, to deprive people of contact with live performance. We will be much poorer if we do. I urge the government to extend funding to theatre and theatre artists and theatres such as La Mama.

My favourite memory was the performance in Avoca of Uncle Vania with sessions spread over a weekend.

Give LA MAMA the funding it deserves.

LaMama is crucial not only for its historical cultural contribution and role in supporting and maintaining the theatrical community but because it supports the development of new artists - the change-makers and story tellers of future generations

La Mama is a vital space and vital conduit for our arts community. It helps to maintain Melbourne's quality of arts productions, but also our reputation as the most inclusive, progressive, contemporary, relevant artistic community in Australia.

The withdrawal of financial support by the Council has impacts far wider than they have considered. Anything is better than nothing.

The loss of Australia Council funding to La Mama is a travesty and a squandering of the historical and contemporary value of one of Australia's most important cultural spaces. La Mama is a sacred cultural space and the loss of funding is a gut punch to the dramatic arts in Australia and to all those who have invested so much of their lives in it. If La Mama cannot survive without this funding -which it may not - the Australia Council and this current government will have robbed Australia of an integral part of its cultural future.

Only I love LA mama

The arts has suffered from funding cuts time and time again. Artists are already struggling in Australia and have been for decades. It is so important to recognise the contributions of Australian creatives both because of their incredible contribution to the Australian economy and due to their cultural contribution. Australia would be a less colourful place without venues like la mama

This organization is fundamental to us all, Artist and public at large. It's used and natures us all The heart ♥ and soul of any country depends on how it's artist and venues are treated

I am not an actor - I am a musician. But I have presented and been involved at La Mama via music, dance, visual art and theatre. I have worked alongside internationally renowned master instrumentalists as well as amateur community members. I have encountered people at La Mama that I have then crossed paths with in all sorts of other places since. And these people are incredibly diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity, geography and generation. La Mama has been an inspiration for the events I have directed and created. I can't express strongly enough just how important La Mama is to Australia's cultural fabric.

Sometimes it seems that The Arts become 'bottom of the barrel' when it comes to funding - and that's in the best of times. We can't allow Theatre Companies like La Mama to struggle, unsupported, during difficult times like the current COVID crisis. Please find a way to help support La Mama, and other Performing Arts companies like them. Their positive influence on the education sector, not to mention the mental-health and well-being of thousands who see and enjoy their inspirational & entertaining shows, must not be underestimated.

In a world that's chaotic and uncertain, it's the arts that teach us about empathy and hope. It's the arts that lift us up as a society and shines a mirror on injustice but also on the best parts of who we are. The arts remind us over and over again of the consequence of our choices so that we may never forget what was done and so that we may strive to be better. Local organisations like La Mama are at the grass roots of this movement, it's integral to schools and to upcoming artists and to an audience who maybe can't afford big ticket prices. La Mama gives a voice to those who otherwise might not be heard.

SAVE LA MAMA! It is imperative for the community and the arts sector

The government needs to value and support our artists!!! Not just use them! The starving artist should be a thing of the past! We need to nurture our creative people- their contribution to our quality of life is enormous!

In order for artists to build a career they need a space where they can experiment and fail and learn. La Mama offers exactly this sort of space. And there is nothing quite so wonderful as watching all the brilliant successes that come out of those failures.

Without community, small and independent arts bodied like La Mama, the Australian cultural and artistic landscape will be so much the poorer and we as a society will wither

Cultural institutions, like La Mama occupy a special, essential place in our society - they should be better supported.

It is our governments obligation to support the Arts. La Mama is a part of Australia's theatre history and needs support.

La Mama is a unique and safe space for audience members to attend. I have often seen myself represented on the La Mama stage in a way I have not seen in other performing arts venues.

La mama is a life source for creative arts in Melbourne. It has to be protected and sustained

The world needs The Arts - and The Arts needs community-minded companies like LaMama to provide high quality, accessible theatre that our country has become renowned for. La Mama supports so many, and she deserves our support as a government now!

Melbourne without La Mama is a terrifyingly bleak prospect. This is part of Melbourne's soul.

There are a small handful of venues in Melbourne that I regard as keystone species in the ecology of this city. La Mama is a corner block, and a big one at that. Many of the notable venues and cultural experiences above it, as shiny as there are, sit firmly over this corner.

La Mama has to survive - without it Melbournes audiences, theatre and music makers would be absolutely bereft it would be a travesty.

La Mama is a well loved Melbourne institution that had nurtured the early efforts of playwrights who have gone on to become important voices in the community. Do not let it go under.

La Mama have played a critical role in supporting avant-garde and fringe theatre in Melbourne since the '60s

Theatre life in our city would be so much less richer without La Mama. It's presence and service to the arts community has developed writers, actors, directors more than any other and it is vital that it is funded and be allowed to continue well into the future.

It is difficult to overstate the importance of La Mama. Even more difficult to understand the current lack of funding for such a seminal venue.

La Mama is the most important developmental theatre in Australia

To allow the end of La Mama is to allow the death of Melbourne's own theatrical history.

Theatre will help us all survive The assault of corona virus

For the future of theatre in Australia, it is imperative that La Mama is fully funded in perpetuity.

A community without Arts is one without soul

La Mama is a treasure. It continues to evolve and support the careers of an extraordinary amount of artists. Its ongoing survival is of paramount importance to the performing arts, not only in Melbourne, but also the rest of Australia.

At the age of 18 La Mama introduced me to a world and creative community that I would never have experienced otherwise, it changed my life and is critical to the theatre and Melbourne community.

Please, please, please continue to support La Mama.

La Mama is a cornerstone of theatre in Melbourne, and is a valuable contribution to Melbourne's culture through its support of independent artists and helping expose audiences to new ideas and is a starting point for many artists and productions to take flight. Without funding I believe this would be a devastating blow to the state of the arts in Melbourne, and we would be losing a significant amount without independent theatres such as La Mama getting continued support.

La mama provides a cultural and economic hub in the city of melbourne

It would be such a shame to see this already fragile industry lose an institution that fosters emerging talent, and new voices. It would be a loss for our community and our cultural sector.

The ecology of theatre and arts in Australia, and in Melbourne in particular, would simply cease to function without La Mama. It is that important.

Without the Arts we dry up and die as a Community. La Mama has been championing new authors & actors since it began, & is integral in the development & traoning of new generations of performers.

It is not just a venue, La Mama is a critical element of the arts ecology of Melbourne.

La Mama has supported many artisans since the late 60's and needs to be funded.

La Mama plays such an integral role in the Arts scene of Melbourne and should be supported by the State Government to give the Theatre going public a chance to enjoy further productions

La Mama, to me as a young artist, stands as a vital pillar of Melbourne and indeed Australian Theatre. It provides theatre makers with the opportunity to tell their stories on a stage renowned as a cultural champion of independent performance.

La Mama must continue to flourish, providing an audience for future generations of writers and actors, directors and designers.

If we don't look after our creative institutions we will all suffer in terms of our enjoyment, our understanding and our appreciation of different perspectives. I hope La Mama is around for a very long, long time

This theatre and many others across Australia provide critical support to the arts. This affects domestic and international tourism and reputation.

PLEASE DO NOT STOP FUNDING THIS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT ARTS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE, ESPECIALLY IN THESE TIMES WHEN IT IS, AND WILL BE, NEEDED MOST!!!

La Mama MUST be support - its fantastic work and its valued place in Melbournes cultural

history MUST be preserved and continued.

Please ask wealthy organisations, companies and government bodies to dig into their profit margins in this time of need.

La Mama is vital for the arts ecology in Australia. It's a brilliant and beautiful place.

Long live La Mama!

Full support for La Mama

La Mama is an incredible Melbourne institution. It must stay running!!

The social value of the arts is poorly recognised by the government as is the impact on the people who work in the art sector, many of whom do not have ongoing income.

Especially at this time artists need support and they spend a lot of time supporting other causes when needed, so we should make sure they are able to stay in the industry. We cannot afford to lose these talented performers and technicians.

La Mama is simply a necessity in our arts ecology

Goddam good luck. With the re-build of your new space, I am sure there is a strong future for La Mama

No

La Mama is the testing ground for artists -- it's where careers are nurtured, new ideas are wrestled with, and new movements formed. Without a properly resourced La Mama, with properly supported and paid La Mama staff, the arts in Melbourne would flounder.

La Mama is an incredible community hub, and plays a hugely important role in the social fabric of Melbourne. La Mama has made it through some tough times, in particular the fire that burnt down the Faraday St base, and the supportive community response to the fire shows just how important the theatre is to Melbourne. Please extend funding to La Mama.

Over many years I have seen such a variety of performances and performers at La Mama. It is such an important place for people to experiment, develop and perform their artistic practice. La Mama is a vital cornerstone of the Australian artistic community. It is a place where people can find their voice and create a voice for all of us. La Mama is so important for us to develop Australian voices, especially now.

As an ordinary average Australian, I want La Mama to stay for it is an important part of our history that highlights what it is to be Australian.

La Mama has been/is an integral part of the development of future generations of theatre/arts practitioners, giving the young a valuable training ground and the more experience the opportunity to experiment and draw courage and effect audiences.

I am shocked that a PILLAR OF THE ARTS institution like La Mama is not recognised as integral to the arts and worthy of government support. I am saddened by the money given to opera, ballet and mainstream theatre which only appeals to white middle-class audiences. LA MAMA programs work that appeals to all ages, races, demographics, socio-economic backgrounds. It also programs award winning work - first time platforms for new artists. Without it, there would be no other place to experiment and grow artistic careers!!

Reconsider the decision to not fund La Mama. It is an iconic venue in the world of Australasian Theatre and given its resurrection after the recent fire is poised to take its rightful place as one of the key venues in Melbourne for experiencing the diverse range of performance arts in Victoria.

The creative arts are the beating heart of society and must be appreciated and supported.

The recent decision to not fund La Mama has rocked everybody, particularly after the fire that destroyed the building, and especially after its Artistic Director, its Executive Director, and its Chair, have all received significant awards/acknowledgements for their contributions to the industry, much of it via their tireless work for La Mama and its community. It is an unfathomable decision. It diminishes the Australia Council, who, to be fair, I don't envy, because they have been stripped of funds for so long. The Billion dollar plus contribution of the arts to the Australian economy has been stated time and time again. To not fund La Mama, at this most

crucial of times, as it starts to rebuild after the devastating fire that destroyed it, sends out a powerful and depressing message that La Mama is not deserving, that the thousands of artists who work there every year, esp those who are emerging and developing don't matter, and don't deserve a publicly funded theatre that provides them with full independence to make any kind of work they want to make. This decision must be reversed. La Mama has enriched the Australian theatre landscape for too long and is a treasured engine room of new work. Please reinstate their funding, for all of us, and for the next generation of theatre makers and story tellers.

Please don't let the very thing we are all currently clinging to for sanity go down the plug hole. There are AUSTRALIAN voices working on stories that should be told.

La Mama provides a unique experience for audiences and actors.

Such a Carlton and Melbourne icon.

No

I think Melbourne needs La Mama. There is nothing like it, even in the appearance of the place. It has a unique theatre culture. I once met a medical specialist who was in Melbourne for a conference and who walked Chapel Street asking where he could find great experimental theatre and was told to try La Mama. He was very happy with what he found!

In my view La Mama is like the beating heart of theatre in Victoria, possibly in Australia. It provides opportunity and nurture for artists from all walks of life, and it offers an enormous smorgasbord of creative experiences for audiences. This has been seen in the outpouring of community support following last year's tragic fire. It would be a creative and artistic travesty to cut La Mama off at the knees.

The survival of la mama is essential too the healthy ecosystem of the Australian theatre industry

La Mama is an integral part of our community and it's support for the Arts is necessary.

As a taxpayer and citizen I trust that the Australia Council will reconsider its decision to withdraw core funding from La Mama, especially following the recent fire at the Faraday St theatre.

La Mama Theatre is the most established and accomplished, theatrical institutions in the country. There is no justification for reduction in funding

La Mama is an essential institution within the Melbourne Arts Community. it has been a place that nurtures and develops artists. The fact that it has not received funding is bewildering and I think Melbourne is worse off for it.

LaMama is a staple of the Melbourne arts community. The opportunities it provides and support it gives to artists and it's community is second to none. LaMama puts back into its own community like no one else and we will lose so much in the way of art without it.

La Mama is the lifeblood of Melbourne independent theatre.

A healthy democracy allows space for different voices and it looks like the government is trying to defund voices that don't say what they want.

Love you all xx

I love the intimacy of the theatre experience at La Mama.

REINSTATE LA MAMA. THE WHOLE STATE IS WAITING WITH BATED BREATH!

This is the only theatre we can afford to go to and it would take away a big part of my life.

Its appalling they did not get Australia Council Funding

I see La Mama's dedication to the support of new work, of Australian work, as a driving force in the health and wellbeing of our own community, even more so in this year 2020 and beyond.

I have been on stage at La Mama. I am no artist.

We need formative theatrical venues to create rich culture. None is better than La Mama

I and my partner donated financial support to the theatre. Our support not just words, but it has

been real money

x

Just my passion for a unique and important theatre and its generosity to this city and what a tragedy it would be to deprive current and future theatre makers and audiences access to it.

La Mama is essential to Melbourne but also provides a critical support service to regional areas of Victoria.

La mama is a precious part of Melbourne Theatre it encourages new work for new artist and not so new it's an institution it can't be lost

La Mama is an essential element in building Victoria's capability of maintaining a healthy Arts community which pays both economic and cultural dividends to the broader community. It is also part of our Arts history and future.

La Mama and organisations like it play a vital role in the performing arts ecology and it is imperative that they have the resources to continue to flourish and nurture independent/ emerging artists at this critical time.

La Mama is a Melbourne institution.

no. I have said enough

No

La mama is essential to creativ e theatre life in Melbourne.

I did work experience at La Mama as a teenager, saw work as I studied and then began performing there going into my career. This venue is a part of my history and I believe it should be a part of my future as well

I hope our government understands how theatres like La Mama are essential in development of our culture and our history as the great nation

La Mama's legacy to Australian Theatre is the strongest of any small company in Australia. Without this legacy there would be no Australian Theatre. Would you destroy an artefact such as the Queen Victoria monument in the Botanical Gardens? Does that monument still provide a function? Is it useful? Do we need it? What purpose does it serve in the 21st century. Theatre is a transient art form and that's why it's so easy to dismiss and forget. But in this time of world crisis how many theatre artists are we downloading to provide us with entertainment or solace? And then are we to be thrown on the scrap heap when you no longer need us.

La mama's support for emerging independent artists and new work is like no other, it is integral to the community and it's loss will be felt greatly.

La Mama is a cultural icon and intergral part of Melbourne. I'll continue to attend La Mama.

I hope Australia Council changes its mind and restores 4 year funding for La Mama.

save La Mama, create community and arts economy.

It is down right appalling that this is on the chopping block. Shameful.

La Mama plays an important role in the community and deserves to be supported.

Small theatre are an essential part of any community. As important as schools and places of worship.

.

Australia must support our organisations like La Mama that support us and allow us to become better and stronger Artists. With this we give back to Australia.

Our artists need a life line - it's essential \$\$ flows to la mama

La Mama needs ongoing Government support for the wellbeing of performers, playwrights and supporters

I can't imagine Carlton without La Mama. How poor we will be if funding is not reinstated. To the funding Bodies- Listen to the voices of people who have loved and cherished La Mama.

no

Smaller arts organizations contribute so much to the community and don't attract the big private corporate funding. I want my taxes to support this vital sector.

I am aware that the Australia Council has had to make extremely difficult decisions as a result of their own funding cuts. But La Mama does not become less valuable or less relevant with the years, but remains one of our most inspiring institutions.

Giving opportunities to growth in theatre and live performance

I love La Mama, so intimate, so diverse, so unique! La Mama is a Melburnian treasure that needs to be supported, as La Mama supports and nurtures the artistic community. Just look at how many artists, some of world renown, have cut their teeth at La Mama, that cannot be denied nor disregarded. We need La Mama!

Please, please support the arts. Especially long-standing and important institutions such as La Mama ...and Australian Book Review which is really, really important in Lockdown times

La Mama deserves our support and respect, just like she has supported and nurtured our arts community for many years. Give La Mama more funding so that she can support the community. Every \$1 you spend here helps so many more people.

no

La Mama is critical to the meaning of culture in Australia.

Theatre is a community practice, post Covid 19, La Mama will be an essential tool for bringing people together in a meaningful and joyous celebration of our ephemeral selves.

No

live theatre is such a potent influence and reflection of society. It was once viewed as an essential antidote to politics and commerce.... How did it become so disregarded?

This theatre must survive for future performers , artistes & writers to further & develop new & original Australian work.

La Mama plays an essential, and sometimes thankless, role in Australia's arts ecology.

To the Government: total disgust. To La Mama and its artists: I admire your bravery on all fronts!

La Mama is an integral part of Melbourne and its cultural life for both emerging and established artists.

La Mama is unique in the Australian landscape, supporting emerging and experimental work that is un-or under-supported by government agencies. It is vital that this theatre receive funding - it is the original and best!

La Mama offers a development process for Australian artists that is invaluable and has been sustained throughout many difficult situations. The current situation, however, is wholly unprecedented and I urge the government to protect the value of this remarkable institution for future generations.

La Mama is a place that supports uniquely Australian voices and gives them a place to start. It is a space that supports voices that often don't find a place elsewhere. I have found La Mama to be a vital part of the fabric of Carlton. However, La Mama doesn't just make Carlton better. It contributes to Melbourne, Australia, and the arts community internationally.

It's an astonishing short-sighted decision to pull money out of a company that has done so much, for so many, for so long. What the hell were you thinking?

The Arts are so important to the community in general and they must be supported and cherished. As a percentage of government spending the money the Arts need is so small but does so much good that it is hard to understand when wonderful organisations get their funding taken away - it makes me sad and cross at the same time.

Thank you for all you have done

LaMama needs support from State and Federal Governments

No

LaMama, like many other small arts organisations and independent artists, is the victim of a broken funding system that silos off money for large arts companies to the expense of the rest of the sector. The current government has failed all Australians by not offering targeted support for Australian arts and culture to manage through the Covid-19 crisis. This, on top of years of slow starvation of the sector. Shame!

La Mama is not only the birthplace of contemporary Australian theatre. It's not only the reason we have Williamson, Gow et al. It is the place where extraordinary, necessary theatre is made now. La Mama is not just its history. It's our future.

Don't let the hearts and our souls of our community be lost, at the expense of pragmatism.

Fund La Mama. Fund our culture. Fund our humanity

La Mama not only provides opportunities of cultural exchange between artists and communities, for DECADES it has bolstered the notion that Melbourne is a city of significant cultural interest - which in turn has leveraged governments and tourism, while raising the Melbourne's international profile as a major Arts City - an absolute cultural mecca. The government needs to put their money their mouth is. Artist merit doesn't always reside in large public monuments being arts centres and larger arts organisations performing works that were written from another time and place. Artistic merit is when art is presented in the way La Mama always has and that's through inclusion while celebrating diversity. Give La Mama back their funding - and know that you owe them ALOT more than just that.

I have posted a little piece of my history on Facebook

No

The new building is the moment for La Mama to thrive, and develop a new agenda for the twenty-first century - it needs support to do that.

The survival of La Mama in its current form is essential for the long-term survival of theatre in Melbourne, if not Australia. It's as simple as that.

La Mama should be promoted and protected by the Australian Government as the model of an accessible Arts Organisation that fosters artists and audiences.

In a crisis such as COVID-19 people turn to the Arts, not just to stop themselves climbing the walls but to understand what's going on. We perform a vital social service in preserving the nation's mental health and providing hope and direction when the crisis is over.

This precious Organization must not be allowed to die due to lack of support.

