

STAGE *Craft* 2026

The Association of Community Theatre is pleased to announce details of the thirteenth Conference of Community Theatre to be held in Sydney on the 19th and 20th of September 2026.

This exciting program is for Performers, Directors, Producers and Back Stage workers.
The venue is Australia's premier theatre school, the National Institute of Dramatic Art, NIDA, 215 Anzac Parade Kensington.

The keynote speakers are actor and singer Jay Laga'aia, actor and psychologist Simon Ward, and legendary theatre maker Bob Peet.

Guest speakers during the weekend will be a combination of NIDA staff, theatre professionals and community theatre leaders.

ACT recommends payment and registration via TryBooking at trybooking.com/DMFNR or complete the application form at communitytheatre.com.au and mail with cheque or direct debit (BSB: 062 193, account number: 10145308) confirmation to:
The Association of Community Theatre Inc.
PO Box 125, Gosford NSW 2250.

The conference fee includes 2 lunches, morning and afternoon teas and one dinner. The dinner on Saturday night will be a 2 course buffet dinner. During dinner there will be entertainment from Sydney community theatre companies and the presentation of the Community Theatre 'Hall of Fame' awards.

The 'Hall of Fame' awards honour those tireless workers behind the scenes in every community theatre company who have at least twenty years involvement and have completed exceptional acts of service.



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COSTS AND REGISTRATION

Registration deadline is Saturday 1st September 2026.

Conference and Dinner for Members: \$190.00
Conference Only* for Members: \$125.00
Conference and Dinner for Non Members: \$240.00
Conference Only* for Non Members: \$180.00
Late registration fee after Sept 1 for all of the above: \$30.00
Additional tickets to the Saturday Night Dinner: \$80
Saturday Conference & Dinner for Members: \$150
Saturday Conference & Dinner for Non Members: \$185
Saturday or Sunday Conference Only* for Members: \$110
Saturday or Sunday Conference Only* for Non Members: \$150
(*Conference Only tickets includes lunch/es but not dinner.)

Acceptance to the conference and seminars is strictly on a first-come, first-served basis with preference for members.
*Practical NIDA lectures are restricted to 20 participants with others allowed in as observers.

If you are a member of a theatre group which is a member of the Association you are eligible to register using the above costs. There is no limit to the number of delegates per theatre member. Theatre Companies are encouraged to sponsor members to attend. Member groups of affiliated interstate and NZ community theatre associations are entitled to member rates.

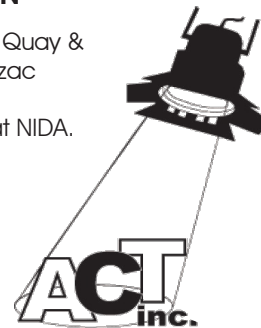
A full list of speakers will be on the ACT website by the 1st of September: communitytheatre.com.au

TRANSPORT & ACCOMMODATION

Route L3 Trams (Light Rail) from Circular Quay & Central run at regular intervals down Anzac Parade to NIDA.
Bus 396 from Circular Quay also stops at NIDA.

Accommodation **is not** included in the conference cost.

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THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY
THEATRE PRESENTS

STAGE *Craft* 2026

MARSH

NIDA

National Institute
of Dramatic Art

SEPT 19-20

SYDNEY NSW



Keynote Speaker



Jay Laga'aia

Jay's notable film credits include *Nim's Island* and *Star Wars*. On television, he has appeared in *Home and Away*, *Doctor Doctor*, *Bed of Roses*, *Legend of the Seeker*, *Xena: Warrior Princess*, *Fighting Season*, and *Jay's Jungle*. In theatre, Jay has portrayed iconic roles such as Mufasa in *The Lion King* and the Wizard in *Wicked: The Musical*. Most recently, Jay delighted audiences as Vince Fontaine in the national tour of *Grease* and as the Pirate King and other roles in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Outside of his professional achievements, Jay is a proud father of eight, many of whom are also stars of the stage and screen.

Featured Speaker



Bob Peet OAM

Bob is a retired theatre professional with a career that has included stints as a puppeteer, theatre director, venue manager and set builder. He was instrumental in the establishment and management of six performing arts centres in regional cities across Australia, and subsequently the 2000 seat Lyric Theatre at Sydney's Star City Casino. Bob has designed and/or directed over 60 productions for community theatre companies across Australia. In 2026, Bob was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for Services to the Performing Arts.

Featured Seminar



Chloë Dallimore AM

Chloë Dallimore AM is an internationally trained and accredited Intimacy Coordinator and Director working across stage and screen. She is best known for her performance as Ulla in Mel Brooks musical *The Producers* (2004/05) which won her the Helpmann Award for Best Female Actor in a Musical. Chloë's film credits include *APEX*, *Send Help*, *Bump Christmas* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. She was Federal President of the MEAA Equity for six years.

Stage Craft 2026 is generously sponsored by Marsh - ACT's partner in our national public liability insurance scheme for community theatre.

