PHOTO: Be - Flare Dance Ensemble, photo by Yogi Pratama Khosugi
Union House Theatre is the hub for co-curricular student theatre and performance at the University of Melbourne.

UHT provides an environment in which autonomous and diverse student theatre can flourish.

UHT supports an ecology of high-impact, student led theatre which is facilitated by conversation and conditions that allow for a wide range of student theatre to occur.

UHT supports theatre in all its forms by providing artistic leadership, advice, mentoring, education and events that are responsive to the student’s needs and their artistic and creative exploration.

The Union House Theatre team consists of five staff members who hold roles in artistic and technical areas providing support to student playwrights, directors, designers, performers and technicians. We also manage the Union House and Guild theatres in the Union House building.
30 Student Theatre Productions
14,627 Audience Members
1,511 Cast, Crew & Creatives
7 New Works
53 Workshops
10 Australian Works
Most Production Participation by a Student: 9

9 Guest Artists

Mudfest: 90 Original Performances, 250 Artists, 80 Volunteers

Most Student Shows Seen This Year by One Person: 27

$31,000 in Theatre Prizes, Grants and Underwriting - Thanks Theatre Board!
### STUDENT THEATRE STATISTICS
#### 2013-2015 COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Productions</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of Performances</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Audience Members</td>
<td>13,487</td>
<td>14,258</td>
<td>14,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Cast, Crew and Creatives involved</td>
<td>1,430</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>1,511</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Original Works</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Australian Works</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PHOTO:** *Echo* - Union House Theatre, photo by Sarah Walker
STAFF

Olivia Allen
Acting Artistic Director/
Theatre Coordinator

Petra Kalive
Artistic Director/
Theatre Coordinator

Erin Adams
Administration and
Development Officer

Gus Macdonald
Production Manager

Clynton Jones
Head Technician

Jim Stenson
Stage Carpenter and Mechanist

CASUAL STAFF

Ruth Blair
Helena Chenez Dyer Bray
Chris Choisich
Gina Gascoigne
Stacie Gibson
Adam Grikepelis
Jessica Herne
Christa Jonathan
Dave Kelly
Tristan Lawrence
Cameron McCormick
Farzam Ramtin
Suze Smith
Jeremy Splitter
Chris Uber
Rita Zambruno

STUDENT THEATRE GROUPS

• Balloon Head Theatre
• Flare Dance Ensemble
• FLW Theatre
• Intercollegiate Activities Council – ICAC
• International House Theatre Group - IHTG
• Medleys - Med Revue
• Melbourne University Chinese Theatre Group – MUCTG
• Melbourne University Comedy Revue Board - MUDCRABS
• Melbourne University Shakespeare Company - MUSC
• Newman College Theatre Group
• NUDE Theatre
• Open Body Theatre
• Ormond College Drama Club
• Periscope Productions
• Queen’s College Music and Drama Society - MADS
• St Hilda’s College Drama Society
• St Mary’s College Drama Society
• Trinity College Dramatic Society
• Trinity College Music Theatre Society
• University College Theatre Company
• University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association – UMMTA
• Until Monstrous
• Whitley College – W.A.R.T.S

HONORARY THEATRE GROUPS

These groups are affiliated with Clubs and Societies but they also put on theatre productions each year

• Melbourne University Chinese Music Group – CMG
• Melbourne University Sri Lankan Students’ Association – MUSLSA

PHOTO: The Wild Party – Ubermensch Theatre, photo by Ben Fon
• 24 HR Play Project
• Big Screen Gaming
• Student Theatre Group Marquee
• Theatre Tours
• Union Theatre Cinema

UHT WORKSHOPS & TUTORIALS
• Audio Visual and Projection – Q Lab
• Lighting
• Marketing
• Performance
• Presentation Skills
• Producing
• Production Management
• Risk Assessments
• Set Building
• Sound
• Stage Management
• Budgeting

GUEST ARTISTS
• Glynis Angell
  Clowning Workshops
• Xanthe Beesley
  Performance Workshops
• Roberta Big
  Shakespeare Workshop
• Justine Campbell
  Acting Workshops
• Angus Cerini
  Writer in Residence
• Ian David
  Improvisation Workshops
• Andrew Grey
  Improvisation Workshops
• Daniel Schlusser
  Directing Workshops
• Suze Smith
  Movement Workshop
• Emma Valente
  Artist in Residence

UHT PRODUCTION
• ‘Echo’
  a new work devised by students, directed by Petra Kalive

ORIENTATION WEEK

SPECIAL EVENTS
• Artistic Director Meet and Greet
• PEST Symposium
  Piercing Examination of Student Theatre
• UHT Awards Night

PHOTO: Spamalot – Queen’s College Music and Drama Society, photo by Ben Fon
The Union House Theatre plays a unique role in the life of students on the University of Melbourne campus. Whether the students are looking to find a creative outlet, pursue their dreams of a career in the performing arts, complement their chosen area of study or are seeking to meet friends and purely have fun - the Union House Theatre program caters to everyone.

2015 saw an incredibly exciting and successful year for UHT exemplified no better than 2015 marking the celebration of 100 years of the Med Review and 120 years of the Queen’s College Music and Drama Society.