La Mama not only provides professional opportunities, training, and employment to people involved in the creative arts sector. It also makes their important, thought-provoking performances more accessible to the general public. La Mama takes this responsibility to social equity very seriously, including by bringing performances to school children throughout Melbourne and across the state. For decades, La Mama's commitment to touring, and to community development, has enabled school children and community groups across Victoria to participate in the creative arts, and to think more fulsomely and productively about matters of social justice. La Mama supports the telling of local stories, of little known stories, of stories of minority and marginalised individuals and groups. This critical aspect of its work helps heal prejudices and rifts through providing opportunities to share knowledge, feelings, and understanding. Its contribution to Australian cultural life, and to community well being, is outstanding.

The artists and performers who need the most support are those who are starting out. I think the importance of organisations like La Mama shouldn't be underestimated in mentoring the stars of tomorrow.

La Mamma is more than a venue but a Melbourne institution whose reputation is built on bringing new and diverse talkent to Melbourne and the broader arts scene

La Mama, like many other theatre locations through out Australia create strong links to our communities. It is our civil duty to support them.

Although I haven't attended a performance, well at least for a few decades, La Mama is an Australian cultural icon that should be funded. Without art there is no life.

La Mama has been at the forefront of new Australian theatre for over 50 years. La Mama has been instrumental in developing what we acknowledge as the Australian theatre scene.

Not funding La Mama and other similar establishments across the country will decimate Australian culture and identity. How will Australian's get to tell their stories? To both Australian's and the world.

Small and grassroots arts are essential for community and society at all levels

La Mama has been so important in the cultural history of Australia, developing countless actors, writers and producers as well as exploring ideas about who we are as a people. Defunding this extraordinary dynamo of creative endeavours is to tear at the soul of Australia and deny future generations the place to incubate ideas and forge a passion for the arts.

Please fund La Mama. It will not survive otherwise, and this will leave a huge hole in Melbourne's theatre scene.

In teaching, we have come to understand that teaching students to use their Higher Order Thinking (HOT) skills is more beneficial to their learning than simple rote memorising. The Arts and Drama fully encompass HOT learning. The Arts are incredibly vital to people's well being and personal growth. They MUST be funded

La Mama is the one theatre I am always happy to try something new at. The shows are always worth seeing.

This essential organisation, and others like it around Australia, give new theatre, and hard working artists, the stage they need to develop, challenge and enlighten. Threatening companies like this threatens the future of our mainstage companies—if brilliant theatre makers have nowhere to flex and test their creativity, we're doomed to lose talent to countries that value them more. Our cultural output will cease. Our relevance will diminish. Say goodbye to Australian stories on Australian stages. It is a monumental shame, to see small-to-medium organisations plundered like this.

Melbourne's theatre and performance scene is unimaginable without La Mama. It is cutting the tree off at the roots to not give them funding. They do so much on so little. They are extraordinary. A world in which are not afforded the pittance which they require to do their work, is a world which is grey, utilitarian and useless.

La mamá is crucial to the arts

La Mama is at the foundation of theatre making and the creative arts in Australia. It must continue and be supported.

Everyone who has been prevented from doing their usual work should get a living wage.

The role La Mama plays as a supportive, encouraging and artistically exciting venue is invaluable. To lose this would rob Melbourne's theatre community of works from voices yet to come up. Development opportunities and support from La Mama have always been part of my "plan" as an emerging artist.

La Mama is also a part of MELBOURNE theatre history. We cannot lose it!!

You will find a way

Please let La Mama survive!

In the light of current events, when the world needs community inspiration, support and hope, the removal of such small grants seems very petty and trivial and is being hidden in the greater crisis happening now

We cannot let an icon like La Mama fall. We must save our theatre history and strengthen it for future generations to continue to create art that brings us all together. Community. Connection. Creation - La Mama.

It's fundamental to both the poetry & theatre scene that this venue continue to be supported financially - vital in fact

My first professional performance on graduating was at La Mama- such a vital organisation at the forefront of creating opportunities for emerging theatre practitioners - an essential part of the arts ecology in Melbourne and this ripples way beyond the borders.

Removing funding from such an exceptionally worthwhile company makes no sense at all. Nurturing and supporting new Australian artists makes a valuable contribution to the heart of this country.

La Mama is the heart of Melbourne theatre. Without La Mama emerging artists have no place to call home. The Government should provide a relief package to save La Mama and the creative community. Losing La Mama would be a tragedy that the arts community will never overcome.

This wonderful institution is such an important part of the Melbourne arts community and that community not only brings in huge amounts of revenue for the state/country, but it also is a vital part of what makes Melbourne Melbourne. Without its arts community Melbourne will stop being a cultural capital.

This whole problem of a cut in funding should be moot- because it shouldn't exist! La Mama helps us build Australian culture. Without places like this we lose our cultural identity. It's the equivalent of all the local shops on a high street being wiped out and only Woolies, Coles, Target, McDonalds left.

It would be sad that La Mama was not supported since it plays a vital role in Melbourne art scene.

No

La Mama is the public face of community theatre with a very big C. It is not appropriate to measure it within its own postcode, nor to measure it by the size of a given audience for a specific workshop/performance. I live in the country, but will gladly make the journey to an evening of specific interest to me. I am also a repeat attendee, so need to be counted more than once.

La Mama is a Melbourne Cultural institution that needs to be protected

La Mama is the beating heart of Melbourne theatre. It has a proven track record of nurturing artists and theatre--making across 50 years. It is deservedly respected and loved by the arts community. Long live La Mama!

No

I think of La Mama as being a wonderful laboratory. Experiments carried out. And from these experiments come wonderful discoveries which add richness and vibrancy and life to our cultural life. A thing to note is during the Corona Virus pandemic we are all of us around the world looking to the arts to entertain us and make lockdown bearable. The artists making the programmes, films, comedies and drama don't spontaneously spring up. They grow and are nurtured by theatres just like La Mama. We can't do without La Mama. She is a treasure.

No - other than to stress the importance of the arts, and the importance of having a venue that allows new artists/ theatre creators to realise their potential in a supportive environment.

It is where original Australian plays get a start. We need this.

A place like La Mama is going to be more vital after this pandemic as artists will be in dire financial distress and La Mama can be there to help them get back to what they do, make theatre.

La Mama is a pivotal part of the Melbourne theatre scene.

La Mama was the first venue I performed in when I first moved to Melbourne. It has been a welcoming and nurturing home for many creatives. A wonderful venue for new work to test its feet and grow. Myself and the independent theatre scene could not imagine a Melbourne without La Mama.

La Mama is a special theatre. It holds a special place in the theatre community of Melbourne which is why we rallied so hard to keep it alive after the fire. I think something will dull in the city without it. And I think the effect of losing the space will be felt for a long time. It is a space to test new ideas, develop theories and create work in new ways. Without La Mama we will be losing a key player in the development of artists in the city and the country.

The range and depth of La Mama's activities is unmatched for quality and variety.

Please cast your eyes towards New Zealand as a model. If they can see arts as an imperative

part of whole-of-community life and support it as such, why can't Australia?

I'd like to thank La Mama for all their hard work over the years and hope that their funding from the Federal Government will be restored. They deserve every cent that's spent on them!

Coupled with the defunding of other organisations that support new Australian work and new Australian writing for the stage, it's very difficult not to view this snub as a pointed and ideological one. It makes no rational sense to me.

Having served on many funding panels over the years, I have always respected the process and even in the face of painful cuts have often felt there is sound (if unpalatable reasoning) behind those hard decision... and (in truth) have sometimes been party to them myself... what I also know is that there are occasions when the tough funding decision focused on an individual company when scrutinised closely can be seen to be far too damaging for the cultural ecology that the theatre company in question serves... in those cases, I have also respected the integrity of the decision making process that recognises the 'knock on' effect and resists the 'quick fix' of the funding cut in favour of maintaining the extended reach of the value of the funding dollar to the beneficiaries of that funding whose work exists outside of (but often because of) the funded theatre company... with all that in mind, I cannot make sense of this decision... it doesn't resonate with any funding process I have been part of and leaves me feeling that, in the case of the Australia Council at least, my faith in and respect for the process is sadly misplaced...

No!

This government is gutting our culture. It has to stop.

It beggars belief that La Mama is not being treated as a major stage, a major player in Victoria's theatrical landscape. This shows a profound lack of recognition regarding La Mama's history and ongoing role in the Australian arts.

La Mama is a vital part of the theatre scene of Melbourne and Australia as a whole. It requires government funding to survive. It is crucial that the federal government continues to support it.

i am outraged ,shocked and saddened by this news.

There is always someone worse of than ourselves. This is something I have heard many times in the last week's.

No

I think it is critical to have a range of spaces to incubate new ideas and performances. La Mama also represents a link to the history of theatre in Australia and should be preserved.

Give la mama full finacial support!!!!

La mama (and all small- medium arts institutions) play an integral role in both bringing arts to the community, and in giving opportunities for actors, performers, directors etc to develop and show their craft.

La Mama is always trying to give more and more opportunities for artists and theatre lovers regardless of earnings. As a volunteer at the theatre, I do wish La Mama could get supported and survive in the crisis.

I can't understand that the Artists and Artist venue's are missing out on much needed support. Art is integral to human existence.

It is a unique theatre with a marvellous history and record in providing opportunities for artists

Do not let La Mama lose its funding. La Mama is too important.

La Mama works as a critical incubator. Money spent there has a massive knock-on effect in developing community and industry.

The local small business that La Mama represents needs all the support we can give them in this difficult time.

Please support La Mama and live arts in Australia. The whole community and social fabric will benefit from them.

It would be a tragedy for La Mama to close

La Mama's represents to me the place to go to experience new and experimental theater. It has always done that for me and for the whole arts and theater community.

There's no other theatre quite like La Mama in Australia. It offers accessibility coupled with the opportunity for artists to experiment, develop and grow. It's an essential part of our arts ecosystem. The list of theatre makers and performers who are La Mama alumni is testimony to its importance and, in these uncertain times more than ever, it needs to be supported and funded.

La Mama is not only integral to the Melbourne arts scene but also to the wider community. It's contribution is invaluable to many and should be valuable to our government .

Some of my happiest memories performing are those performing at La Mama and the Courthouse , and I will never forget the tremendous support we received . I know La Mama gives that support to every artist.

No

Places like La Mama form the foundation of people's Arts careers and therefore immensely contribute to the community not only in their primarily intended ways but also economically and it would be a tragedy if they could no longer continue.

Australia needs to support the arts industry in their time of need if we want to see Australia remain a culturally rich and economically thriving country. We should give artists the opportunity to fulfil their ambitions and express their voices.

This theatre is a huge part of the Australian and Melbourne Arts scene. It is loved by many, gives work to many and is an important creative venue which both inspires and asks the difficult questions to create better relationships with each other and the earth.

The people working within La Mama, are always friendly and seem to recognise you as an audience participant, we appreciate that and enjoy the raffle ticket lucky dip

The government and the general public need to understand and appreciate without theatre companies and places like La Mama, there would be no watching platforms like Netflix, especially during this pandemic.

I feel confused about the government's willingness to support industries such as coal, yet places so little priority on the arts

The history of the theatre is also paramount in keeping it alive

La Mama has been an inspirational arts institution that has weathered many storms and challenges (re fire, etc.). The values it stands for must be upheld if we are to have a healthy society coming out of isolation, into celebration, professional employment for artists of many kinds, into political and ethical discourse, and as visionaries for a vibrant, new world post c-19 when we will need to challenge constraints of power and uphold and expand human rights.

La Mama is crucial for artists to develop and consolidate their work. A thriving arts scene depends on it.

If we lose our best arts venues we most likely will never get them all back again, which will change the entire cultural landscape of Melbourne - we should do everything we can to help them survive.

Just how devastated I am that small to medium organisations such as La Mama, Polyglot, NAVA and BlueRoom Theatre, which have proven their importance and vitality over and over again are now left to do this work in the absence of government assistance.

La Mama is unique on the Australian theatre scene. It presents such a wide variety of new work and allows young artists to build their style, and older artists to keep experimenting and to develop both expertise and new directions.

The Federal Government's decision to slash arts funding and announce these losses at this time is unconscionably cruel, especially and particularly for La Mama.

Good luck through these troubled times.

My current solo theatre show, Happy-Go-Wrong would not have had the incredible reach and critical success it has had without La Mama. This now, multiple award-winning show (and twice Green Room Award-nominated) exists as it does because of La Mama's early support of it via

its excellent Explorations program. This show has gone on to tour even internationally and has given a creative and important voice to people living with chronic illness and disability. This is just one example of the type of work which La Mama makes possible.

Thank you

Viva La Mama!

Organisations like La Mama cannot be built overnight; therefore it would be a significant long-term loss to the local and national arts community if such organisations had to close their doors.

As earlier... part of Melbourne's cultural and theatrical heritage.

Independent theatre is a crucial part of Australia's cultural and intellectual life.

Seeing La Mama's production of Buzo's Rooted inspired me to look at wider Australian issues in my writing and to see layers of complexity in an Australian society. It said what other plays have not been able to say. I came away very excited.

Support the arts and the community that keeps arts alive

La Mama has always offered an opportunity for writers to have an audience. The team supports writers through the development process of their work.

Our society needs a place for artists to experiment & creatively grow. La Mama creates a training ground & invaluable mentorship that is critical in the cycle of creativity & innovation .

La Mama must go on!

Good luck. I hope this gets fixed.

La Mama is an important centre of community for the Melbourne theatre world.

If my taxes can't work for La Mama, they aren't worth anything.

After the deviation of the fire it is baffling that La Mamas finding would be cut when you can clearly see how much the community needs La Mama. We raised all that money and now the government won't help them keep the ball rolling. disgraceful.

The arts will be critical to social recovery and must be supported by government .

I am missing going to la mama and look forward to when I can go back for a performance

My best wishes and confidence La Mama will survive

Melbourne is known as the cultural city of Australia - When a nation is struggling you don't remove a vital organ - you find other ways

support la mama through this shocking financial transition

La Mama has done some wonderful work with refugee youth, leading to performance of work which reflected their experience. The commitment of the La Mama team was invaluable, though I suspect underfunded.

La Mama is the social fabric of our society, without it there is no strong , diverse, collective voice or vision.- lose it and it will be gone for ever.

Don't let this gem disappear

La Mama is committed to presenting new Australian drama. Removing its funding from the Australia Council would mean only established works or works those from abroad would be supported. This theatre is part of our artistic heritage and it must be saved!

La Mama is unique.

PLEASE RE-INSTATE THE FUNDING FOR OUR NATIONAL TREASURE AND OUR PATHWAY TO INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE- I'M SO ANGRY AND SAD THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, JUST PLEASE, LET THOSE OF US TO WHOM THIS MEANS SO MUCH HAVE A SAY, AND DON'T TAKE THE FUNDING AWAY FROM LA MAMA.

If small and independent theatres fail, we poison the roots of our national cultural tree.

La Mama is one of the most long-standing, important cultural institutions in Australia. So many

significant works by giants of Australia's arts world have been performed there, since the early days of the Pram Factory. I am genuinely shocked that La Mama's 4 year funding from The Australia Council has been discontinued. This is a brutal and deeply disturbing development during a time when all of the arts are suffering potentially fatal setbacks caused by the fallout of the pandemic. Australia, and Melbourne in particular, will lose an iconic cultural anti-institution if La Mama is forced to fold due to this withdrawal in funding. This decision must be reconsidered.

What a treasure lost...

Support the artists.

La Mama is a vital part of our artistic heritage . Any government who cares about the arts should recognise this and support it in every way it can

We look forward to attending live theatre performances at La Mamas in the not too distant future.

La Mama is a Melbourne institution Already devastated by fire Why no grant from Australia Arts Council???

La Mama is part of Melbourne's theatre history and its future. There's nothing else like it. It would be criminal to allow it to perish.

Long live La Mama!

It would be a terrible shame if we lost La Mama, or indeed any cultural I institution on the other side of this pandemic

There is no where like La Mama!!! Losing it would decimate the already strained theatre community in Australia, we need places to learn and innovate, without money being a deterring factor.

Art needs the governments support

This institution must be allowed to continue to provide new performance artists and artisans the opportunity to develop their skills and push the art form to new heights.

Government support for La Mama and the performing arts is crucially important for our community well being

For the love of humanity, support La Mama and all the brave and important independent arts sector.

Countless Melbourne performers, writers, directors, production and stage managers have had their start at La Mama; where else will emerging theatre workers, on a shoe-string budget, have the opportunity to create, produce and present their work and, in doing so, advance their craft? Choking off a supply of artists and storytellers who help us to connect to our ever changing world is an abomination.

La Mama is doing great by hosting shows and performances of different natures and by different artists. Which is very different and unique.

No

It has inspired me to continue with my career path of becoming a theatre actor

I want La Mama to survive and thrive!

Can't imagine Melbourne without La Mama.

Please provide funding

I feel very strongly that La Mama receive the necessary funding to stay afloat. I wish I was able to contribute to this myself.

Lamama has supported and launched too many artists to list. It is outrageous that the government would damage this company's future, and even more disgusting and disappointing after the company have survived a crisis such as a fire!!!! This government and the board of the Australia Council make me sick!

At a time when the economy is grinding to a standstill, people are locked in their homes, and

are looking for more and more ways to keep themselves entertained - let's just remember that it is the works of countless artists and hard working arts industry professionals that are helping maintain people's sanity. To hive off the funding to the Arts sector, and further cut funding to institutions such as La Mama - that have offered a start and support to countless - is incredibly short-sighted, and I would hope could be recognised as such.

La Mama is an amazing community citizen. They are such an important contributor, to Melbourne, Australia-wide and internationally. Their partnerships, with large and small organisations, individuals and artists, has played and should continue to play such an important role in providing important spaces and meeting points for the broader community. I have come to realise over many years the way in which theatre can communicate and provide spaces for change - La Mama has been central to this ethos.

I will never forgive this minister of this government for this hooligan act

La Mama is vital to Australia's arts community. It is the place where most of Australia's leading artists pass through on the way to establishing their careers. I have just returned from performing for 18 months on Broadway and I never would have made it there if communities like La Mama didn't provide the support it does.

La Mama has a place in our current world. La Mama is as relevant now as it ever was. People are going to need to interpret what has just happened to the entire world. La Mama is a place for this exploration. People are going to want to check in on all the concepts that pepper the history of our society. La Mama allows for this exploration.

This theatre is a Cultural Institution for both Melbourne & Australia. It should be Heritage listed.

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No

The arts raised millions of dollars for the Bush Fires and yet when we most need it we are left in the dark!

La Mama must not be allowed to wither away - it has played a pivotal role in the development of Australian Theatre, and is an essential part of Australia's cultural landscape - losing it would be a tragedy that we should not be even contemplating!

I would love to voice my support and say that La Mama is strong and even if we aren't successful in getting financial support I will endeavour to help rebuild

The importance of La Mama as a community - a place of welcome and thriving for artists of all kinds, and audiences - cannot be overestimated. And La Mama's longterm commitment to recognising artists' work through financial remuneration (albeit modest) is just one of the very vital ways in which artists' professional confidence, skills, and maturity have been deeply nurtured throughout the theatre's history. With great sincerity I hope that the Australian arts community and all artist stakeholders can look forward to the swiftest resolution to this most recent and shockingly sudden challenge to La Mama's survival. Each month without certainty about future funding and the organisation's basic viability is a month of lost momentum for myriad forms of creative exchange and expression. It is also a month of lost and irrecoverable opportunity for witnessing what is most exhilarating in cultural life: shared refreshment of interrelationships between things mundane and things so astonishing, daring, or unexpected that some detail in our internal landscape is changed forever

I cannot imagine the Australian Theatre without La Mama - Its as insane as trying to grow apple trees without watering and tending to the seedlings!

DO NOT ALLOW AN AUSTRALIAN THEATRICAL ICON TO BE SWEEP ASIDE AT A TIME WHEN WE MOST NEED IT

It's impossible to imagine Melbourne without La Mama. That single, tiny stage has been the making of generations of theatre artists. Without it, theatre in Australia will be truly bereft.