MARSH

The Programme

Saturday 19th September

8.30	- 9.30	Registration.
9.30	- 9.45	Welcome and Introductions.
9.45	- 12.15	All Choked Up: Psychosocial Health & Jazz Hands Actor and psychologist Simon Ward will bring practical tips to help build wellbeing from rehearsal to closing night. For performers, crew, musicians, creatives and committees.
		Annual General Meeting Keynote Speaker: Jay Laga'aia Why community theatre is vital to the ecosystem of the performing arts.
12.15	- 1.45	Lunch break. During lunch, visit our sponsor stalls in the foyer.
1.45	- 3.45	Electives.
3.45	- 4.15	Afternoon Tea.
4.15	- 6.15	Electives.
6.45	- 7.00	Transfer to Bonnie Doon Golf Club, 38 Banks Avenue, Pagewood.
7.00	- 10.30	Buffet Dinner. Presentation of Hall of Fame Awards and guest entertainers.

Featured Speaker: Bob Peet: A Life In Theatre

Sunday 20th September

9.30	- 10.00	Morning Tea.
10.00	- 12.00	Electives.
12.00	- 1.30	Lunch. There will be 3 tours of NIDA. 15 per tour.
1.30	- 3.30	Electives. (<i>Make-Up may extend until 5:30 - TBC</i>)

Electives Detail

Electives marked with an asterisk (*) are presented by a NIDA Lecturer.

Day One (1.45 – 3.45) - The options are:

- Lets Put On A Show** Guest speakers from Music Theatre Australasia, Origin Theatrical, David Spicer Productions and APRA. Learn about new releases and how best to respect the author's wishes. Hear from playwright Carla Moore about the challenges of putting on new work.
- Jay Laga'aia Acting Part 1** Movement, focus, truthful storytelling, and the courage to take risks—presented at multiple levels so everyone finds nourishment, whether they're learning how to memorise lines or refining subtle stage habits like what to do with their hands.
- Making Props Beautiful** Bob and Col Peet with a century of theatre making experience on simple ways to enhance your props. They call this seminar 'Don't Forget The Make Up'.
- Creative Lighting Part 1*** Explore the fundamentals of lighting design in this immersive 4-hour workshop combining creative theory with hands-on practice. Working in a practical setting, participants will experiment with lighting equipment, learn how light shapes mood and storytelling, and develop the skills to create dynamic stage looks.

Day One (4.15 – 6.15) - The options are:

- Child Protection In Theatre** The practical reality of the 10 Child Safe Standards as they apply specifically to community theatre. Embedding child safety in your culture when leaders are volunteers. Speaker Andrew Yager from Beacon Musical Society and Red Globe Productions.
- Jay Laga'aia Acting Part 2** Explore physical theatre, improvisation, and how to make multi-dimensional characters. Also audition strategy, song and monologue selection, creating a showreel from scratch, whether to seek representation, and professional conduct in rehearsal and performance.
- Storytelling Through Songs** Discover how song can be used as a powerful storytelling tool to reveal character, emotion and dramatic intention in performance. Featuring live work with two professional actors, explore the connection between performance, text and music for theatre-makers, performers and musical enthusiasts.
- Creative Lighting Part 2** Continuation of the 4-hour session.

Day Two (10.00 – 12.00) - The options are:

- Smart Use Of Technology** Practical digital tools for community theatres for members, creatives, and audiences. Includes: auditions, collaborations, payments, ticketing and co-ordinating email marketing with social media. Speaker Chelsea Holland, Software Consultant/President at The Regals Musical Society.
- Accents (English)*** Gain insight into the Standard English accent through practical vocal exercises focused on sound placement, rhythm and speech patterns. In this interactive workshop, you will develop greater confidence and clarity in accent work through guided practice and performance-based application.
- Directing Actors*** Learn how directors develop a cohesive production concept that brings together story, design and performance into a distinctive theatrical vision. Explores both the practical and imaginative processes behind shaping original and compelling work for the stage.
- Musical Theatre Dance Styles** How to blend technique with character and style. From the sleek lines of Fosse to the high energy of contemporary Broadway, choreographer Katie Kermond explores different dance styles of Musical Theatre. Be prepared to move.

Day Two (1.30 – 3.30) - The options are:

- Make Up*** Gain insight into the techniques and creative processes used by professional make-up artists in this hands-on practical workshop. Across an intensive 4-hour session, you will explore industry tricks of the trade through live demonstration and guided practice in a small-group learning environment.
- Intimacy Coaching** Actress and Intimacy Co-ordinator Chloë Dallimore on empowering actors and directors with professional language, and best practise to navigate consent and boundaries in rehearsals and on-stage.
- A.I In Set Design** How A.I. tools allow community theatres to generate customised backdrops, projections, LED screen media, and scene transitions. Speaker Andrew Yager from Red Globe Productions.
- Shakespeare And Heightened Language*** Explore fundamental voice and acting techniques in an engaging practical workshop. Investigate approaches to voice, text and character development and consider how to apply techniques to enliven heightened language in performance.