The long life of these institutions and their significant successes can be attributed to the passion, hard work and endless energy and optimism of their participants which characterises all of student theatre activity at Union House Theatre.

Significant productions of 2015 include Chinese Music Group’s world premiere of ‘Nanjing Beijing’ exploring living as a homosexual male in China, Until Monstrous’ production of ‘The Roar’ embarking on difficult conversations around living as a woman in contemporary Australia, a hilarious production by Queens College of ‘Monty Python’s Spamalot’, the harrowing Australian play by Angela Betzien ‘A Dark Room’ by FLW and a blood chilling adaptation in Cantonese by Chinese Theatre Group of ‘Veronica’s Room’ (same author as ‘Rosemary’s Baby’ – yes the theatre was screaming) and a WHOLE LOT MORE...

The 30 productions of 2015 showed the range of interests, skills and ambition of students at Melbourne University in creating performances for fellow students and the broader Melbourne community to enjoy and significantly contributing to the dynamic cultural landscape of Melbourne University campus life.

UHT also hosted 14 external hirers of the Union Theatre and the Guild Theatre including drama and dance schools, cinema screenings and presentations, conferences and symposiums. Our theatres provide an affordable option for hirers in the heart of the city precinct with a great reputation of service.

The primary aim of UHT’s program is to augment and support the development of creative performing arts activities by the student body. We facilitate their ability to learn, create and collaborate.

PHOTO: Nanjia, Beijing — Melbourne University Chinese Music Group, photo by Ziyun
In 2015 we hosted two Artists in Residence, director Emma Valente and playwright/performer Angus Cerini. These artists led workshops and provided one-on-one mentorships to students embarking on ambitious artistic projects. The residency model allows students to contemplate practices and processes outside of their existing frameworks and exposes them to the voice and style of successful practicing professional artists. These programs were made possible with support from the University of Melbourne Theatre Board.

Other visiting professional artists ran workshops throughout the year in a range of different areas including Acting, Improvisation, Movement, Clowning, and Directing. These workshops allow a short burst of training and inspiration to enhance skills or simply provide an alternative activity to study.

The UHT production of the year ‘Echo’ was an adaptation of the Echo and Narcissus myth. Investigating the modern narcissist, it was a multidisciplinary work exploding contemporary culture into the intensely physical and poetic. It asked questions about the extent to which social media has magnified our obsession with the self and the image of self. The UHT production is an opportunity for students to work with the Artistic Director of UHT intensively in a rehearsal room for a production outcome. Petra Kalive was also working on another production in 2015 and gave birth to her daughter Ariadne Eve Kalive Stitz on 6 September, 2015.

We celebrated the year of achievements with the 2015 UHT Awards Night which brought the year’s characters back to life to present an array of Awards (kindly supported by the University of Melbourne Theatre Board, Melbourne Theatre Company, La Mama and MKA: Theatre of New Writing). With a theme of red carpet glamour over 150 students toasted all of their achievements in style.

We look forward to an equally creative, energetic and imaginative 2016.

Olivia Allen

Acting Artistic Director/ Theatre Coordinator.

PHOTO: Set building in the UHT Workshop, photo by Jim Stenson
In 2015, we provided an estimated 800-900 instances of support, advice or advocacy to students. We also created the opportunity for students to connect minds, share knowledge and begin conversations that we know will continue beyond their studies.

2015 also saw the engagement of a student theatre archivist and curator to work on uploading content to the Student Theatre digital archive with a particular focus on engaging our community of alumni.

Union House Theatre Alumni are a unique collective. Their time creating and producing work on campus is often deep, sustained and transformative. The connection to this extensive network is currently undercapitalised. This year a Strategic Plan for Alumni Development was commenced to better engage and connect with these ambassadors. ‘Throwback Thursdays’ are now a regular and popular feature on our Alumni Facebook Group. In 2016, we are planning an Alumni event coinciding with the PEST Symposium – Piercing Examination of Student Theatre to be held in April.

2015 has seen an increased focus on encouraging students to think sustainably about their theatre designs. As a result there was more recycling of material, reuse and borrowed/hired design. New LED lights, replacing conventional theatre lamps in the Union Theatre, have greatly reduced our energy usage whilst at the same time providing an excellent resource for our student lighting designers and operators. In addition 2015, in collaboration with the UMSU Creative Arts Officers, saw the implementation of Expectations of Students in Theatre. This document contributes to our commitment to fostering health and wellbeing, and supporting sustainability and resilience.

2015 has also seen an increase in focus on Accessibility. A Disability Access plan was created in consultation with the UMSU Creative Arts Officers. Regular conversations with student theatre groups encouraging them to implement their access plan are now routine. We now have a working relationship with a group of interpreters, and clear goals for accessibility plans for the theatre. The Union House Theatre performance ‘Echo’ had an Auslan interpreted performance. 2016 will see a stronger engagement with contemporary local, national and global issues through the Union House Theatre run productions, workshops and residencies deepening students’ understanding and respect.
PHOTO: Thoroughly Modern Millie - University of Melbourne Music Theatre Association, photo by Ben Fen