When La Mama was financially saved in 2008 partly due to the rallying of its artists giving a benefit concert my daughter and I recorded an interview with Ellen Stewart in New York .Ellen was the founder of La Mama in New York. So was so proud of La Mama in Melbourne. I write this to let you know that the idea of La Mama is inspired by The original La Mama in the Mecca of theatre New York.

When life gets back to normal we will need the arts more than ever. Art is healing. Also, artists need to work, they are as important to society as any other worker. And small/medium venues provide this, enrich our communities.

La Mama is a cultural treasure and it's survival is a testament to the value a society places on such icons.

All Australians are worthy of support during the COVID-19 pandemic, not just those the Australian government deem fit to receive help

La Mama is as culturally significant to Melbourne and Australian theatre, as the Opera House is to Sydney. It must be preserved.

<https://queenwood.instructure.com/courses/364977/files/28793428>

Without organisations such as La Mama, the Melbourne arts ecology will begin to dismantle and the repercussions are long-term.

More funding for La Mama and literary magazines

Save La mama. Its part of Melbourne's heart and sole.

Cutting the support for La Mama is like cutting off an integral limb and without it, survival of the many is slim.

VIVA LA MAMA!!

La Mama is part of Melbourne's fabric, and the city's strength would be damaged without it

Especially since some developer dickheads burned the place down, it's clear that someone is eyeing the place for high-rises....don't let the bloody predictable happen. Carlton will lose the culture it's famous for

La Mama has done a LOT for the arts. If there's anything we've learnt in these unusual times, it is that we need art and artists to help us cope when things are less than ideal. Support the space that supports artists.

La Mama's funding supports the Australian theatre community. Every year the work La Mama presents involves several hundred, perhaps more, theatre artists, theatre workers. Thousands of people over the year are part of the audiences. I cannot understand how the Australia Council can make a decision to stop funding this important cultural institution, it is a decision showing complete lack of judgement.

The Australia Council decision is venomous.

I know La Mama by repute, but as I live in another State I have not been able to attend shows. However, as a former amateur actor I am well aware of the joy theatre brings to a large slice of the population. AND I know only too well how La Mama and interstate equivalents live on the smell of an oily rag.

La Mama is the heart of Melbourne theatre. La Mama is integral to the creative wellbeing and creative expression of thousands of Australian artists as well as thousands of citizen audience members looking to find meaning connection in our culture. La Mama is home to a multiplicity of voices that ensure vitality in all of our lives. Reason for living. A necessary constant in our democracy...a commons where sharing and exploration, experimentation and connection can be made. The government looks to fund innovation....La Mama is where innovation occurs. The government looks to fund programs for wellbeing and mental health ...La Mama is the place everyone is welcome to feed their soul...and find a relief from social disconnection. It is unfathomable that at a time when La Mama staff and board needed nurture after their tireless work following the fire that they have to even consider the prospect of securing funding which they should have received from OzCo.

Support the arts - it's oxygen for our communities

Supporting a sense of community is what matters to us all through this difficult time and there really is a wonderful sense of creative community engagement with La Mama over many years. Let's keep it going!

T

See ya at LA mamma anon

The arts are central to our experiences as human beings. It builds community and an opportunity to share experiences

If not La Mama, who? If not now, when?

La Mama must be saved.

No

This is a opportunities for theatre makers tk create and test work. Don't stop us from making our dreams visable.

Do not close an institution because of a a few dollars

The loss of La Mama would be devastating for Melbourne.

There are so many shows and performers that I've seen at La Mama that I feel like I would not have seen anywhere else, with important messages to tell or critical stepping stones in their career, that I feel like they would not have been heard or would not be where they are without La Mama.

La Mama is essential for Melbourne's art scene.

Just imagine how many people are employed by La Mamma direct and indirectly. It's an integral part of the local economy,

La Mama is one of the most important cultural institutions in Australia. It is unique and vital to theatre in Australia and especially to the development of new artists and art. There is no other theatre in Australia that nurtures emerging artists as does La Mama, and no other theatre that provides the kinds of nurturance and development that La Mama does. La Mama is absolutely central to the lives of artists - theatre-makers, actors, writers, set designers, lighting designers, sound designers, and more. It is also absolutely vital to its audiences, its community. And to the history of theatre and art and culture in this country. We need to value our history and continue to value our most important cultural icons.

This space is so important to keep for the arts industry. Sacrificing funding will deeply impact the people who rely on this income and will forever effect Australian theatre culture. People will never forgive the government for ditching the arts in a time where we need to stay connected and remain as a strong unit. People need entertainment to empathise and feel - without it we will become apathetic and inconsiderate of others... that is a world I don't want to be a part of or raise my future children in.

Support the Australian Arts industry!

La Mama is an essential cultural institution in our community, and like many arts organisations, provides so much joy and value to our lives.

La Mama has been part of Melbourne since the 1960s. It is an integral part of the cultural fabric of the city

La Mama is so historically important to the Australian arts scene. It needs to be protected so new plays, creators and actors can find their way.

N/A

I can't speak highly enough of the quality of performances, welcome and professionalism of the team at La Mama. La Mama is a fantastic organisation and deserves support from government.

The Arts Industry in Australia is vital to our collective consciousness - every bit as vital as the Sports Industry. If we lose the Arts Industry then we lose the considerable prestige Australia enjoys on the world stage;and without critical theatre organizations like La Mama we wouldn't have new work, actors honing their skills, audiences enjoying low cost theatre; so the equivalent would be losing junior sports teams associated with major competitive clubs. La Mama is well-named: it is the birthplace of so much of our culture; of so many playwrights and actors.

Without La Mama, many artists would simply never get started, and Australia would be much poorer as a result. At these times, we need organisations like La Mama more than ever before. The Arts sector can do more than any other to uplift our spirits during this unprecedented period of isolation, and reduce the resultant mental illness epidemic that is likely.

The community support for la mama was evident in the fundraising for the rebuild. This should be recognized and matched by government.

Support for arts is very important to the cultural and social aspects of society. At this time of CV19 and it's devastating impact on the community this is even more crucial than ever

We keep fighting for La Mama's survival because what it provides is intrinsic to our cultural development.

La Mama is a haven for artists and audiences. It makes art accessible and joyful.

It's crucial that La Mama receives the funding as without La Mama a plethora of theatre makers lose significant opportunities

It would be like ripping the theatre heart straight out of Melbourne. Whether you know the or not your life has been impacted by La Mama. Whether it is you as an artist or even those sitting in their couch saying ooh I like that actor...they most probably had a start on the stage in this wondrous place. It is like the Aunt you know is always there. It's the foundation of what we do and who we are. It holds the artists of past and present together and its survival will ensure ours as a community.

Anything to keep you guys going during this weird time

It's okay to make policy mistakes. If u fix them. Fund La Mama.

Artists depend on this establishment.

As a student and someone pursuing a career in the arts, LaMama is a place that feels accessible, seeing many new works of friends and collaborators as well as independent companies and established artists. It's a place I hope one day to be able to create for. And continue to do so many times in the future. We as artists are invested in the future of these spaces that give us so many meaningful connections.

La Mama is Melbourne's birthplace of creativity and has long continued to be. Of all the places I've performed in the world, La Mama is still the one place on my bucket list I long fulfill. Performing at La Mama is a much desired right of passage for all Melbournian performing artists.

The current COVID 19 crisis will be a turning point in Australia and the world. It threatens to undermine whole areas of our society. In my view a strong artistic community is absolutely essential to help shape our views of where we will take Australia as we come to terms with new normals.

La Mama is a vital part of the Melbourne arts sector, hence the Australian arts sector. It is one of the few enduring venues which us dedicated to supporting and assisting artists at all stages of their careers. We all have La Mama stories. If La Mama closed, Melbourne artists and audiences would be left with a hole in our industry and in our collective hearts.

I highly value this wonderful venue and it's artistic productions in our community

No

Lamama is a part of the beating heart of our cultural body. Lose Lamama and you put into peril the entire structure.

We can't place spending on submarines and airlines above the whole arts sector. (Cue joke about boys and toys, not actually funny but sadly true I feel).

I like the scale of La mamas

There is only one La Mama, let it go and we will regret it and look back at it as the pearl of unique arts expression in Australia....

Part of my cultural landscape as a student at Melbourne Uni in the 60's

I believe La Mama plays such an integral role in providing the community with impacting art and a place for artists to share their craft. Its a noble thing to want to serve purely for the enjoyment of others.

La mama is an iconic melbourne institution. Keep it alive!!

The show must go on as soon as the pandemic passes.

La Mama has offered crucial resources and access to shows for artists, educators and consumers. Failure to support it would be like taking one of the foundation stones out of a building - whatever you put on top will be compromised

The arts is an integral part of an interconnected sub-economy, linking hospitality, transport, venues, food and drink suppliers, retail and media. Lose one link and it falls apart.

Save La Mama - it just has to be done.

No

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This a cultural treasure generating immeasurable value to our society over the years. Please respect this value and support it.

La Mama is integral in creating new Australian work and providing emerging artists space and opportunity to explore and develop their work practice

I have been a working artist in Melbourne for thirty years. La Mama gave me opportunities to explore and develop as an artist, and also to develop an audience for my work. Their advice and support have been invaluable to me. I want the generations of artists coming after me to have access to the same nurturing. Defunding the most vital, inclusive and accessible of our Australian theatre companies is reprehensible and wantonly destructive to the arts ecology in this country.

There is nothing more important than the arts to inform society of itself and our place in the world

Please look after our arts industry!

This is a unique and dynamic company which highly deserves ongoing support.

It is devastating that La Mama is continually having to fight to survive when they offer so much selflessly to the fabric of Australian culture and shares so generously with regional and rural communities - the benefits are far reaching and benefit the economic, social , cultural and health of our community. Please reconsider funding this vital work

It is a sad day when the government does not value and support our imaginative and creative artist. Nothing is gained by marginalising and leaving our best and brightest out in the cold. This is a turning point in our history and we must have the voice of the artist who have a different way of looking at the world. We need these voices, through their art to help shape a better way forward.

La Mama has always provided an essential space for development of new and exciting theatre. As more and more major theatre companies shut down, such a company is more important than ever, as it encourages theatremakers to work and develop and try new things. Without La Mama, a crucial part of the independent Melbourne theatre scene would be lost.

La Mama is a cornerstone of the Melbourne Theatre community and deserves to be funded

Every arts ecosystem needs its first open door and Lamama has been it for most of us in Victoria's performing arts.

La Mama is part of the cultural fabric of the city of Melbourne. Its demise would be a huge loss.

Melbourne must not lose La Mama

There is a reason La Mama has been around for this long. For it to be lost at this stage is a significant loss in Melbourne and Australia's story.

La Mama is the heart, soul and lifeblood of Australian Theatre. For the last five decades it has nurtured and supported our performers, playwrights and production teams. It has been absolutely essential for the creative arts community. There are new generations of creative artists as well as well established artists all working together in this vital theatre. La Mama must survive and be supported to continue to do its vital work. The future of Australian Theatre is at stake. This greatly loved theatre is vital for the survival of theatre in this country.

N/a

La mama is such a beautiful theatre that does so much good for everyone and now it is up to everyone to support it in return!

Support the arts. Simple.

La Mama is party of our city's cultural history and its provides artists, new and experienced and chance to try our new things and refine their practice. If inadequately funded, the loss of La Mama will have a devastating impact.

Theatres like La Mama should be given support & not allowed to fall by the wayside as a result of this present restrictive climate

It's time to. Stop building white elephants and support the art in affordable venues that service community and the artists.

The existence of small fringe theaters like la mama contributes massively to the diversity of voices that can be expressed and heard in Australia's creative arts landscape. Without these forums of diversity, we become myopic and narrow-minded. The cutting of funding to these places will inevitably contribute to the continuing dumbing-down of Australia and its cultural life. Please don't let that happen.

la mama is unique in the Australian theatre landscape as it provides opportunities for practitioners just beginning their careers as well as established artists The list of theatre makers who had their start at la mama reads like a who's who of Australian theatre It is an important and invaluable part of Australian cultural life

La Mama is fantastic!!!☐☐☐

No. I'll happily share this

LaMama is the most important independent theatre not only in Melbourne and Australia but it is one of the most iconic theatres in the world.

La mama is too precious to lose!

How important the Arts are for our identity and mental health

I wouldn't be the artist I am today without La Mama. I'm also a teacher and I proudly introduce my students to this iconically Melbourne venue. It's part of history and I've always believed that it's a part of their future as artists.

Having had many wonderful experiences at La Mama over many years I am shocked and appalled that funding has been withdrawn. This will have a huge effect on the future of theatre in Victoria and a great loss to the future of aspiring actors and those who come to watch the Arts at an iconic theatre like La Mama

La Mama Theatre has provided opportunities to some of Australia's most renowned and successful writers, directors and actors early in their career, and continues to do so. However, it not only provides opportunities for diverse playwrights, directors and actors to develop and hone their craft, but also supports poets and musicians through La Mama Poetica and La Mama Musica. It deserves continued funding from the Australia Council, as an important and irreplaceable artistic institution in Melbourne and the country's cultural life.

This company is the very heart of independent theatre in Melbourne, to lose its presence would be devastating.

La Mama is the mother of invention in Melbourne for all creatives. She deserves 10 years of support in advance - the theatre's spawning ground brings employment and enjoyment to thousands.

There's no Melbourne without La Mama

Without love theatre, and pivotal institutions like La Mama, we are a poorer and bleaker society.

By and large the Australia Council do a good and fair job in efficiently distributing Government support for the arts. But the budget they have to work with is manifestly inadequate to the task of ensuring that Australia has a rich, diverse and vibrant cultural life. We are a wealthy nation - blessed with great resources, a stable democracy and an enviable standard of living. But our Governments of both stripes have simply failed to appreciate the contribution of the arts to our civil society for decades. La Mama's plight is emblematic of this wider malaise, as is the failure

of the Government to provide a caring safety net to artists and arts workers during the COVID-19 crisis. Why is it that the arts are so visible and yet so invisible?

Support the arts. Now, more than ever we are all in need of every form of art.

We need the arts more than ever

I have seen some truly amazing theatre at La Mama. Most recently as a volunteer I got to see the most mind-blowing, creative, yet educational production of I Shot Mussolini. This theatre is the heart of carlton

La Mama is an incubator for talent and ideas - for actors, writers, directors, designers, stage managers, lighting and sound designers and theatre technicians to learn new skills and advance and refine their existing skills. It's like a hot desk for tech start ups, a gym for boxers or athletes, a workshop for mechanics. The larger entertainment industry needs La Mama to keep nurturing talent, scripts and ideas for future major successes that bring vast sums of money into the economy. Shows that allow local talent to go on to significant success around Australia and on the biggest stages overseas.

La Mama MUST be supported as a matter of national cultural significance.

When we are once again able to enjoy the luxury of sharing theatrical spaces, let La Mama shine even brighter than it did before!

It's a shame that humanities and arts which are essential to mental health & human well-being are considered less important than physical well-being & material comforts.

La Mama is Vital. La Mama is really important. La Mama has been doing, is doing, and will be doing wonderful work in the arts, and should be funded by the Australia Council

Save la mama. She deserves it.

Please provide the necessary funding to this venue.

La Mama is home. Is were artists and community come together. Art is essential and organisations that provide high level of support to artists and community must be helped to get through current crisis.

Viva La Mama! Too have survived so much, given so much, and be treated so poorly - La Mama deserves better. She's earned it.

Artistic Culture is an important part of a society and must be supported at ground level

La Mama has had an exceptional history of promoting Australian theatre and it is outrageous that now funding has been withdrawn . La Mama still is vital in developing Australian theatre simply because La Mama gives an opportunity to a broad spectrum of playwrights including reaching out to our First Nation playwrights and those outside the mainstream.

Without the opportunities La Mama provide for emerging artists, I believe I would have struggled to get my career started.

It is shameful and disrespectful to abandon a cultural icon like La Mama. She is a mentor for everyone. Let her continue being that and more.

The arts are more important now than ever. Please support them.

i did work experience with la mama two years ago and it was an amazing week or so. all the people i met and the connections i made i'll treasure forever ☺☺

La Mama produces important theatrical work that promotes diversity. This theatre is integral to the Australian Arts scene.

Supporting our artists is crucial to our own health and well-being as it provokes free thinking and expression

Community arts projects and activities orgs such as La Mama make Melbourne the great city that it is.

Culture comes at a cost . Loss of culture costs little now but will wipe out the future potential of our national heritage.

Please fund La Mama!

Not only culturally but historically important. No, not important, crucial to sustaining and developing the arts in Melbourne and Australia.

It's an amazing place full of upcoming and established talent.

La Mama is not only an Australian cultural icon but one that makes meaning on the world stage. Don't let it go.

Only that there is no alternative for theatre artists starting out in Melbourne. I now teach performance making at Monash and students with great potential will really struggle without somewhere that can support them, at the emerging level, to get their work up.

La Mama has been a vital part of Australia's cultural landscape since it's inception. It is at the centre of theatre life and cannot be allowed to fail

La Mama is an a greatly needed institution in the industry, they need support to support emerging talent and theatre companies that produce performance that Melbourne is famous for, unconventional and inspiring.

Please support local and small art institutions that have contributed so much to the community and the country.

La Mama is the most influential establishment in the Melbourne Arts Scene

#WeAllComeFromLaMama

We need theatre and dedicated folk like la mama actors, front of house, lighting, sound, the lot...and yes appreciative audience.

La Mama has carved out a rich and unique identity that needs to be supported.

Can't stress enough importance of the arts.

We must save this important arts venue.

N/A

La Mamá offers artists in Melbourne the opportunity to perform such a wide variety of works and is an integral part of the arts in Australia... I simply cannot imagine Melbourne without it

FUND LA MUMA

Australian cultural heritage will be eroded by the loss of La Mana. The performance is well renowned and it's loss would have a massive impact on the way Australians see themselves

I also work in the tourism industry and as a result get to understand first hand why visitors, both domestic and international, are attracted to Melbourne. At face value Melbourne looks very generic. It is only when a visitor gets under the skin of the city, down at the street level, they start to get drawn to it and start to love it. Resoundingly it is the diversity of community, food and diversity of culture and, the Melbournians passion for these things that they fall in love with. This took a long time to build, but can be eroded away quite quickly if we discard institutions like La Mama. Now, more than ever, we need to support La Mama.

Independent theatre is needed in the arts

La Mama is an invaluable resource for our arts industry. Melbourne is seen as Australia's culture hub, and boasts a thriving theatre scene that attracts tourists. If the Australian Government want to continue to promote Melbourne as the city to be in for great art and Luce entertainment, they need to support the venues that allow artists to create new work, and that supports us so strongly.

Please continue funding such an integral part of our society. It is through these platform that we learn what we're living through and what we have and can overcome.

I have been going to La Mama shows since I was a child- it was one of my first experiences of theatre and has been a place where I consistently go to to experience a whole range of shows. My memories of all the shows that I've seen there are so interwoven with my memories of my life that I can't imagine a Melbourne without it

Best of luck. The Gov know how great you are and how amazing it is you run on very little. I am so sorry you are having to deal with this.

I'm happy to dig in the pockets, where can I donate?

Please, please, please give programmes such as La Mama full support. If it was amongst the top 30 who received their money. Smells like 'Sports Rorts'

Australia's cultural ecosystem is fragile and chronically lacking in infrastructure. La Mama unquestionably plays a critical role in the development and presentation of theatre but also all the artforms in Australia. There is nothing else like it and we must not lose it. Instead of withdrawing support, we should be increasing our support for all of our cultural resources which are under such threat at this time.

The Government must understand that supporting the Arts in our society is NOT a cost - it is an INVESTMENT in our society.

