



BE YOU -
BE SCENE

Stories at the heart of change

“ If I tell
YOU the
TRUTH ”

We act
but we're not actors.
This is our life,
this is our scene.

Program
Booklet
15 May 19





Be You - Be Scene acknowledges the people of the Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we are meeting on. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, past and present.

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Event Agenda

5.15 pm	Registration opens
5.30 - 5.55 pm	Door opens
5.45 - 5.55 pm	Arrival of consulate generals
5.55 pm	Door closes
6.00 - 6.10 pm	Welcome, acknowledgments & housekeeping
6.10 - 7.40 pm	Theatre performance
7.40 - 7.50 pm	Thank you & ending words
7.50 - 8.05 pm	Discussion
8.10 - 9.10 pm	Networking & refreshments

Message from the Artistic Director



The role of art is to dream culture forward and to understand the issues going on in our lives, to discover the things unsaid so we can move forward. This project is about using the language and ritual of theatre to connect students to their stories, to each other and the wider community.

I facilitate the workshops and individual sessions to understand what it is people want to say. Through a creative and dynamic interplay of body, voice and mind participants step out of their comfort zone and gradually build the confidence to express both their vulnerabilities and strengths. People often assume 'acting' means 'pretending' but, actually it's about developing the ability to reveal something of yourself. Be YOU Be SCENE is about building trust, connection and courage so as to enable international students to share something of themselves, so that YOU can be seen!

Over eight months we've devised scenes tackling five key areas; Mental Health, Employability, Cultural Diversity, Relationships, Accommodation. Scenes were presented at conferences, universities and within themed events. Now I confront the daunting task of editing twenty-eight diverse stories into this show!! To the wonderful participants who've dedicated your time and love to this project all the while juggling study, exams, part time work and daily life, with deep gratitude I say thank-you for sharing something of who you are. So now step into the scene and be seen!

Catherine Simmonds
Artistic Director

BYBS: The Project

It builds upon the success of the Act of Translation project and places the voice and experiences of international student's center stage, through a creative, fun yet meaningful workshop and consultation process. Through the creative work of Catherine Simmonds and led by ISANA Vic/Tas, international students embark on a journey where they develop the confidence to express and explore the issues impacting their lives in Australia.

Funded by Study Melbourne through the International Student Welfare Grant, Be You - Be Scene invites students to share stories through theatrical activities, focusing on five key themes: Mental Health, Employability, Cultural Diversity, Accommodation, LGBTQI.

Through the creative work of Catherine Simmonds, International Students unpack and share their struggles, hopes, and dreams in the form of theatre where they are the characters of their own scenes and their journeys can be shared across communities.

About Study Melbourne & International Student Welfare Grant



Study Melbourne is a Victorian Government organization that provides support for International students in their education, accommodation, employment and welfare.

The International Student Welfare Grant is a government initiative that funds group activities and partnerships to provide support and improve international students wellbeing and experience in Victoria

To know more about Study Melbourne and the International Student Welfare Grant visit www.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/iswp/about-isw-program Or visit Study Melbourne Student Centre in the CBD at 17 Hardware lane to ask any question about your time here in Melbourne.

BYBS: Activities

The Be You Be Scene project is comprised of several activities throughout it's run since beginning of August 2018:

1.

More than 500 participants came through and shared their story through dynamic and poetic movements facilitated by Catherine in the **weekly Wednesday workshop** over the last seven months.



2.

Twenty Forums in five key areas: Employability, Accommodation, Mental Health, Cultural Diversity, LGBTQI across TAFE, Universities, regional areas and conferences

Recent performances include:

- Mental Health forum in collaboration with SIGNAL (City of

Melbourne)

- Cultural Diversity forum at Mornington Peninsula hosted by Monash Peninsula
- Employability forum hosted by VicWise



3.

- Provided **internships, social work placements, and volunteer opportunities.**
- Participants had **one-to-one consultations with Catherine** to share their experience and develop their scene.
- **Group rehearsals and performances** help international students to boost confidence and connect with each other in a meaningful way.



Everyone 'Funny pose'!