Refusing to support this significant ground breaking organisation is an attack on Australian artists and audiences who care to think about what our lives in the present past and future is engaging with imaginatively and critically

La Mama has played a vital role in Australia's cultural life and created opportunities for thousands of artists. It is imperative that she continues to receive support.

Artists are resilient but surely after so many years of survival (including recent fire and rebuild) La Mama does not need to have its resilient chops tested - it has survived and now needs a place at the 'main table'! Why would a government sit back and watch the landmark company skimp, beg, borrow or steal in order to survive? Haven't we had enough of that in this country? It's our cultural Phoenix - risen literally from the ashes - it's time for this company to get the respect they deserve, the respect they have worked bloody hard for and give them the money they need to thrive not merely survive.

La Mama must continue receiving much needed government finding .

La Mama is a crucial part of Melbourne's theatre ecology.

Viva La Mama, thank you for everything.

Sadly I can't take my year 11 Drama class to see a performance at La Mama

Only that without La Mama, a whole generation of theatre makers would not be the world-leading creators that they are today.

As someone who's been an audience member, volunteered with La Mama and hopes to have the good fortune of working with the theatre as an artist again, I believe La Mama truly is the backbone on which Melbourne's artistic sphere is built. The effects of La Mama remaining unfunded would be shattering, and I think would ripple out, greatly disrupting the Melbourne theatre scene for years to come. La Mama needs to be able to support the current and future generations of the arts, and it is in the best interests of the government to support them to do so.

This little theatre is incredibly important to the life blood of Melbourne's theatre film and TV industry. It has launch many careers and will continue to in the future, it must be given the correct support.

Awesome theatrical experience

La Mama has helped a significant amount of artist and contributed to their growth with the opportunities that they've provided, therefore continuous funding for La Mama is highly needed

Without La Mama people are not inspired. I thank them deeply for their contribution to the arts existing inside of Australia. We owe it to them.

It is a shame to see this happening when other countries in the world currently pump billions (not millions) into their arts sector so it can survive this critical time. <https://news.artnet.com/art-world/germanys-culture-minister-coronavirus-1801332>
<https://www.thelocal.de/20200319/coronavirus-germany-plans-40-billion-rescue-package-for-freelancers-and-small-businesses>

I cannot imagine Melbourne without La Mama has the long-standing commitment to indie theatre. It has been so important and I am so proud of being involved, having performed there

and through all the tragedy of the fire, seeing it rise up stronger is absolutely what should happen.

I can easily trace back all my success in this industry to la mama. The people I've met there have shaped my career

As an actor and producer it is so important for places like La Mama to be kept alive to ensure the arts continues to be present in the community in an accessible way

La Mama offers a platform whereby artists and new work learn to fly.

As an avid theatre goer and amateur theatre maker, La Mama remains my favourite independent theatre in Melbourne. Every show I have seen there has been an incredible showcase of creativity, and the atmosphere of the theatre itself is unrivalled in its comfortable was and friendliness. I've only lived in Melbourne long enough to see The Courthouse as the hub of La Mama shows, and despite obvious tragedy and constraints, this company continue to put together work that is wildly important to the community.

Australia, Victoria, Melbourne, benefits from a place that treasures and nurtures new works and emerging artists. it'd be great to see it shine on with increased vigour: there's no shortage of talent, enthusiasm and energy in its radius aspiring to excellence.... I'd love to see my taxes at work for this to happen

The local independent arts as exemplified by La Mama are where Australian culture is expressed and evolves. Far more important than the imports, which receive massive grant support.

It is vital to our well-being. Like the wise and kind grandparent who listens, nurtures and inspires....

La Mama has been and remains a vitally important part of the cultural life of Melbourne historically and contemporarily.

In difficult times, the arts become even more important to society than ever. These times exemplify this need - and to stifle creativity at the grassroots level like this is disgraceful.

Thank you for what you do.

Please help ensure that La Ma can continue to be the vital place it has been for the last fifty years. Melbourne theatre and Australian theatre would suffer greatly with it's demise. The arts are crucial at all times in history but especially when there's social or cultural upheaval. Through the arts we can explore issues that affect everyone or perhaps just a segment of our community. Every voice is important. La Mama gives us a platform to be heard. The arts can provide an avenue of contemplation and possibly the answers we are lacking. La Mama is literally like the mama/mother of Australia's theatre. Viva La Mama!

Melbourne should be so proud to have such an iconic place infusing art , reflexion , deep inner experiences to us all for decades I would love to see this institution passed on to future generations as Art might well be what we need in these times of turmoil and covid19, It can take us to inner places that will help you redefine ourselves . "longue vie à la Mama"

La Mama is so special, please save it.

La Mama had it's beginnings in a time when we as a nation of many and varied, were struggling to find a voice, one in our own accent. We did! And La Mama still shouts!

In 1999 I visited La Mama as part of my Doctoral Research -interviewing Liz Jones. La Mama's pivotal role in the development of Australian theatre cannot be overstated .

Please help to support LaMaMa as it inspires and creates beautiful art for the whole community

These artists mostly work for the love of what they do, with very little money. They are an integral part of people getting through this crazy time.

The Arts are crucial to a society's cultural intelligence. We need all the Arts, but we especially need small theatres like La Mama who provide a niche and supportive environment to discover and evolve new talents and works...are invaluable and need to be kept intact.

The arts are crucial to our cohesion as a society. And we need that more now than ever.

La Mama is a Melbourne icon that has nurtured artists and it is devastating that they may cease

to exist

Without La Mama, there is no performing arts sector in Melbourne, let alone Australia.

Nearly every theatre artist working in Melbourne has had something to do with La Mama. It is an essential and important part of our ecology and history. Great work is created there and it provides essential opportunities for emerging and established theatre artists. Without it I am unsure where our theatre artists will be able to create new work for the first time.

We can not afford to lose this great little theatre - it has been and will continue to be part of our cultural heritage

Our Federal Arts Body is there to protect the cultural fabric of our country and losing La Mama would be like losing the selvedge, and watching the whole thing unravel as a result.

With no La Mama, there will be no new generation of important contemporary performance makers.

La Mama's impact is immeasurable. It's had a multi-generational influence on the arts and to lose it, as this lack of funding would ensure, would mean changing the meaning of Melbourne. La Mama is the godmother of Melbourne independent theatre; helping create it, support it and provide a means for others to witness it. Losing it would be like losing that which centres and grounds all theatre in Melbourne.

It's a cultural icon and an important Melbourne institution that continues to be relevant and necessary.

I feel that especially with the current climate I don't want Melbourne to lose its grass roots/community arts which makes it special

La Mama has endured for decades for a reason. Why can't AusCo recognize the importance of continuing funding. It means their previous investments won't be able to provide a return.

Ability to access arts is so important la mamas programs are affordable and give an opportunity for those who would otherwise be unable to see theatre

It is imperative that La Mama's funding be continued to nurture Australian stories told by Australian artists. La Mama's value to the Australian cultural identity cannot be overstated.

Save La Mama!

Don't ruin Melbourne's Theatre Arts by destroying one of its foundation stones.

La Mama is an integral part of Melbourne's artistic community and a jewel in its reputation. As an acting student I have studied the profound cultural, emotional and artistic importance of La Mama to Australians across many generations. I always saw La Mama as somewhere I would one day perform and work and the idea that it may be ending is devastating.

It is important for local artists to have places to perform and for audiences to attend .

Good luck!

Please support La Mama, the creations of influential work and jobs of so many artists rely on her survival.

It is essential that the recent decision to defund La Mama be reviewed and reversed. I cannot picture a future without this incredible staple institution. Arts and culture are essential in recovery, and we will all need La Mama and other arts based organisations more than ever on the other side of Covid19.

please protect La Mama and the arts

Arts funding to small and medium arts organisations is an essential part of creating the stories of our time by creative people for the betterment of society as a whole

La Mama is a cultural cornerstone in Melbourne and Australia and CRUCIAL to the development of new talent and new ideas

La Mama is a Melbourne institution. It would so easy to lose it, but almost impossible to resurrect it, once it's gone.

There is so much at stake here. Without La Mama, the independent theatre scene in Melbourne

will die.

I'm just afraid I didn't save some of my comments because I didn't press the okay button. But I also just remembered that I was on the brink of being part of a significant symposium on La Mama being organised by the University of Melbourne and postponed because of covid 19. Happy to write more if required.

I implore the Australia Council to restore vital funding to La Mama.

Small independent theatre is essential

La Mama must be provided support at this time, to lose it would be an unimaginable loss to our arts community.

Life without The Arts is Lifeless

La Mama provides essential services to the performing arts for all participants in theatre making and presentation and has done so for decades with an impact that is beyond measure, beyond the AMPAGs...in fact La Mamas funding should be quarantined and secured AHEAD of the AMPAGs as it is at the heart and foundation of theatre making in Melbourne and Australia and has existed to serve the arts first unlike other major orgs who exist to merely entertain the rich

without lamama, my life would be diminished deeply

Funding is essential and years of budget cuts must be repaired

La Mama, in my humble opinion, is the very heartbeat of independent theatre, long may it survive!

There is great irony in providing a resilience fund during the C19 pandemic whilst defunding significant theatres that are the life blood of the performing arts including La Mama. It is like cutting an artery then trying to give a blood transfusion.

No

La Mama has well-earned its place as a bright gem in the crown of Australia's theatre culture. A nation that abandons such cultural gems during harsh times is destined to suffer a harsher recovery.

No

This is another heartbreaking blow to a heartbreaking year for the arts

The hard work and dedication by all involved is inspiring

Take care of the arts so that theatre performance can thrive well into the future. Theatre size shouldn't dictate the size of funding.

La Mama is the lifeblood of independent theatre in Melbourne and, I believe, Australia. Their impact on the arts in our country is impossible to quantify, but it is huge.

La Mama is unique and essential in the Australian arts ecology and must be supported

Doing a show at La Mama is a rite of passage for Melbourne theatre artists. The huge impact of it's absence is unthinkable

No

Our governments provide substantial levels of public expenditure on and investment in various forms of important material infrastructure and essential services. I believe it is equally essential for our taxes to be spent on the vital cultural infrastructure of our communities.... including the performing arts in all its forms.

the announcement of the cessation of Australian Council Funding was truly shocking. La mama is vital to the health and future of performing arts for all of Australia, not just for Victoria, for its part in growing generations of artists across this country is unparalleled.

no

It is important Lamama is supported by the government, without this crucial funding our artistic landscape in Melbourne will suffer.

Just that there is no other place like La Mama and it deserves to be supported.

La Mama is a very important theatre venue and space for development that needs funding. It is such an important asset to the theatre community and all those that have ever worked there, seen a show there or even just heard of La Mama can attest to it's importance.

La Mama and similar theatres are incredibly integral to the arts scene in Melbourne, as well as internationally.

In this present situation of national virus fear, it is the ARTS in all its forms that are raising our morale and thus enhancing our immune system.. La Mama MUST be there for immunity recovery post COVID 19.

This theatre provides the life blood to our thriving theatre community, cutting funding here removes access for many diverse artists who may not be able to access other platforms, be that because of economic status, disability, youth or sheer inexperience. This theatre is vital to a precariat class of artists who rely on this theatre for work and to develop pieces that are often seen in larger theatres (after a La Mama development) that refuse to support grass roots theatre making. My question is how will emerging, mid career and established artists find the vital in kind support to germinate their work if La Mama is without funding?

On social and other media publish widely the \$ amount that you need to raise to make up for the 30% shortfall. Then you can publish say on Facebook or Go Fund me your progress toward this goal with donations from the community.

Please keep funding the arts. They are essential for a diverse and healthy society

La Mama plays a pivotal and vital part in innovation of the performing arts.

It is vital this institution is supported. It is the life blood of Melbourne's theatre ecology.

Continue the Arts and the Funding and a sense of community that made Carlton, Melbourne, and us what we are

I saw one of my first ever theatre performance at La Mama and years later I was given the the opportunity to create in the same space that sparked my love of theatre. The loss of an institution like La Mama would not only be heartbreaking but it would leave a hole in Melbourne's independent theatre industry that would be devastating.

la mama is important. heritage history and herstory

La Mama is a firm part of Melbourne's rich creative history. The impact of the fire and the way the community supported and rallied afterwards is testament to how important La Mama is to us. Many of those people are now also facing financial hardship and uncertainty, due the covid-19 and will not be able to offer the same sort of support that they did during that time.

This economic crisis has been created because of the particular way that the Federal gov't chose to respond to the Health crisis created by Covid-19. It's about time that they devised a new tax system (especially a tax system for those companies - particularly the Tech giants - that manage to pay almost zero tax: this could probably be done by taxing turnover rather than profit) that is appropriate for the current massive increase in revenue demand. Strangling the Arts companies financially - particularly the small/medium ones - will do essentially nothing to achieve a significant lessening of the demands on expenditure we now face, but will do massive damage to the careers and lives of a lot of arts practitioners. Why does the gov't want this?

Theatre is an experience that motivates and encourages empathy and reflection

As someone who is training as a theatre maker, it is disheartening to see the government treat the arts sector, which is so vital to the culture and wellbeing of our society as dispensable. Theatres like La Mama give me so much hope, showing me the kinds of strong communities I might be a part of after my training, please save La Mama.

This is devastating for the Melbourne Arts community. It makes Australia feel like a hostile and unappreciative place for artists.

La Mama MUST be supported

La Mama is an exceptional place to go see theatre and be apart of a community of people. Melbourne needs La Mama.

La Mama is absolutely integral to the Melbourne, Victorian, and broader Australian theatre sector. Its program through La Mama Mobile extends into the regions and to other cities. Works staged at La Mama frequently travel to festivals and major venues around the world. Recently I worked with La Mama on an important Melbourne-Bandung (Indonesia) theatre collaboration - Hades Fading (Hades Memudar) - which was performed in Bandung and then La Mama as part of Asia TOPA & the Australian Performing Arts Market. Without La Mama that work - and the resulting interstate & overseas touring interest we are currently exploring - simply would not have happened. In an environment of 10% project funding success rates, the economics of our project only worked because of the venue, technical & marketing support La Mama offers. Additionally, La Mama created regional connections with small Indonesian venues that I'm sure will bear fruit in years to come.

Structural support for the arts is possible. La Mama generates a vibrant artistic culture in Melbourne and also supports employment for many people

The Arts industry employs more than our car industry did, more than the mining industry (both of which received masses of govt support)

La Mama Theatre is not just a building... La Mama is opportunity for artists, writers, directors, designers, producers to create new and important work, and/ or find something new in something pre-existing. So many stories will go untold without La Mama. The world needs La Mama more than ever right now.

La Mama should not lose its funding

Having the mainstream theatres we have is a wonderful thing but we need to nourish the grassroots that feed the mainstream - small companies like La Mamma with the flexibility to take risk and even fail from time to time. Mainstream theatres can not afford to be risk takers

We stand with you!!

La Mama is a cultural hub and the loss of funding would be detrimental to the arts in Melbourne.

I think the government and the community in general is somewhat ignorant of two things: (a) what it is like to live and survive as an artist. Acting is not the great challenge, surviving between jobs is. (b) what it is to make a production in theatre, film or television - the nuts and bolts: it doesn't just happen. It's magic but it's not. It's hard work.

La Mama is a unique place that gives so much to so many people in Melbourne. It holds significant spiritual importance for many many Melbournians. Let's make sure this heritage continues into the future. More important now more than ever x

La Mama is vital to the Melbourne arts community. We are all the better for it. In an industry that is already difficult La Mama gives us hope, support and the facilities to create spectacular art.

Vital for La Mama to continue to flourish

Please support La Mama I'm happy to donate C'mon Andrew ...you know you want La Mama to survive ...

LaMama allows permission to explore and challenge all theatre and life..

Make it possible to show you emerging Australian work to develop our unique culture

La mama offers artists and audiences a unique experience that enriches the arts in Melbourne and indeed Australia. It nurtured the small to medium sector in really important way and without it this country will be all the poorer.

Support artists and theatre venues! I can't imagine a world without spaces like La Mama that provide such a vital platform for emerging artists.

La Mama is very important and should be kept going now and in the future.

It is incredibly important that La Mama and other small to medium arts venues continue to operate. Otherwise we risk a gap in theatre that lends only towards the elite and highly commercialised. That's not what Australia needs and it's not what the world needs.

I was heartbroken, as so many in our community were, when La Mama's home was destroyed by fire. For days, I kept finding myself in tears thinking about it. Like many members of the

community, I made a generous donation to the rebuilding fund and was overjoyed when the announcement was made that sufficient funds had been raised to save the building. After that - and after the horrendous impact on my artistic friends of coronavirus - it is almost unimaginable that the Australia Council has not approved La Mama's 4-year funding bid. It is astounding to me - what company could possibly have had more valid grounds for ongoing funding than La Mama? I can't help but feel the Federal Government, in this decision as well as the failure to include arts workers specifically in the JobKeeper funding, actually doesn't care at all about the work of artists. Nothing has devastated me like this. You will take our labour and use it to promote the country overseas: or accept our labour in fundraising for others but you won't support us in a time of need. You will take the unbelievable labour of Liz Jones and her incredible colleagues and give them the odd award but you won't actually enable them to do their work. How much harder do you need to make it to be an artist in this country? How much more disrespect can you heap on our underpaid or unpaid work? how much more can you take and not give? There is a very simple equation here: if all you want is a return to the bad old days of JC Williamson where theatre in Australia was nothing more than yours from overseas; where our best and brightest artists emigrated to countries that actually gave them a chance to work - keep doing what you're doing. If you want theatre in Australia to continue to develop you must fund La Mama. Please, please, please reconsider this decision.

La Mama's contribution to the arts in Melbourne is phenomenal. It needs to continue running and be given the chance to support local artists!

It would just be an absolute tragedy if they didn't get the help they need, much like the rest of the industry.

To make the arts work better in the future is to lower the price of tickets and show theatre during the day.

La Mama enables so many artists to feel valued in a society that doesn't put as much value on the Arts and the contribution Artists make to our country. La Mama stands up for us and puts us first. It's time to put La Mama first and value it's place in our country's creative landscape.

La Mama is a place of great significance for the theatre industry. To defund La Mama is like destroying a national monument and a garden at centre of our theatre ecology in one fell swoop. Artists and theatre makers are the keepers and creators of Australia's cultural fabric. Without them and the institutions that support them, we lose a vital link to what gives life meaning. La Mama gives artists an anchor, a home and permission to explore what makes us human.

Please reinstate funding

Obviously I feel that these cuts by the Australian Government to the Arts Sector and to The Australia Council for the Arts are disastrous to the Australian arts sector being able to continue in any kind of realistic and healthy scenario. There is a frightening lack of perspective from the government in their understanding of how art works are developed (on any level or scale) and how artists learn their craft, starting at a grass roots level. The arts in Australia gives back enormously to Australia financially and on personal levels, whether you read books, go to art galleries, enjoy any kind of music, listen to the radio, watch television, movies or live theatre. La Mama is a part of our collective live theatre history and should be preserved, nurtured and funded.

Run by a team of dedicated people who are grossly underpaid for the hours they work - Independent theater deserves more

La Mama is the beating heart of Melbourne's theatre culture. Save it!

Smaller arts organizations are the ones who actually need support to continue their operations, unlike other major arts organizations that have other means of revenue.

la mama is a vital piece of Victorian culture and Arts development. It must be supported

LaMama is the testing ground of many new works, actors, directors, writers and designers. It is a incubator of talent that leads artists to pursue excellence and become leaders in the field. Remove La Mama and it's effect will be felt later down the track with a lack of art being made

I am shocked that La Mama lost funding after proving time and time again to be a critical part of the arts ecosystem in Victoria and in Australia. I really can't believe it... I sincerely hope it was an oversight or a mistake, and I urge the decision to be reconsidered.

Good luck team, I hope a decision maker sees sense and gives you the support you need!!

Young artists need La mama as a platform to work and release their works

We need this so badly as a city, not only economically but culturally and emotionally. We are turning to artists en masse right now. Let's remember that when some semblance of normalcy begins to return, and let's help it be possible now when it's hectic.

Why you would cut the funding out of an organisation that enables emerging artists and has proven it's resilience and community support when recovering from being burnt down last year seems very short sighted and damaging.

La Mama is the backbone of theatre in Melbourne and without them we will be nothing. Unsupported, uncherished, and lost.

La mama has produced some of the best theatre works I have seen. They provide space for deep thought and analysis and the arts world wouldn't be the same without it.

its a great space

Theatre means a lot to a lot of people. Including myself. It is great for people's income, health and wellbeing. The community could to be prouder or harder working to achieving its goals.

Long history, succesful endeavours, support from community.

Fund this vital life source of the australian arts community!

Just to repeat that the Arts are an important part of our life and culture and La Mama, along with other smaller arts companies, are essential as a space in which our future artists can be supported to experiment and explore and thereby develop their unique talents.

We need to ensure that venues/organisations such as La Mama can survive through this current crisis.

Grass roots arts organisations have supported the formative development of some of Australia's most significant artists. They are the bedrock of developing our national voice. To defund then is ludicrous, short sited and plain stupid. When a company has the kind of history and runs on the board that La Mama has, their survival now, more than ever, is vital. They provide the oxygen necessary for our future social stories and development.

As I'm sure you'd agree, we must challenge the narrative that says "there just isn't enough money to fund the arts (health, education, welfare for the genuinely needy, in short: the common weal)." That requires a broad-based movement with aims well beyond merely saving La Mama. We "found" the money to ward off the worst of the GFC in about three nano-seconds, and have suddenly found ten times that to deal with this virus. Those of us who believe in a well-funded public sector that serves the genuine needs of the people need to communicate that inconvenient truth at every opportunity - at home, at work, online, everywhere, everywhen. We need to call out the failures of the "business good, government bad", neo-liberal dispensation and ALL its servants - including the ALP - and rally around ideas like the "Green New Deal" movement promoted by a re-energised left faction of the US Democrats. It can't be about "saving the arts" at the expense of some other public good. We can't win this fight in isolation.

As an artist in Melbourne- we need la mama

Please fund the arts. During this time when we are stuck at home we can see how much everyone relies on our artists to keep us sane. We need institutions like LaMama to grow our arts communities and to keep them vibrant.

Cutting funding at this time is very short sighted as the arts will play an important role in helping society to find its equilibrium when this period of physical isolation ends.

La Mama has offered many emerging artists the oportunity to present their work in a professional context in a cost effective manner.

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The Arts provide Australia's economy with billions of dollars as well as unquantifiable value to the community. It's unthinkable that we wouldn't provide support when La Mama and other Arts institutions give us so much.

We will need the arts more than ever after being in confinement for so long because of covid-19. The government is very short sighted by not continuing to fund such a great Melbourne institution.

Removal of funding from La Mama, particularly in this delicate time where La Mama is rebuilding after the fire as well as among the COVID-19 pandemic. Please reconsider supporting La Mama at this time - it's a vital time for for the small and medium arts sector to be supported.

No

LaMama is a core and integral part of the Melbourne psyche and her landscape. Melbourne is nourished and fed by her presence, without LaMama, Melbourne will be disfigured. Please save LaMama!

La Mama is an essential part of the Australian arts industry. Without La Mama new theatre making and new performance arts making will not merely suffer, it just will not be seen. La mama has Audiences from diverse communities. Without La Mama audiences from diverse communities will not only suffer, they will vanish and those people will be stripped of their sense of community and identity.

Destroying long term cultural institutions is something Australia does very well, at our own peril. Without tradition in the arts we risk developing no cultural identity, something we've been bemoaning for some time.

La mama has played such an amazing role in my career and the careers of so many people I know, it would be devastating to lose it. With everything they have been through, they need support and they need it now

What are independent artists going to do without La Mama?

La Mama is vital and this devastating decision must be reversed.

As an emerging artist, I was very excited at the possibility of working with La Mama. To have this institution in the Australian arts ecosystem crumble because of a lack of funding disheartened me. I am truly scared of what it signals for the Arts sector overall if we allow places like La Mama to disappear.

La Mama hosts and presents the future of Australian theatre arts. Without seedlings, there are no mighty trees or forests.

It is SO IMPORTANT to support Lamama. Cutting funding off from Lamama means cutting the 'life-lines' of performance artists in Australia and abroad. We need not cut the funding towards Lamama, to ensure the continued existence of a rich and diverse cultural landscape in Australia.

La Mama is more than an integral part of society. La Mama is part of what allows us to be better in who we are as a society.

The place drips with integrity and compassion. We need this theatre where management work hard, where heart, head and guts in the artists are equally valued, where the delicate and the fragile are nurtured with an understanding that this is what artistic strength and power is.

Arts are there for people to experience some of their most profoundly life changing positive moments. This funding is needed for the very people who facilitate this joy, during what is sure to be some of their hardest times.

La Mama has been the symbol of resilience in my eyes, and as an artist in Melbourne. It has been the birth of many incredible artists who have gone to have amazing careers. It has been the birthplace for historical events that have shaped our ecology as Australians, the place that gives voice to the many diverse walks of life. I hope that the Australia Council strongly considers their next step with La Mama and help it stay as a strong part of our Artistic community.

Art can literally save lives, these places are key for social community, freedom of expression and without them there would be many lost souls. Don't ruin all the hard work and blood and sweat and passion that has been put into this place by letting it slide

La Mama continues to be a critical part of theatre development in Victoria and Australia. It is a trailblazer and many hundreds, probably thousands of young theatre makers might never have

worked without the support La Mama has continued to provide, even after the drastic fire that destroyed one venue. It is essential to theatre in Australia that La Mama be enabled to continue its excellent work.

The arts are crucial to our society's resilience and ability to come through crises in general, this one specifically. Keep La Mama going! The support given to it is effective and highly valuable!

La Mama is unique in Australia's theatre ecology. We will be made much poorer by its absence and the community that exists around that venue and the people who work in and for it will be dismantled, perhaps not to be replaced.

When corona virus is over not a single Australian theatre maker will be match fit. La Mama is a very economical efficient resource to help the industry get up and running.

N/A

The impact of La Mama over the decades is incalculable. Its disappearance would leave an enormous vacuum.

not yet

This theatre is so important to our community. It is accessible and provides a space for artists who would find it difficult to find a platform for their art.

La Mama, like many small arts companies, produces a tremendous amount of new work on a shoestring. It is vital that it continues to exist. The support it gives to early career artists is immense. Its support for new work is immense. Its value for money is immense. It is a Melbourne institution and its loss would be incalculable to the arts in Melbourne as it feeds into so many parts of the theatre ecology. There are few spaces in Australia that support developing artists. I'd rather see opera (which I have also worked for in the UK and Australia), have its funding reduced in order for more equitable distribution of arts resources.

La Mama is an integral part of the theatre ecology. It is vital.

La Mama is part of our current culture and of our heritage, representing an important community activity

For me, La Mama has contributed to Carlton's renaissance. When I visit the theatre, I also visit local restaurants and cafes.

La Mama is our most beloved and much appreciated Melbourne theatrical place and as such needs ongoing government funding to survive, our taxes at work in the best possible way

No

It's high time the arts community in general is recognised for the immense contribution it makes to Australian Society. La Mama is at the forefront of that, a leader, and has been since its inception.

This is an ESSENTIAL SERVICE.

La Mama and its community injects a creative and artistic element into the life of many Australians, whether in Melbourne or elsewhere in our country and abroad. It contributes to a culture of creativity felt throughout society in the arts, the business community and elsewhere. Every dollar spent on La Mama is returned in the income it generates in other businesses, but mostly in the talent which is developed and which sustains us as a thinking, feeling, creative society in every sphere.

No thanks

La Mama is the home of independent theatre in Australia to not be recognised and supported for the massive contribution it has made to the arts across the country is insulting and hurtful.

La Mama is a cultural institution. Australia would not have the theatrical landscape it has today without this beautiful Theatre company.

This is an iconic theater institution that needs to be saved.

La Mama is vital to the arts community of Melbourne, the country and the world.

Save La Mama!

I travel a fair way just to see La Mama productions - it's not just for local people.

La Mama is a company cherished by our community. It's the birthplace of many fine works and many fine theatre practitioners. It is a backward and small minded step to not fund this crucial company.

#weallcomefromlamama

THE most important THEATRE in Melbourne for it's contribution to the ARTS in Melbourne.

Now more than ever the arts is important to people. During the bushfires the arts community raised much needed funds. Dying the COVID crisis, everyone is hunkering down, listening to music and watching actors on screens for escapism and support. Actors perform an important role in society!

To remove La Mamas funding will greatly impact our arts community, The effect will be devastating leaving us bereft of having a space to create, communicate, learn, grow and entertain.

La mama is and has been the backbone of theatre in Melbourne and Australia for so long. I, and many other artists would not be where we are today without the unique gift this theatre space has afforded us. There is NO place that can compare.

After such a fight to save La Mama and the support of the Government towards the rebuild in the recent years, it is somewhat surprising how this lack of support in the form of funding can be justified or rationalized, except in the form of short-term panic and lack of faith in the future of people needing to connect in a long term view. The loss of much revenue over the coming months due to Corona virus needs to be given to off-set the loss.

We love La Mama

La Mama is one of my favourite places in the whole world? To not support this decades-long institution would actually be cultural madness.

La Mama is The Mother Of Us All

Yes. Many of the companies which were defunded in this round are relatively high profile with strong levels of local community support. The AC appears to have made a partly calculated decision in defunding these companies to advance the government's overall 'small government' agenda, knowing that the companies'level of community support will mean that they will continue in some perhaps reduced form with a shift in funding source - to private funding, which is really what the whole exercise is about. Following the pandemic, even less funding will be available from conservative governments for the arts, as they will likely seek to advance a small government agenda in a recession.

Just look at Germany. You MORONS.....

La Mama provides a testing ground for live performance in a supported and compassionately guided context. The rules of respect for the venue, staff and the audience are simple and understood by all. It is common ground for all theatre practitioners across all ages and experience. I can't imagine having had the thirty year career I've had as a lighting designer without La Mama.

La Mama is an institution and integral to the healthy ecology of the theatrical landscape in Melbourne and Australia more broadly. Without small to medium theatre companies like La Mama, there will be no space for Writers, Directors and Actors to experiment, take risks, innovate and produce new works. For more than 50 years La Mama has provided that supportive creative hub, and afforded opportunities for some of our best known artists in this country including David Williamson, Cate Blanchett, Judith Lucy, Julia Zemiro, Uncle Jack Charles and Graeme Blundell, to name but a few.

Please ensure ongoing funding for LaMama and their vital contribution to the Australian theatre ecology.

Grass-roots arts organisations are as important in supplying the professional workers as much as grass-roots sports are for supplying elite athletes. Would the government scrap grass-roots football/cricket in the same way?

We need to do better by the small to medium arts sector if we want to retain a place on the international cultural stage, because it is this sector that allows the community development

and growth of larger works to occur. More importantly, perhaps, if we don't support this sector, Australians will suffer, because we will lose the spaces that allow us to share our stories, and find others to share them with.

Losing La Mama would be losing an integral part of our artist's make up. We cannot create a healthy artistic culture, one that would thrive and evolve and change history, if we put no money or faith into our arts sector. La Mama has always believed in young theatre makers and poets, in their strange ideas, and fought for them. Melbourne and Australia would not be the same without this space.

We cannot lose this cultural institution. It's too important to the next generation of theatre makers as well as an integral part of a Melbourne's arts history

Australian culture needs La Mama like Australian sport needs the AFL. It is crucial. We will be impoverished without it. It provides new generations of artists with a context to make and present work. It provides established artists with a place to continue to create and experiment. It provides audiences with an experience of cultural and personal connection. It is meaningful to our society. We can't lose it.

Please do not allow La Mama to be defunded.

Not at this point.

It is crucial to keep such artistic forums alive. They are already few and far between, and La Mama is an important cultural icon.

Everything starts from the smallest seed. Independent theatre is the start for so many artists. We can't and won't all be mining magnates.

La Mama is intrinsic to Melbourne in many ways...art, culture, tourism, in an accessible to all way. It is an institution that must be recognized and maintained as a means for all people to cheaply see all kinds of cultural, theatre, music and other events. For god's sake!...it is part of the historical and living organism of the city. Without it, Melbourne will lose a source of blood to the city's heart!

It is incredibly short sighted to refuse to fund a company which, in these very challenging times, truly exemplifies the creativity of Australian theatre. Everybody knows the challenging times LaMama has recently been through. The Australia Council should be a proud contributor to this company -literally- rising from the ashes. LaMama is not just an institution in Australian theatre- it is a living breathing embodiment of nurturing the creative spirit of this country. Shame on you Australia Council

La Mama is a cherished institution, bringing together an eclectic mix of audience members and theatre makers without bias or prejudice. These sort of institutions must be cherished

Defunding La Mama is likely to be one of the least cost effective ways to support the cultural ecosystem. It will decimate the independent theatre-making sector in Victoria and will have lasting impact on developing new content into the future - not just for the La Mama program, but across Australia at smaller and larger scales.

Support La Mama

La Mama is a cultural icon. A treasure. An ark for creatives. She punches so far above its financial weight that she defies the laws of physics. We love and bless her, and hope for her survival. She must be given proper care. She gives life to many. La Mama - the mother ship - deserves our love.

As a playwright, we can't just rely on the majors to provide us with commissions - their commissioning budget doesn't ever match the offerings available from a large talent pool. Also, we don't want all our work to be confined to a handful of companies. We need companies like La Mama to let us play, experiment, discover. The price point for La Mama shows also makes it much more accessible to audiences than the majors.

After surviving the recent significant blows and rebuilding the theatre, La Mama will not be able to survive without significant injection into its operating budget. An enormous number of artists, who are already suffering from being unable to perform or earn money, will be ultimately compromised.

I would like to urge the funding bodies to revoke their decision to withdraw funding to La Mama.

While I am sure that those who signed off on this decision would be appalled at the destruction of the National Museum of Iraq in 2003, by disabling the heart and soul of the performing Arts in Victoria, they are putting their name to something as morally reprehensible. La Mama has been uncompromising in its commitment to theatre in this country, acknowledged by the overwhelming financial support it received when Farady Street burnt to the ground. La Mama's importance to artists and audiences as a living breathing entity, and to others as a cultural symbol that is embedded in our sense of who we are as Victorians is evident in this support. To destroy all this is cultural sabotage.

La Mama is an intrinsic part of Melbourne theatre. It holds a special place in Melburnian hearts.

There is no other Theatre institution like La Mama that caters for all levels of Theatre Workers, all communities, ethnic groups etc and is inviting and comfortably for those who are not comfortable at, or cannot afford main stage theatre.

The Arts are always there to support crisis' that happen. Let's get behind them and all arts and musicians during this time and help get them the support they need.

It is an absolute outrage for the government to pull funding.

n/a

La Mama is the soul of Melbourne's independent theatre community.

It's shameful that things have got to this stage. That La Mama has not been fully acknowledged and compensated for its contribution to the Arts and the Creative in Victoria. That it has never been made to feel secure in its unofficial capacity as an Arts and Cultural leader for professional and emerging artists/creatives, a model for other theatre/dramatic entities and as an Aussie icon. Shame.

I kick myself now for not having discovered La Mama sooner, as who knows now, if ever I'll get to attend a show because of the current predicament! The website is a powerful vice in the interim and have discovered so many artists and works through your website alone to continue to inspire my own work.

The arts are an essential part of cultural development in Australia and La Mama is integral to providing young artists with a space to hone their craft.

We need poets and artists now more than ever.

Thank you to all at La Mama for always keeping on. The company provides an essential artistic, cultural, human and social service that Melbourne, and Australia, simply cannot do without.

The sector is already under threat from its closure and the job redundancies caused by Covid19. Defunding small theatre incubators such as La Mama will only serve to destroy any opportunity for independent artists when the sector eventually begins to recover.

La Mama must survive because of what it does - and one of those things is bring a younger audience to live theatre.

I am deeply impressed how La Mama can be an institution and still have the freshness to reinvent itself all the time!

Mainly that it would be a serious tragedy in my opinion if it was not properly supported by the Australian Council/Government or in whatever way is needed. It would be a great loss to not just Melbourne but further a field.

We can't just keep businesses afloat - community and cultural organisations need support too.

La Mama is an essential part of an actor's career path in Melbourne. The company makes available the opportunity for an actor to create their own work, which is how we survive in this industry.

Melbourne and the entire arts sector needs La Mama

The ability to showcase original and ground breaking theatre should always be supported

Keep up the great work, because a venue and cultural group like LaMama is needed in Australia it's the grassroots, present and future for Australian theatre

Like many in the Australian Theatre World, I would be heart broken and furious to see La Mama

disappear. It has never stopped being a crucial resource for emerging and independent theatre artists, it is a great model, it is open and accessible in a way many theatre companies are not, and it consistently produces work of a high calibre. It remains vibrant and important. It should be protected, and funded.

There are very few performance spaces in Australia where you as a theatre worker can feel you are in possession of the space, rather than a landlord / tenant relationship.

Viva La Mama!

La Mama is a crucial part of Melbourne's strong independent theatre community, providing space for new and important works to launch. Many successful companies, producers, actors and performers started at La Mama. La Mama is a shining light in the community paving the way for many and deserves support and recognition for all it has done and continues to do in supporting independent artists and companies.

La Mama is a vital organ of the arts, particularly in Melbourne. The life blood of all homegrown theatre. A grassroots necessity, where emerging artists can create not only art but themselves. It is an ESSENTIAL mechanism in the clockwork of Australian Theatre.

The relentless reduction in funding for the arts is a blight on our country. Not only does theatre play a vital role in presenting, challenging, and progressing our identity as a nation, but it also employs innumerable people in various roles each year. Keeping this sector not only alive, but thriving, is vital for the cultural economy of the nation.

LaMama needs funding as our community needs LaMama

Please support La Mama and provide funding which will enable it to continue contributing to the rich performing arts in Melbourne.

I treat my theatre-going experience like sports fans treat going to the footy. I love going to see live performances and I love performing. Please allow the opportunity for artists to thrive.

La Mama is an institution that has given birth to great Writers and performers alike and should be considered as a national treasure.

Cutting La Mama's funding is directly cutting out the base line of the Independent sector in Melbourne, and arguably Australia. Everybody else who has been funded is working to a more specialised brief - Youth, music, CALD, disability and they are just doing that one brief, whereas La Mama covers everyone's brief. I can say without reservation, that my already industry bludgeoned 'career' has just had the last platform that I could work in, ripped out from underneath me. This is the absolute death knell of my involvement in the Arts in Australia, I was only hanging on by a thread anyway because there is absolutely no room to move up, and now, Australia's highest Arts Organisation, who's brief is to represent me and the thousands of other performing arts practitioners like me, has totally erased me and my 35 year career off the Australian Cultural map. I see it as clear as day - You have shown me by your decision to defund La Mama that I as an artist, am not respected. My award-winning career, my life as an artist in Australia, my contribution to the health of my community, both psychologically and emotionally whilst tackling the big subjects of domestic violence and the emancipation of women in the world - is not respected. The defunding of La Mama means that you have no knowledge of its profound impact on Australian life, both artistic and general. I am an artist, it is your job to represent me and provide a healthy art culture in Australia. Defunding La Mama is cutting the head off the future of the Australian Performing Arts Community. I don't understand why you don't know that.

La Mama is needed, we need stories! we need community! We need art that looks the horrors of the world in the face and holds out a hand.

What LaMama offers society is more important to many of facets of society we value more highly; expensive property/possessions. Experience entertainment /innocuous entertainment; Netflix/Disney plus Private schooling in excess of what's compatible with young people

No

La Mama is literally the birth place for any artist you can think of, who cuddles you and proudly sends you on your way. Of course everyone should continue to have access to this!

La Mama is a shining gem in our cultural landscape - this latest news is heartbreaking

La Mama is where a lot of Melbourne independent art is born. It is a much needed presence. Please don't cease funding.

La Mama has been a vital influence on my trajectory as an artist and for my company THE RABBLE. The access and support offered by La Mama is unparalleled. They not only ensure all artists get a chance for expression, but particularly the more vulnerable in our community - those who can not afford to front up large amounts of money in the first years of their careers, those who speak English as a second language, those who feel uncomfortable in the larger establishments. In the coming months and years, when we are rebuilding our industry from this latest devastation, we will need La Mama because they are expert at surviving and they are the most experienced at seeding new ideas, new forms and new artists. Viva La Mama.

No

Please keep La Mama going, and thank you for everyone helping to do so

There is a reason La Mama has survived so long, and holds the reputation it does: because it is vital and valued. It is outrageous to consider a Melbourne arts scene without it.

I implore the Australia Council to fund La Mama and other medium-sized arts companies like it. Without them the Australian arts scene is a barren wasteland, held up only by main stage companies that in 10 years time will have no artists to work with for the lack of opportunities offered to new and emerging artists at spaces like La Mama.

La Mama is essential.

I am heart broken that La Mama has been placed in this position - needing to grovel for its survival. We should honour this beacon of hope and creativity in our nation.

La Mama is an essential part of the Arts in Melbourne and must survive.

La Mama is one of the last surviving connections with the independent arts movement of the early 70s. It is a conduit for theatre makers from complete DIY to the main stage. Its history and ancestry provide a legitimacy which helps steward new artists and new works to a wider audience. Speaking on behalf of the students I take, the entire experience: the box-office and raffle, the after-show conversations and the intimate and endlessly reinvented space is both welcoming and inspiring. Many of my students have only had the experience of major musical events or perhaps the Harry Potter experience - that is not what La Mama provides, and therefore we need to ensure Melbourne maintains this range of theatre experiences.

All art is important, especially at this time. Support them the way they have supported us.

LaMama is a landmark crucial to Melbourne art scene!

Such a tough time for such a valued resource. So important to Melbourne and to the Australian arts scene

This decision to defund La Mama is a disgrace. The social and economic impact not only on La Mama but on the artists will be devastating for generations to come. With artists, without theatres to produce the work of these artists, we have no culture.

La Mama is one of a kind. Nurturer and supporter of amazing artists. It is at the heart of Melbourne's theatre scene and loved by many. I wish you all the luck in the world.

There are so few venues that offer such a personal experience. La Mama is crucial for Melbourne's arts precinct.

La Mama is a significant part of the development of the arts in Melbourne. It would be a huge loss if La Mama was not able to continue to offer the support has been able to offer.

La mama is why theatre in this country is exquisite.

La Mama is such an important theatre for Melbourne, Victoria and Australia as a whole. During this crisis we're seeing just how much our communities turn to the arts to make sense of things and bring us comfort and inspiration. La Mama has been an integral part of this for many years, and it must be given the funding and support it needs to continue.

support the arts

Losing LaMama would throw off our entire sector. It is vital part of the ecology and it's loss would be devastating and felt for years, and generations.

La Mama has a history behind it that is invaluable. To lose this would be to lose the heart of Australia's theatre scene. It would be impossible to re-build the culture, networks, and role of La Mama if we were to lose it. We would be throwing away one of our most valuable assets.

Fuck artists. You're all a bunch of parasites. You talk about being open-minded individuals, but you're just as much of a toxic clique as any other one. At least those other groups aren't as sanctimonious about it as you.

Institutions like LaMama are essential to the well being of our artistic community

The value of La Mama cannot be measured solely in monetary terms. It has an important significance on so many levels, culturally and educationally.

La Mama is an integral part of theatre and culture in Australia. Without the small to medium theatres like La Mama, artists cannot get their first break and develop, which will result in a loss of talent, and audiences are deprived of the opportunity to affordable, cutting edge contemporary theatre. La Mama is highly regarded within Australia and internationally and works and creatives often graduated to our mainstages. The loss of La Mama would be a loss of stepping stone that would have industry wide ramifications. Further, La Mama is an icon for Melbourne and Victoria. It is a vital part of our cultural and creative identity and should be protected.

The decision to defund LaMama is short sighted and will have a devastating effect on the theatre community. Reverse this decision immediately.

In a time where creativity and innovation count more than ever before, getting rid of our cultural 'R&D' departments is an act of cultural suicide. This shameful decision must be reversed.

In these trying times, art gives us hope

La Mama provides artists a platform to express themselves and a place where audiences can discover new worlds and inspiration. It's very important that La Mama can continue so people know that the world is not a small place and that we as humans are imaginative, creative, sensitive and insightful.

La Mama IS independent theatre. La Mama IS Melbourne theatre. La Mama IS Australian theatre.

Without the arts life is black and white

I think La Mama is an essential part of our theatre ecosystem. It serves a vital purpose.

Without La Mama, Australian culture loses one of the most influential and esteemed avenues for expression.

La Mama has played an integral part of my development allowing me to experiment and freely express myself. This institution has given me the opportunity to experience performance in various forms assisting me to learn design, self worth and confidence in the arts. La Mama has been the catalyst in my progression throughout my career.

La Mama has a unique role in cultivating new and emerging talent. It offers a small non-threatening environment that nurtures artists and encourages them to develop and grow their skills

Please keep la Mama.

I travel across the city to La mama- Its shows are innovative and exciting. Their puppetry festival is a highlight in my year!

La Mama offers affordable alternative theatre while supporting artists. Their existence is essential. After the setback of the fire last year, they need to be supported.

La Mama is an integral theatre in Melbourne's arts culture. It was foundational in forming the indie theatre scene here, and is still integral in binding our community together.

It is especially important right now that our venues and small and medium sized arts sector survive. They are the backbone of the entire arts sector. They nurture talent and offer places where authentic diverse voices can be expressed and heard

Albert Einstein – the intuitive mind is a sacred gift, and the rational mind is a faithful servant.

We have created a society that honours the servant and has forgotten the gift. La Mama is a gift we need to protect!

This is not just about theatre it is about community

It is absolutely vital that this dearly loved, valued and supported institution be funded to continue its work in supporting new, passionate and talented artists in Melbourne. It is a place that deeply values diversity and inclusion and therefore showcases new and exciting works from a broad spectrum of creatives.

I have donated twice to help save La Mama - but we can't do it on our own. We need the government to step up

You can't afford to lose La Mama; the breadth and wealth of wisdom and experience, the maturity to safely hold, help, support emerging artists to flourish is over half a century strong... and it is simply not replicable by another company or pop-up.

It is so important to value artists in the community and their essential work.

La Mama has an ongoing involvement in the Midsumma Festival of Queer Arts which has been the biggest outlet for my plays.

La Mama is a vital part of our theatrical and artistic landscape in Melbourne

Best wishes to you all

Yes but not right now

The arts are just as important as any other sector of the community, and La Mama should be allowed to continue.

La Mama is an institution. Some of the most thought-provoking art that has a true Australian voice I have seen there.

The death of La Mama would be an incomprehensible loss to the arts in Australia.

There MUST be an increase in funds made available to small to medium arts organisations or our arts ecology will die.

There is general disbelief within the arts and cultural sector that a company of the calibre of La Mama could be defunded by the Australia Council. The decision to defund flies in the face of La Mama's many achievements, awards, outstanding reputation and, most importantly, its role in contributing to the face of Melbourne as a City which values the arts, creativity and innovation.

It is critical for the growth and development of theatre and live performance that La Mama secures ongoing funding from the Australia Council.

When we say La Mama is our mother it is true. To defund La Mama, it is a terrible blow and a stab in the heart to our Art.

This is one of Melbourne's last accessible theatres for emerging artists, to defund it would be to destroy the future of the arts.

La Mama is such an important cultural space. It would be devastating to see it lost. It is a gift for Melbourne to have this space.

Help La Mama stay afloat

LaMama should receive perpetual funding with the proviso that they continue to stay relevant, promote new and wonderful work, and demonstrate leadership throughout the sector. All things it currently does in abundance.

-

LaMama is not only part of Melbourne's History, but it is sorely needed in this time of limited opportunity for Artists and Theatre workers.

no

Don't cut funding to LaMama, they are every artist's gateway into the industry

I strongly support La Mama it is an essential part of our cultural heritage.

Thank you for all the years, I hope there can be many more

La Mama is unique. It is a Melbourne icon. Contemporary theatre was born in La Mama and it is significant that it continues to be the organisation that is synonymous with innovative work

the need for legacy and care for the arts and those who have dedicated to performance. this is ancient and archetypal human need and human creation . . . to cut these things is to amputate what is us.

N/A

keep going , we need place like that .

La mama is an institution and vital for emerging and established artists alike and vital for the success of our industry and those of us creating our own work. If you don't nurture at this level say goodbye to the next generation of award winning playwrights and internationally renowned actors

Performing at La Mama was a benchmark in my development as an artist in Melbourne. It is a vital and central source of raw, truthful and challenging theatre.

A young and enthusiastic artist is a seed. Tiny and fragile potential. La Mama is one of the only greenhouses for young talent that has a proven track record of nurturing the young talent that becomes the backbone of the future.

La Mama is one of Australian theatre's Vital Organs. Without it, theatre will need intensive care. The Australian theatrical scene without La Mama would be like Australia without Kangaroos. Unimaginable.

La Mama is a vital player in the formation and evolution of theatre as we know it in Australia. We are all indebted to it's existence.

Please save La Mama, and please save the Arts

La Mama is an iconic and integral part of the history of theatre in Melbourne, as well as the development of some of Australia's biggest stage names.

It is a major pillar in Melbourne's Theatre community

Please help our entertainers, we want to see them when this is over.

Please don't abandon this important institution at this time

La Mama is synonymous with independent performance in Melbourne, and its rich history and continual support of artists should not be undermined. La Mama must be supported.

No

LaMama provides an essential stepping ground for new/emerging artists, designers, performers and techs. It allows for experimentation and creativity which is SO important.

I know many people whose careers have been forged within La Mama's walls and the loss of the space and support it offers will cause irreparable damage

La Mama is an organisation that understands what independent and up and coming artists need. It gives them practical support and encouragement. Very few organisations do this. It has also opened many people's eyes as to what is possible in the theatre.

La Mama is the only place, and I truly believe this, where an artist is completely supported around a community of other artists that wholeheartedly want the best for your production and will help you and support you mentally, emotionally, financially, and creatively from the first day you're a part of their season till the very end. From an audience perspective, this warm and generous hub of storytelling is the closest thing I can think of close to home in the city, sitting with family and friends experiencing and imagining worlds outside of these walls. It is also the most accessible theatre company in the area! If you feel like seeing a play, you don't have to think twice about just popping in for a show. Location's convenient, ticket pricing so affordable and in the best area in town. We cannot lose La Mama!

Small does not mean insignificant. Small means cosy and safe. Venues like La Mama encourage artists to take risks because of their size whilst, at the same time, encourage

ambition because of their reputation. That reputation is earned over time; it cannot easily be replaced or replicated.

Loss of La Mama would be a major blow at a time in Melbourne (and indeed Australian) history where fresh thinking and stimulation are increasingly needed to preserve and extend social, cultural, and intellectual vibrancy

La mama is not only important to the arts community, but intertegral to the education of emerging yr 12 students following a career in the arts

If La Mama doesn't survive because of this, the hole that will be left in the arts industry in Australia is massive. This is a company where people get to try new work and if it's successful, the work can go on to bigger and better things

After the fire, they have radically summoned the community to help in rebuilding. This lack of funding now feels like such a kick while they're still down. Help keep them alive. Do the right thing.

The loss of La Mama would mean the loss of hope for so many. Not just the artists, they are a fraction of the whole. It is an entire community.

Please don't let us lose this world renowned venue that gives artists a go, and helps discover real raw talent!

On behalf of our household, We love you La Mama.

La Mama has been an incubator for many of Melbourne's artists in the theatre - a fundamental link in the organism of Melbourne and Australian theatre

La Mama is, without exaggerating, the lifeblood of Melbourne's independent creative scene. Without La Mama we would be so, so worse off. Funding must be secured for the future of Australian Arts.

just so angry. The sector has been gutted by a greedy ex mining executive! WE WILL NOT BE SILENCED!

La Mama Theatre must be supported.

Find La Mama! It is an artistic imperative.

Today's performers are tomorrow's entertainers. The effect of losing La Mama will eventually be felt in every lounge room in the country. The stories must continue to be told!

We must fight with all our might to support LaMama. We all come from La Mama it is the grand dame of independent theatre in Melbourne and in Australia.

I would like LaMama to be supported financially as they been previously

La Mama has been a staple of the Melbourne community for a very long time. It would be a tragedy to lose it.

Without La Mama, the independent sector, the large company sector and Australia's entertainment industry as a whole will suffer. It may be a Melbourne institution, but La Mama shows are often toured to and/or coproduced by other companies around the country. Its importance cannot be overstated.

Melbourne without La Mama would be a much poorer city

Without a robust and thriving Arts sector we cannot call ourselves civilized.

Without La Mama, Melbourne's theatre landscape would be drastically poorer. If the theatre is unable to survive, or is forced to reduce their programming under financial stress, then fresh new writers, directors, designers and performers may never be discovered. La Mama offers a unique place for theatre makers of any experience level to work their magic and without this space we will lose a vital, vibrant piece of our culture.

La Mama was affordable, interesting and dynamic theatre for me in the past. It gave space for many up and coming actors, directors and crew

This place is an iconic institution—unique, special, so important in so many ways. One of the creative blood conduits of our town—for decades. It must not wither.

Coming from Hong Kong, a hyper economic-oriented city which has often been called a "cultural desert", I have experienced first hand as an artist how lacking the government support towards the arts is. When I first arrived at Melbourne, I was spellbound by how vibrant the arts scene was. My friends there told me that the government had been cutting arts funding but I just couldn't believe it. Now I witness it first-hand. The arts nurture the mind and soul - it is the essence of life. It makes us more empathetic and open-minded human beings, which are subtle but vital for society to better as a whole. The Australian government had better be smart and continue to fund La Mama Theatre, the fountain of support for independent artists and beyond.

La mama is a living treasure

La Mama and other arts industries and other organisations enrich our society in so many ways and we must ensure to protect their survival into the future

No

La Mama is a crucial platform for the performing arts in Melbourne. It's iconic profile, accessibility, bravery, friendliness and high caliber work that the venue attracts all add up to it being a unique and indispensable part of Melbourne's cultural landscape. Melbourne requires La Mama for its continued cultural health. It has nurtured countless of us into developing our craft and maintained a prime position in our continued expression as performers and makers. It is unthinkable that... well, it's unthinkable so I won't think it. She shall continue and thrive with our great love and support. Viva La Mama!

La Mama is an Australian theatre institution like no other. It has nurtured artist both established and emerging for decades. La Mama is a cornerstone of our cultural landscape. It is imperative that it remains operable to the fullest capacity for generations to come.

N/A

Please save La Mama

Fund La Mama. Live theatre is essential in society. La Mama provides amazing opportunities for emerging artists as well as an alternative to mainstream theatre.

art is a crucial part of being a human. Our society is built on our art and our sharing of our art. It is our art that comforts and solves and communicates. That is a necessity and something that should be preserved and held precious in our communities.

This is a small arts organisation that runs on love and sweat and the smell of an oily rag. It's generated careers of many of our most treasured actors and directors. It's a Melbourne institution, respected and revered by many. It is a place where new and emerging artists are fostered and given creative space to thrive. It must be saved and supported to continue to operate.

La Mama is the mother of this city's soul. Viva La Mama!

Grass roots theatre is essential for artists development and artists are culturally important to telling and challenging our stories , beliefs and attitudes

I urge the Australia Council to reinstate La Mama's funding, Melbourne will not be Melbourne without it. After the dust of COVID-19 has settled people will need this space, more than ever. Not only artists but also the audiences, the community that will have been starved of the goodness that live theatre gives.

La Mama is a place of experimentation, exploration, further education for practitioners. It's presence and ongoing legacy in the performance arts sector is as a foundational place for many shows and artists.

La mama is not just a theatre space but a community unlike any other. It cannot be allowed to fall, it **MUST BE SUPPORTED**

It a vital and important part of Melbourne's culture.

La mama is integral to the developing performing arts.

I am devastated by the withdrawal of funding of this unique and invaluable performing arts organisation - it is invaluable to the whole of the Australian Performing Arts Industry

I cannot imagine a theatre scene in Australia without a thriving La Mama. La Mama not only

represents Australia's theatre past, but it forecasts Australia's theatre future. The artists presenting there today are an incredible mix of seasoned professionals and newly initiated. By decreasing funding, and you decrease opportunities for them to develop ideas and work, in a supported low cost fashion. This means you take away the healthy, thriving future of theatre in Australia.

The building - and the fight for it's survival - demonstrates how loved this theatre institution is

La Mama is like an estuary: it protects and nurtures artists who are developing while also giving them enough challenges to grow strong. Estuaries are vital for overall ecological health - they deserve the lion's share of funding, not the scraps.

To reiterate, this company certainly deserves the support of the government of this society.

The survival of La Mama is essential to the Australian arts industry. The government must support this organisation.

I'm horrified at the de funding of La Mama. The government may not care about minority voices, it may hate criticism but if the small companies fold it will destroy the foundations of the flagship companies !

La Mama, and the arts in Australia are necessary.

Just my [expletives deleted] view of those [expletives deleted] self-saying "experts" who have withdrawn the funding from La Mama!

Without independent artists and small to medium art organisations the art scene is boring.

Viva La Mama!

La Mama is an icon. It is a birthplace. It has shaped our cultural identity and sense of self.

I think independent artists are constantly in a state of flux, working extremely hard but being at the mercy of government funding. Decision makers should ask themselves and their family members - Do you watch TV, do you go to the theatre, have you every stopped to watch a street artist etc and think what makes these people do this work for very little gain - the answer is passion - their passion to make others get a great experience.

In my view, La Mama is the most important theatrical institution in Melbourne. It represents both continuity and renewal. It focuses on productivity, not products. It richly embodies the ethos and practice of poor theatre.

Viva La Mama

La mama is a vital part of Melbourne's rich cultural scene. 5% of GDP is culture and we need to sustain and nurture la mama.

While the Australia Council has decided to withdraw its financial support, we, as artists and audience, will continue to support La Mama for as long as we can, and we sincerely implore the council to reverse its decision.

There is nowhere else like La Mama in all of Australia. It is here between these walls that artists have the space and the trust too take great risks and discover what sort of artists they are. My career would not be what it is without La Mama

La Mama has always been great. A vital place in the heart of Carlton.

La Mama has offered so many opportunities for artists of disciplines many of which have gone to higher accolade. this is all done on the smell of an oily rag, something that in the arts we get used to. Unfortunately we don't expect the art or the venue to be ripped away from us as well.

My love to you all at this time.

La Mama is a very important platform for budding as well as established artists. Emerging artists need support and La mama has always been there for them. We need La Mama.

as Joni Mitchell sang : You don't know what you got till it's gone ... Please continue to support La Mama

La Mama is part of Australia's cultural history, and should remain as an integral part of our cultural future for years to come.

La Mama is a place I hold very close to my heart. Its the place I met my life partner. it's a place we both performed and worked for many years and a place we made very dear friends. It is a place for everybody and a place that must continue to be so.

La Mama is one of very few venues to give artists a chance to show their work. It has nurtured many artists through many years and it is vital that it continues to do so. Without support, this will not be possible.

La Mama is a place where artists learn how to be artists and how to be a caring part of an amazing community. It must go on.

It is devastating for so many people that La Mama did not receive 4 year funding.

We need arts to hold our community together, ALL of the community.

This place needs saving From the ashes The Phoenix will surely rise.. ♡

It is unimaginable to me that La Mama would lose the funding it needs to continue its vital role in the industry.

Operations like La Mama should be the cornerstone of arts funding not an afterthought. The big companies should come 2nd. Grass roots theatre is where cultural identity is forged.

its Such a wonderful place - wherever it has been, the heart of LaMama goes with it.

La Mama is priceless. A goldmine of the past, a courageous creator of the present and in need of (and more than deserving) financial freedom to continue into the infinite future.

The arts are extremely important, companies like this will suffer SO much, it is detrimental to artists to not be support and funded.

La Mama is the life blood of Australian theatre

Please save La Mama. It's unastralian not to. Fair go

La Mama is unique. It is an essential place for the conception and development of new ideas. It takes risks. It feeds a wide and diverse community of artists and patrons, and provides a hatchery and incubator for larger projects that find their way to the main stage. It is fiercely independent but will struggle to exist without government funding. Governments must understand the benefits La Mama has provided for so many decades, and must reverse its latest decision for the Australia Council to deny funding of this vital institution. Fund La Mama now!

This withdrawing of funds, especially at this time, is based on class, when opera and ballet companies are untouched. It's unfair, ideological and destructive to Australian theatre culture.

No

Just that I adore La Mama - the first play I saw in high school that I really liked was at the Courthouse. Since then, La Mama has become my favourite venue and I have spent many, many nights there. Without La Mama, the MPAs would have no new talent to draw from. It is a safe haven filled with lovely staff and wonderful vibes. Viva La Mama!

No

La Mama has an entirely unique place in the Victorian theatre ecology, equally important to emerging artists as it is to established artists. It provides a brave, safe, inclusive and supported space for risk-taking and innovation. This can not be underestimated

There is nothing to be gained from not funding La Mama , and there is so much to be lost. What other company works so many shows within such a small budget. Who said we can't afford this? Our developing Australian culture cannot afford to lose La Mama. Just look at the track record.

Give funding now !!!

Please give funding to La Mama and other small-medium companies. They are vital to the ecology of the arts sector.

La Mama is an art institution that should be supported and funded. It has contributed to the enrichment of our lives, by supporting local content and creative art. The Australian society as a

whole will be poorer without it.

La Mama is critical to the development of young performers and non mainstream performances

La Mama is vital for our up and coming artists community.

LaMama must be saved. Incredibly shortsighted and uninformed decision by the OzCo. If there was a discretionary component of my taxes I would direct it to places like LaMama. There are no big shiny fish without the little fish.

I love La Mama, without it, i don't know where i'd be as an artist or appreciator of the arts in melb

La mama is the most integral arts venue in Melbourne and offers support to do many creative artists.

La Mama is a well established company that offers good value to artist, the public and local community

I have been both an artist and audience member at La Mama over the years. They have offered me opportunity, a community of likeminded people as well as representing quality and innovation in the Melbourne theatre world.

Bring back the funding levels we had before monies were stripped from the Australia Council by Brandis and others! All of the performance companies that lost their funding in the latest Australia Council rounds were deeply deserving. WE NEED TO FUND THE ARTS in Australia. WE NEED to have artists that are supported to challenge, celebrate and explore what it is to be Australian in our times, in our places.

Please don't take La Mama for granted. Please don't assume that LM will get by "somehow". The Rebuild La Mama campaign was an extraordinary demonstration of support, but please don't let that blindside how the organisation will sustain its future. Please provide more transparency about WHY the funding was rejected, about WHAT criteria was not met, about WHEN it was decided that the institution of LM was no longer deemed necessary, valued; worth putting your money on, and about HOW La Mama will be reinstated.

La Mama is an integral part of Melbourne life, socially, culturally and intellectually. I can't imagine a future without this Australian institution.

The Arts make us realise our potential.

La Mama is a vital contributor to Melbourne arts and artists. Losing it would be a terrible loss. The government must support La Mama at this trying time.

In WA. we have suffered with our own Blue Room Theatre, who supports so many artists in all stages of their careers, also not receiving four year federal funding. I believe La Mama should be receiving federal funding because of their impact across the nation. I am a prime example of that as a West Australian independent artist who has worked as an artist for La Mama. I still follow La Mama's shows and programs from over west. Any time I travel to Melbourne I like to look up and try make it to La Mama because it is the home of artists in Melbourne but also across Australia.

I have learnt so much about theatre through the history of Australian theatre through companies such as La Mama :)

La Mama's loss will be Australia's loss

Please keep La Mama alive. It has opened doors for many artists & actors & actresses & just their passion for the community & the arts.

I think la mama is vital to the health of Australian live theatre - it is where many people start their careers

La Mama nurtures new and emerging artists, and has a crucial role to play in the future of original theatre in Australia.

No

I think it is imperative that La Mama and other small independent theatres are supported so they can continue their significant role in Australian Theatre.

La Mama is important not only for artists but for arts administrators, production workers, and other non-artist arts workers

La Mama is an essential part of the theatre sector nationally, it allows every theatre maker to develop their art, creating unique stories from every sector of Australian society; past, present and future.

La mama must survive. Melbourne's theatre community will be unimaginably damaged without them.

Losing La Mama and similar organisations/venues destroys opportunities for emerging artists. It would be a serious blow to all

The arts community is very important for the cultural identity of our communities.

I sincerely hope they are able to get the funding

LaMama is an integral part of what makes Melbourne, Melbourne....it is not just relevant to theater. I am a VCE drama teacher in regional Victoria and LaMama inspires my students to move to Melbourne when they graduate, to become the next generation of artists make Melbourne the city it is.

The value for money that La Mama offers is incredible

Organisation like La Mama generate crucial, vital Australian storytelling that benefits ALL Australians.

La mama is the life blood of Melbourne theatre

Long Live La Mama

Help this group who is integral to Australian and Victorian culture

Think Winston Churchill!

Disappointment that theatre organisations are being sacrificed by the funding bodies. LaMama is Melbourne's theatre delight in the same way as the laneways are a visual arts drawcard. Not everyone wants to see big shows with massive budgets. LaMama is the point of difference in Melbourne

I was saddened to hear La mama had lost their funding. I am worried they won't recover following the fire tragedy and the isolation

Fund La Mama. Melbourne will not be the same without La Mama and an incredible amount of people working in the arts will be greatly affected by its loss.

The pot of money which is used to finance the arts is insufficient. The way the money is distributed needs a major injection of cash and an overhaul in what merits financial support.

I love La Mama. I need La Mama. La Mama is key to the future of theatre in Australia, as it has been key to the development, support and evolution of theatre in Australia for many many years. As an artist who has lost all their work due to Covid19, the existence of La Mama provides a spark of hope for the future. 'When this is all over we will be able to perform again'. Hearing that La Mama had lost its funding was a devastating blow. Far more devastating than any of the cancelled gigs in the weeks prior. We need La Mama to be there. We need to have a theatre and a community to look forward to performing in. La Mama is my heart and my home. Please restore her funding.

Arts deserves funding

NA

Without LaMama, my wife could not have had her first theatre performance. We could not have watched lots of amazing plays and performances of important topics by talented artists.

Viva La Mama

La Mama is poised to flourish and grow and has garnered universal praise for the dedication and positive impact of its staff. Now is not the time to cripple them, when their new building and vision has the potential to breathe life back in to the arts post Covid 19.

I love la mamas excellent capacity to delivery challenging and untested works.

As an immigrant artist, La Mama meant a lot to me during several years; having the opportunity to observe and appreciate the multicultural work done in there and the continuous support given to the community, has just change the whole experience of being an alien in a new country.

Please please acknowledge the great contribution to the arts places like La Mama make. What have most people in isolation been doing?. Watching movies.....how do actors learn their craft? At places like La Mama

La Mama is a pillar of the Melbourne and indeed Australian arts community, and deserves to be valued and respected as such.

The necessity to provide for the kind of theatre that La Mama and other smaller theatre groups offer to the community.

The heart of the Melbourne theatre scene lives at La Mama, what will we do without our heart?

This place shaped me as a prolific artist in Melbourne during 2004-2010 actually filling out this form has reminded me of the importance impact and impression this House Lamama has had n me personally. Right now I'm lost, confused and scared but filling out this form...I am inspired to perhaps I should just write get back to work and share communicate and transform our suffering in this craziness to art... turn our suffering into art, isn't that what changes the world?!

Our society would be much poorer without La Mama.

There are so few institutions like La Mama left - we need to protect the one's we have for future generations.

La Mama IS Melbourne theatre. It's not just an exclusive platform that allows artists to be creative, it's an institution that brings an entire community together.

Where would the poster boys of Australian theatre - David Williamson or Stephen Sewell - be without La Mama? Forget them, where would we be at a society is we did not have accessible paths for minority voices to be amplified?

This is a cultural institution - a significant contributor to theatre and performance that goes well beyond functioning as an arts business but provides invaluable support and mentorship. Please protect her - she has suffered enough.

All the best for the future

Our time in theatres may appear transitory, however the history and legacy these theatres carry is not. They are our history and present and our future.

La Mama is a unique and wonderful theatre company. It would be a travesty for their funding to be cut. Such a gem needs to be preserved and supported. It is beyond belief that, after 50 years of financial support, funding could be slashed so brutally, especially with the difficulties faced by the arts community at this time. I would appeal to those responsible to making decisions about funding to reconsider their decision and continue funding La Mama.

Love you all - you do an amazing job. Take care of yourselves and each other and know we've got your back.

Please save La Mama! There is no other venue like them, that supports artists in a way that makes art making possible.

La mama is affordable, friendly and presents works that may otherwise not be seen.

Cutting La Mama's core funding is insanity. The web of theatre, art and culture in Melbourne across generations and communities depends on La Mama.

Please save La Mama! It has been my most cherished arts organisation for its history, resilience, ethos and nurturer of artists of big and small reputation alike.

Please keep La Mama open. The community desperately needs inspiration, companionship and loving warmth coming out of this shutdown.

No

I stand with you!

Please please please restore our daily bread!

I am shocked that the government cannot see La Mama's value, not merely as a theatre, but as invaluable part of Australia itself.

La Mama is not just a theatre company. To me, my family and everyone I know, La Mama is home. The home of creativity, nurturing talent, exploring, creating, learning, experiencing, mentoring, and so much more. La Mama personifies everything that theatre stands for. AND anyone, (even those who don't understand theatre or its culture), anyone with less than half a brain would know that to cut funding to Australia's most valuable, important, vital and necessary Theatrical Establishments, would be one of the worst things the government could possibly do.
- K. Joy (17 Years of age)

We all come from LaMana. LaMama theatre, it's ethos, it's formidable staff, and our matriarch Liz Jones has and continues to foster the essence the fabric of theatre in Melbourne. LaMama's funding cut is a embarrassing oversight, and should be addressed immediately . This lack of monies will have devastating consequences to the arts, it's community that we may never recover from... it is vital that La Mama's finding is reinstated.

La Mama often feels like a second home to me and every waking minute I spend doing shifts there is a blessing.

La Mama is a cultural icon and a space that allows artists to continue to make art. In a sector already struggling with funding, fuelled by passion, and determined to survive, La Mama gives people the means to actually put work on stage. Without La Mama, the rich culture of Melbourne will never be the same.

Please take this seriously. La Mama is part of our Australian identity.

This is important. Save La Mama. Please.

Please save La Mama. The people will save it. But we need the elected Federal Government of the people to side with us and fund this great institution. Please do not leave it up to the arts sector who haven't got bucket loads of money.

Lamama has been around for over 50 years. It needs to exist for the life time of humans because without it how do we create theatre?

How important LaMama has been to so many of my working colleagues and friends.

Interconnectedness and momentum. The role La Mama plays in connecting people and to each other, to the industry, to potential partners and programmers. Its role in ensuring momentum which makes for coherence. Through this lens, unfunding La Mama is totally incoherent.

Without La Mama, important Australian work will be lost.

La Mama is an institution, and without Melbourne would not be the same. They give a voice to theatre makers and artists, including marginalised voices and those who would not have an opportunity elsewhere. To take away their funding will have a catastrophic impact on the arts in Victoria, and is categorically a terrible decision.

La Mama promotes and nurtures artists and their craft. However The Arts and La Mama are vehicle for the promotion of ideas and the story of society. Without the Arts there is no culutue, there is no light shone upon humanity in all its forms.

For artists in Melbourne La Mama is as important as breathing. Without it we will suffocate.

There is no small institution more vital to the development of Australia's live performing, screen and storytelling industries than La Mama. To jeopardise it would spell the inevitable demise of our rich and vital culture and collective imagination.

This is unacceptable and a travesty because of a lack of political will to do something about it. I've written to two Labor MP's at state and federal level but some public pressure is needed. Very happy to join a sit in protest for example.

To lose La Mama would be devastating to the burgeoning arts community. It makes no sense why the funding should be cut after so many years of brilliance. This shining light must continue to nurture the arts.

The most important performing arts institution in Melbourne.

Arts matter, supporting new indie work matters.

The breadth & diversity of the shows, artists and conversations that La Mama supports every year is ABSOLUTELY UNPARALLELED.

I didn't think I could imagine anything worse than us potentially losing La Mama to fire but this is so much worse because it's not an accident and it didn't need to happen. It's so shortsighted. As Oscar Wilde said about cynics, "someone who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing".

Arts are integral to Australian culture and overall happiness

LaMama must be supported to continue its critical role as a development ground and crucible of new, forward facing artistic exploration. The role it plays is unlike any other in Australia.

La Mama is the place I can learn and grow as an artist with all the support it provides.

I find it so disheartening that a theatre such as La Mama which has been supporting and encouraging independent theatre makers for 50 years could so flippantly have their funding discontinued. It suggests to me that there is something wrong with the funding system.

Essential to support and sustain La Mama's contribution

La Mama has supplied a home/stage for most of Melbourne's (and a plethora of Australia's) most iconic talent and stories. La Mama needs support to survive and equally, the Independent Theatre Industry needs La Mama to survive.

La Mama is a very strong theatre company and safe haven for artists of all ages and backgrounds. It has provided the platform for artists to exhibit work of all kinds, work that has pushed for conversation, work that has contributed to the incredible talent we have in Melbourne and in Australia. This company cannot have funds cut as it is held so dear to many many people, artists and audience alike

If Victoria loses La Mama it will be a crucifixion of the arts

La Mama is so important in the cultural landscape of Melbourne and all of Australia.

La Mama is the backbone of Australian performing arts, it's the testing ground, the birth place, it's essential.

La Mama is essential to Melbourne.

Save La Mama

La Mama is where a truly Australian Theatre language originated . Bereft of English accents . Our voice... ourselves seen and heard on our stages for the first time AND critically it still does this against the tide of the MPA companies staging international works with big stars . La Mama IS Australian Theatre . Bold . Independent . Risk taking . Cutting Edge.

La Mama is a safe place to explore new ideas and offers artists the ability to take risks and grow like no other organisation in Victoria.

La Mama is an integral part of the national cultural infrastructure and a unique and special theatre organisation in its own right. If the Australia Council is so starved of funds that it has been forced to deny support to La Mama - and other vital and well-performing arts organisations across the country - in order to support new arts initiatives, this is palpable evidence we are in an emergency situation with regard to Federal government support for arts and culture.

When independent theatre thrives, it challenges, braces and invigorates the entire arts milieu. Without it we are impoverished and bland

La Mama should be considered to be one of the key arts organisations in Australia and should ensure continued core funding

Our lives have been so sadly impacted in recent times - the arts are a critical part of who we are and will help us reclaim our sense of self and community. Please consider La Mama an essential service.

It is impossible to overestimate La Mama's importance in the Australian live theatre (and by extension screen and television performance) ecology. It would be a grave error if Government

fails to support this company during the present time of crisis for Australian culture and community

The Australia Council needs more money!

The team at La Mama have overcome so much in the last few years and have given an enormous amount to the Australian arts and cultural community. To lose it would be a massive loss and frankly, a travesty.

There is no other space or mindset like La Mama's. It has provided support in every way for new and experimental works that would never be seen anywhere else.

As an artist who is currently studying and will soon be looking to put new work out into the world, I am devastated at the loss of funding for La Mama. I have seen countless brilliant productions of all kinds at La Mama, and it has supported and fostered the development of so many friends of mine in the arts community. La Mama provides a place where artists can explore new ideas and produce new work with the financial and moral support of a theatre company with expertise in new Australian theatre. The thought of La Mama no longer being a viable institution is one I am struggling to even comprehend. The loss of La Mama would irreversibly alter the Melbourne and Australian theatre scene for the worse.

La Mama is the soul of Melbourne theatre. One does not survive without the other.

La Mama is essential to the survival of independent theatre in Melbourne- it's loss would have a huge cultural impact in the Melbourne arts scene rippling to the medium to large companies-as La Mama is often the place many artists get their first professional experience and grow from the experience. It's loss would be felt through generations.

I really hope La Mama survives the fire was devastating enough the government should help the "little guys"

La Mama is one of the most useful, innovative, important and community oriented theatre companies in Australia. Its survival is vital.

La Mama has been essential to the past 50 years of Australian theatre and should be supported to continue it's vital work supporting artists and audiences. Viva La Mama.

La Mama is part of the cultural ecosystem on which the community thrives - not just the arts community, but the community at large. Supporting La Mama feeds into what nourishes this community, especially in this current climate.

As a Green Room Award winning Set Designer, one of my most memorable production designs was for Alison Croggon's "Blue" directed by the esteemed theatre maker David Branson which following it's La Mama season had a season at the Street Theatre Canberra. You may know of the sculpture dedicated to David in Canberra 's main shopping precinct.

Destroy La Mama and you might as well close Melbourne's laneways and sell off the trams and the Flinders St clocks.

Being a co founder of a theatre group myself I cannot stress enough the vital necessity of venues such as LAMAMA

La Mama's role in shaping and nurturing emerging artists is crucial to the survival and growth of the theatre industry in Australia.

It's acknowledged that social interaction is really important to all ages. There is no better experience than to attend venues like La Mama and share our opinions with those around us about the performance and it's impact in our lives.

I hope you get support

La Mama and other theatres like it allow up and coming performing artist to enter the industry supported by the amazing community that surround organisations like this one.

La Mama is a critical component of Melbourne's theatrical landscape. It's survival is critical.

La Mama provides access for literally hundreds of artists every year. More than all the state theatre companies put together. It has pioneered accessible and diverse theatre practice, has been at the forefront of presenting Indigenous voices, has been the ultimate playwrights'

theatre, and has made connections to schools, community, other theatre companies and theatre training courses. It is not just a company - it is indispensable cultural infrastructure.

This is an essential industry to maintain !

Love you all.

Keep it open for future artists

I look forward to seeing the Minister resign over this atrocious decision - La Mama will close its doors over my dead body

I am the only Australian playwright who has had a season in repertoire at The State Theatre of Nuremberg in Germany. The play Black Box 149 was first produced by La Mama.

La Mama is a vital part of Melbourne's cultural scene. Its survival is important to the artistic life of Melbourne and its history and absolutely deserves funding.

The defunding of the small to medium arts sector in Australia has reached a critical stage, and given the loss of business from the Corona Virus regulations, Australian culture will take decades to recover if the federal government does not offer immediate critical support.

No

Go you guys!

Save La Mama

I can't imagine a healthy Australian theatre culture without La Mama. She is our incubator, our time machine, our documenter and our catalyst. She creates pathways to working life for so many artists. And brings untold pleasure and necessary questions to us.

The staff do an incredible job at providing an open and accessible facility in order to create some of the best new works in Australia. The loss of funding will be a severe impact on the up and coming and low budget area of theatre leaving people fighting for the more commercial shows and losing focus on the creation of art

There is no other theatre like La Mama. Such an integral piece of Australia's current & historical theatre scene.

La Mama needs more support. La Mama needs more support. La Mama needs more support.

Save the arts!

La Mama has opened the door for many fine talents to emerge from obscurity

Please fund this deserving institution, for the good of us all

It is criminal that an organisation such as La Mama has lost its funding. This place has been a part of the cultural landscape of Melbourne, and indeed Australia for generations. Please return La Mama's funding.

Australia's theatre voice relies on La Mama and the funding it receives. Part of the reason we work at La Mama is because we might exist outside of traditional funding criteria and aren't able to practice our theatre. It is crucial La Mama is still able to offer its full support to artists.

As a young artist, we are faced with so much uncertainty - how to break into this fickle industry, how to maintain a stable income, is our work even good enough - the list goes on. Everything feels really daunting and we often feel like we can't succeed. It has been extremely difficult seeing the industry we aspire to be part of disintegrate during this COVID-19 pandemic. It's so frightening to think that all of our hard work, our assignments, performances, lectures, tutorials might amount to nothing, and our voices, still yet to find footing, might be heard by no-one. As far back as I can remember, La Mama has offered me certainty; that there might be a platform for us graduates, a place where we can discover our voices and say something as artists. My first ever performance outside of my university was at La Mama Courthouse earlier this year. My lecturers and directors have performed on this stage, and my earliest memories of Drama back in school were of seeing shows at La Mama. Ask any other theatre student, and they'll probably say a similar thing - La Mama has had an immeasurably large impact on not only Melbourne's arts community for several generations. We grew up learning about La Mama and aspiring to perform here - what will we do when we graduate and it's no longer there? So give us this one certainty. Keep La Mama alive.

Please fund La Mama, Vive La Mama !

It is appalling that federal government funds have been withdrawn from this theatre company. Only last year state government provided a valuable boost to the fund-raising efforts to restore the burnt building.

No

La Mama has been a nursery for new work and writing for over 50 years. To defund this important company is an act of vandalism

I'm devastated. La Mama has been a part of most of my adult life!

La Mamma is a vital small - medium space for the arts. It provides a vital service to artists and the community by giving space and opportunity to both emerging and established artists whose work reflects a diversity of perspectives and experiences.

Melbourne's arts scene is unique. What makes it so is a heady mix of eclectic innovative passionate and insanely talented artists, designers, musicians, composers, actors, Cabaret performers, puppeteers, acrobats, poets, rappers, singers and more. They need a home, one they embraces their passion individuality and vision. La mama is that place and if the Australia Council is true to their vision of enriching the cultural life of this country they would support la mama and by extension the artistic community of this marvellous city for the benefit of us all.

La Mama is superannuation for the soul.

Since relocating to Brisbane to be closer to family support with my own little ones almost every theatre maker I come accures laments the lack of a La Mama in our state. We look to Lamama as an example of best practice in supporting theatre culture from the grassroots.

La Mama is the soul of the arts in Melbourne. It has been the launching pad for many creative people.

La Mama is a cultural icon in Australia. I cannot believe their funding has been cut.

La Mama is Australian theatre's home. There is nowhere else in our country that is so purely devoted to artists and the community. La Mama is a theatre, yes. But it's so much more than that. It's also a home, a sounding board, a community, a place to fail, a place to fall, a place to keep pushing, a place to be safe, a place to triumph, a place to share. It's a place for everyone. And if you need more proof that it means so much to so many people, just look at the 2008 Save La Mama campaign, the 2019 Rebuild La Mama campaign, and the outpouring of love, support and shared grief over the devastating 2020 funding cuts. Viva La Mama!

I am absolutely appalled at the Australia Council's decision to defund La Mama. Not only have they had an enormous impact on the performing arts landscape in their over 50 year history (many of our most esteemed artists of the past few decades began at La Mama), but they have also demonstrated enormous integrity, resilience and resourcefulness following the devastating La Mama fire by continuing to support the artistic community of Melbourne in spite of trauma and massively increased workload. The accolades that La Mama's leaders have received further affirm the important contribution that La Mama makes to the arts industry, not only in a Melbourne, but throughout the country.

A dynamic and healthy arts sector is essential to a healthy and successful society. The Government must take into account the immense contribution the arts makes in Australia - audiences, employment, joy - value both here and overseas.

It is imperative in this historical context government support art and culture without these elements society will lose an essential part of our identity

La Mama has been a valued Melbourne theatre institution that has supported both emerging and established theatre makers and performers for half a century. Independent performing artists need this institution to survive so their work can thrive.

This OzCo funding decision needs to be reconsidered.

The government has demonstrated the capacity to help those in need despite years of "small government" mentality and austerity. It needs to do the same for La Mama and other affected companies/groups, or risk the deterioration of our cultural stalwarts.

La Mama is the beating heart of the Melbourne theatre community

La Mama is essential to Victoria's theatre community. It operates and nurtures Artists - Writers, Actors, Directors, Designers etc etc in a way that no-other body does. It provides opportunities, connection and theatrical experiences that are accessible to everyone. Not to fund La Mama is incomprehensible for any funding that actually cares about the Arts.

The disappointment and anger of La Mama not receiving the Grant they so much are entitled to.

La Mama is an incubator of independent thought, creativity and theatre practice.

La Mama is the only venue in Melbourne where both young and experienced artists can try out new work. They can win big , go onto a season elsewhere or fail, sometimes spectacularly. It is grassroots. It develops performers and ideas. It is unique. You cant pull out the underpinnings of the performing industry and expect the top to thrive. Please reinstate the funding. We all need La Mama up and working

La Mama is a VITAL institution where artists are supported to create, experiment, connect with peers and new audiences. Many thrive from this experience. La Mama is and has been an amazing source of more careers and work than people immediately understand. The scale and depth of La Mama's influence and contribution to our arts industry should never be underestimated. It's survival is as a necessity for Melbourne and Australian theatre culture.

removing La Mama would tear the heart out of new, original, Australian expression and cultural identity out of the country. It would devastate the cultural landscape of Melbourne, home to many lauded Australian writers, theatre practitioners, and artists. it has been a part of Carlton for decades and recognises First Nations people. it must stay the work must continue to be produced and shared. to close la Mama would be to say you want no future original, experimental, low cost, adventurous thinking or art in Australia's future. You would kill a part of our cultural future.

I was a Backpacker from Germany for several month and in this time La Mama provided me with being a central social point for me. They really are home for everyone who wants it to call home.

Without La Mama, I would not have had the opportunity to learn and grow as an artist. There are so few places that are so welcoming and create a safe space to develop new Australian works

Melbourne loves La Mama!

Keep funding the heart of Community Theatre in Melbourne! At this time it will provide hope for all!!

Making theatre is always a financially and creatively risky business. The bottom line is that without the support that La Mama provides so efficiently to artists, literally hundreds of people will never make the work they are capable of making. This will not only restrict their own creative potential, it will deprive audiences of the breadth of cultural experience that they have enjoyed for 50 years. The La Mama model is equitable, efficient and effective. It is part of our cultural heritage and should be part of our future.

Losing La Mama would be an absolute tragedy for arts in Australia. A place that has withstood so much and provided so many talented theatre makers with a launch pad.

After massive efforts to survive the sale of the original building, and then that building being devastated by fire LaMama have proved their relevance, sustaining government, business and community contributions over the last dozen years to survive. La Mama runs on the smell of an oily rag as it it, and supports and nurtures literally hundreds of creatives and technicians, if not thousands every year, particularly in development of original, new works. This is a terrible funding decision that will cause untold damage to the future of Australian theatre.

La Mama Theatre is the beating heart of independent theatre in this city and country. It is a more than an organisation or a company, it is a community of artists and audiences. La Mama forges connections between people and art. It breaks down barriers and embraces. La Mama lives and breathes. It welcomes. It dreams. It is completely iconic but the most important thing about La Mama is that it's alive with ideas, conversation, inspiration, inclusivity, talent, dedication, kindness and passion. La Mama is more than a theatre, it is the birthplace of so much that we celebrate artistically. Through the art created and the conversations generated,

we understand and see so much more about who we are as a society and a culture. We gain perspective, question, debate, reflect and appreciate. La Mama is home to so many artists and audiences. It's a genuine community and its value to our culture is profound.

What are people turning to in this difficult time of isolation? The arts. Theatre. Music. Performances streamed because we can't go out. The act of joining for a group experience is no less important in this digital age. You can't ignore the significance of this theatre.

You lose La Mama you lose more than the start of individual artists' careers. You lose the place where people return to: audiences and artists. You lose the place where some of the country's most respected artists choose to share work. You lose a community and a crucible. You lose a focal point as well as an engine.

We cannot let La Mama collapse, La Mama is too important to artists and to everyone in the community and city at large. If the arts in Melbourne and Australia is to survive past this current crisis, La Mama must be there too. I would subscribe to La Mama in order to make this happen.

The decision not to fund theatres like La Mama further deepens my already thin trust in the Australian Government to direct cultural funding towards areas where it will actually make a difference. There is a pattern of continually funding larger institutions which are largely unable to make the necessary experimental work and take risks on artists. This has and will create a sterile environment for Australian artists to try and operate, and build cultures that are mainstream-centred and devoid of energy and alternatives. Larger institutions cannot replace the 50+ years experience La Mama has with developing new work and taking chances on emerging artists. Already the expectations on artists is unrealistic, having to forge a career against the odds. Removing a stepping-stone like La Mama makes it even more difficult. The decision is yet another signpost that a major review of Australian arts funding is needed to re-prioritise resource allocation to where it will actually aid culture and create movement, diversity and change. The decisions should and will be met by significant political resistance across Australian communities, which are a symbol of the strength of culture which theatres like La Mama have built over the years.

It's a part of Melbourne's artistic history.

This theatre is vital to our arts community. We cannot be without it.

The fundamental problem is a failure by government to appreciate the value (in the broadest terms, not just dollar value as an industry) of the small to medium sector and to fund it appropriately. Australia Council funds should be doubled, not on a once off emergency basis, but permanently.

There is no other organisation in Australia that opens so many doors or creates so many possibilities for artists. If cuts need to be made, La Mama should be the very last place that is targeted by them.

I would like to propose that La Mama doesn't get its Australia Council funding reinstated. I think it would be more appropriate for them to receive Major Performing Arts Company Status.

La Mama is an essential part of the theatre scene in Melbourne and we should do everything we can to protect it.

We NEED art to lift us up in these challenging times. Without La Mama, there will be a huge gaping hole in the arts community. Without La Mama, independent artists and the arts community will suffer. La Mama is vital!!!

It's highly important that supportive organisations such as La Mama and others are given the opportunity to be able to continue. Please reconsider how vital it is to allow Arts and Culture to thrive for communities all around Australia and also internationally.

In this particular climate the Arts are an essential tool for communication and inclusiveness. La mama has always been a major player in the independent Arts scene and should be fully supported by the relevant Governing bodies.

I have none atm

La Mama is such an important part of the performing arts profession in this country. Without it I fear for the long term health of the profession.

As a teacher and VCAA assessor of VCE drama and theatre studies, the experience that

students gain from attending works presented at La Mama is an unforgettable learning experience in the making and creating of theatre in an intimate space. This can be more, or just as powerful as experiences in huge theatres. La Mama must continue to survive and thrive.

La Mama has a wonderful history that you experience through every interaction, yet it lives for the art of now and the future.

La Mama is the backbone of a Melbourne and Australian independent theatre. Our arts community would not be what it is without La Mama

I love La Mama

There is not even enough room to write about my grief and disbelief that this funding was lost. Bring it back. They are not "Grants", they are "Jobs"!!

La Mama has been for many years one of the most influential and important arts venues and cultural centres in Melbourne and in Australia. It must be fully funded to survive!

La Mama also does an incredible job at engaging with the community and bringing the arts to disadvantaged audiences that otherwise would not have the opportunity to access live theatre.

La Mama is a Victorian institution and a crucial part of our historical landscape

It was only recently that the community, state government, and donors/sponsors raised sufficient funds to rebuild the La Mama theatre destroyed in a devastating fire - it would be a travesty if the federal government would now tear away the rug under the feet of this iconic arts institution with a reputation far beyond Melbourne or Victoria.

Victoria in particular is known as the arts (theatre) capital. If we lose our independent theatre productions and artists, we will start to reflect what is happening generally in the community with the homogeneity of everything from architecture to the shopping precincts. Why would any State give up what makes it unique and appealing? It simply doesn't make sense - even on an economic level.

Save La Mama and other small community theatres

WE NEED LAMAMA FUNDED. It is a vital foundation for the mental health of our artist community. And it reaches way further than that. LaMama has a very loyal audience and makers of art who are constantly let down by funding bodies. This can't be ignored.

La Mama, given the will of so many, will certainly survive.

Just my love and best wishes to all the team at La Mamam.

I cannot imagine Melbourne without La Mama

Without La Mama there is no next generation of makers dreamers thinkers lovers humans

I am shocked, outraged and saddened by this decision. Please explain!!!!!!

At a time of unprecedented funding to protect the economy, it seems illogical to defund an organisation whose financial model spreads its funding to more individual artists than perhaps any other Australian arts organisation..

La Mama also offers great programs like script appraisals and events like Poetical. These things help artists improve themselves and form friendships and be introduced to a whole new community. These things are also important, and certainly shouldn't be lost.

Viva La Mama! We all came from there and all want to see you flourish and continue to provide and nurture our sector.

The arts are essential to a healthy and free society.

La Mama is a Melbourne icon and should remain such

I wouldn't have had a theatre career if not for La Mama. La Mama holds a unique place in Australian theatre and has trained our best writers, actors and theatre makers and helped to create our international reputation as daring and skilled theatre makers

La Mama is a highly valued and much needed Melbourne artistic institution.

I find the cut in funding unfathomable. It shows a total lack of appreciation of the role played by

La Mama and defies plain common sense.

I believe it is incredibly important to support local theatre at all levels. La Mama is well known for using Australian talents of all kinds so it is integral that it kept open with government funding and support.

La Mama stands and support s cultural diversity. The organisation gives emerging artist like me, a novelist to expand my platform.

Already stated my reasons for support.

As someone struggling to manage a major mental illness I have found the experience of working with La Mama no less than transformative. For me La Mama is community, creative expression, personal development, even therapy. For me and others like me the loss of La Mama would be utterly devastating.

2020 was going to be my first year coming to La Mama, after contributing to last year's fundraiser. I believe La Mama is a crucial player in Melbourne's theatre network.

Good luck.

Let me know if there's anything else I can do to help! kyravs.sm@gmail.com 0411818229

La Mama is a vital arts organisation. That's just fact. For it to no longer exist is a crushing, crushing blow to our arts landscape that will, quite frankly, never recover from.

We need this institution to be recognized as an integral part of our society if we wish to continue creating and developing original Australian works and taken seriously on the world stage.

A terrible decision from the Australia Council. I just can't understand the thinking behind it. Places like La Mama are so crucial to the artistic life of this city and country. It's cultural vandalism!!!

There is no venue like this in Australia. For this reason alone, it needs funding.

How is it possible that a company with a fifty year track record, a company that is pulsating with originality and experiment, a company that nurtures freedom of expression regardless of race, religion or gender, how is it conceivable that it could loose it's funding. The irreparable damage not only to the theatre community but the general community at large is criminal and negligent on the part of the funding body(s) involved. Shame on you.

It's heatbreaking, not just the defunding of La Mama (obviously) but the message this sends to the independent arts scene. La Mama is where the crucial art is being made, and for such a tiny fraction of what the Majors get. There will never be a time their work isn't essential for our sector.

La Mama is unique in Australia with its ongoing program of encouraging new work. It is vital that Australia Council funding be found to ensure its survival.

La Mama is an invaluable Australian resource for playwrights and actors because it offers a place to professionally thrive predominantly in a collision with innovation, imagination, technical skill and collaboration. The result is hearing many Australian voices speaking in languages that are worthy of being listened to in new stories charged with creative expression. La Mama is a safe-haven for artistic practices that are fragile, crucial to the seeding and growing of Australian talent and Australian stories. Playwrights and actors are a vital pairing in the process of making theatre, and La Mama is an epicentre for this important cultural activity. La Mama is the only place in Australia where the freedom to fully embrace dramatic innovation in all its stages exists and has a lineage that is a core part of the historical landscape of the commercial industry and in education. It is a fundamental building block of Australian theatre culture, as well as Victoria's Arts space, upholding and expanding upon traditions from the Australian Performing Group and The Pram Factory that have nurtured many of Australia's national and international talent. Liz Jones and Caitlin Dullard at the helm of La Mama are incredibly powerful and inspiring leaders, they are feminists and cultural philanthropists. To cut off financial irrigation of La Mama theatre is to dry out theatre culture in Australia at the roots, and in doings so, killing off a heritage, and ethos grown through excellence in community and professional practice.

Theatre is much more than just international block busters. And even those blockbusters had to start small!

How could a government kill off such a valuable piece of Melbournian culture? It's not a high

cost venue yet it returns a great deal.

Melbourne is unthinkable without La Mama.

It would be terrible if La Mama went under

I am absolutely gobsmacked that La Mama has lost its four year funding, having been funded by the Australia Council for 50 straight years. There are a lot of companies hurting right now, but La Mama losing long term operational funding is cutting deep at the heart of the creative industry in this country.

I think it's absolutely a disgrace that La Mama is defunded despite having been the heart of independent arts of Melbourne for 70 odd years - especially after their hardship these past couple of years. Utterly a bizarre decision.

No

La Mama is an absolutely vital part of Melbourne's theatre and culture

SAVE LA MAMA

Action is required now more than ever, we must move now before it is too late !!

SUPPORT LA MAMA

It's a difficult financial time for all. From my experience in the arts, LaMama works with artists who often come from the casual employment sector, so that they can pursue creative contracts. This decision and the COVID19 economic impact has therefor impacted LaMama and the LaMama Arts community doubly.

We need a variety of theatre experiences and we need to support up and coming artists not just established names and plays. La Mama has an important role to play

This is a critical time in the cultural life of our nation. It is a critical time in our personal and political lives too. Now, more than ever, we need La Mama and the artists that it has and will nurture.

La Mama's funding must be reinstated!!!! It is the reason that the theatre industry in Melbourne is so strong - because artists have somewhere to start!

Viva La Mama!

La Mama and other small centres must continue, the arts is the lifeblood of Australia and should be supported as much as manufacturing, pastoral and retail industries

It is vital that La Mama receive government financial support in order to sustain the integral work they do within the ARTS. There should be NO NEED for The Arts sector to continue to justify its importance in society and in people's lives- it is age-old and goes to the heart of who we are.

The commitment to creative writing , Australian experience is imperative. We are unique to this place the place of the oldest living culture in the planet and these writings steer us to value those who identify and articulate those experiences memories history for the rest of the globe to learn from.

Arts funding has taken cut after cut, and in this time right now, government funding is more crucial than ever. These cuts are ridiculous and selfish and show a complete disregard for the value of the arts in our communities.

without LaMama there would be an enormous hole not only I the State arts and cultural sector, but also the National cultural scene

As an audience member, La Mama performances have enriched my life and enhanced my interest in theatre and the arts.

I would like to send Liz, the board and staff my love and best wishes. You will get through this and we all will be there to help!

Lace Mama is a treasure. The Arts are essential services for the well-being of communities.

La Mama has deserved all the praise that both the theatre and its management artists and collaborators all richly deserve. To deny funding (based on what reason?) is just utter

pigheadedness

A shocking oversight and undervaluing of such an important national institution. La Mama has fostered so many artists and transformed the artistic landscape of Australia. La Mama deserves to be heard, and supported.

The arts need our support, especially in times like this. La Mama has offered unique performances which I value years later.

La Mama has been a very important part of beginnings and growth of many performers, directors, writers and producers that I know and work with as a Festival producer. Secondly, as an audience member I have enjoyed and been challenged by numerous productions at La Mama over 30 years - thanks!

Thanks La Mama, you are honestly incredible!

La Mama cannot be allowed to fail. It is a training ground and culturally rewarding theatre in its own right.