**BE YOU -
BE SCENE**

Stories at the heart of change

BYBS FAMILY

Catherine Simmonds
Director, Facilitator, Creative
Consultant and Dramaturge



Catherine Simmonds is one of Australia's leading community cultural development theatre makers. As an artistic director, her focus is the space between the 'lived experiences' of marginalized communities and the language of art. For more than two and half decades she's provided marginalized people

with a creative space in which to 'discover the need to speak and to speak the unspoken'. The community are empowered to become the actors, devisors, consultants and protagonists of their own and each other's stories. She was the founding director of the Brunswick Women's Theatre (1992 - 2011 migrant/refugee women) guiding the vision, philosophy and creative product. Her work has powerfully addressed some of the most pressing issues of our time including, intercultural and cross-generational relationships, identity and changing values for indigenous people, public and private violence, trafficked women, the asylum seeker story, international students experiences, health and addiction. Her work attracts the collaboration of local-government, health organizations, education sector and NGO's. Her process and contemporary theatrical work have the reputation of inspiring and touching the hearts of audiences regardless of class or culture.

Manorani Guy
President of ISANA (VIS/TAS)



Mano Guy has spent her entire career working with and supporting international students in many diverse fields. She has a deep passion for all aspects of international education and during her spare time volunteers for the International Education Association Inc. (ISANA) a nonprofit organisation a non-profit organisation. She is currently the president of the Victorian/Tasmanian branch. She has learned to truly harness the power of working in and amongst diverse groups throughout her career and is a master at collaboration within the international sector.

Feifei Liao
Project Manager



Feifei Liao believes in human value, human potential, human connection, and community development. She is devoting herself to seek practical and innovative ways to help people actualize their potential because she appreciates people as individuals and has the capacity to recognize an individual's talent. The people she has connected with say that she is an inspiring leader excellent in connecting people and uplifting people's capacity to achieve. She works as a project manager in the 'Be You Be Scene' and the 'Act of Translation' to manage to bring a change of narratives about international students and bridge the gaps across communities. She takes initiatives with her versatile skills and inspires people to make a positive change together with her incredible energy.

Irene Metter Filmmaker



Irene Metter creates documentaries with social impact. As an independent filmmaker, Irene works consciously to capture the process of transformation

in communities and in individuals, with creativity and insight. Irene has collaborated with Catherine Simmonds previously, and is passionate about using film to help facilitate this process - of people with a lived experience feeling out their stories and then becoming advocates for themselves. She has made films about people grappling creatively with depression, gambling addiction, and the effects of the Japanese 2011 tsunami. Her film about aging, Trip 60+, featured in the St Kilda Film Festival.

Yumi Butoh Dancer and choreographer



Born in Hyogo, Japan, Yumi is an established Butoh Dancer and choreographer from Australia. She has been creating her distinctive style of works over the last 25 years and her works are renowned for provoking visceral emotions and cultural identities.

Her own major production's credits include DasSHOKU Butoh cabaret series (1999-2014), EnTrance (2009-2012) and recent PopUp Tearoom series.

Yumi helped us choreograph a couple of scenes. Thanks Yumi!



Alfonso Gosal Performer

"BYBS is a place to meet people who are open about their stories"



Ben Bresley Performer & committee member - mindfulness coach

"BYBS has allowed me to see other people's perspective in life and has opened a whole new world of cultural experience for me"



Callum McCrow Performer

"BYBS is often fun, sometimes hard, and always eye opening"



Heran Chen Performer

"BYBS made me feel comfortable in my own skin here"



Hissell Bermúdez
Performer

"BYBS is a space for faith and happiness. It helped me to find out who I am"



Hoa Tra My Nguyen
Performer & committee member - project assistant, social media officer

"BYBS is Everything I dream of"



JingYit Ho
Performer

"BYBS feels like listening to this feeling"



Joanna Tepaa
Performer

"BYBS helps me step out of my comfort zone"



Ivy Le
Performer & committee member - event coordinator assistant

"BYBS help me become more active"



Jason Hendriks
Performer & committee member - writer

"BYBS made me realise that i'm not facing my struggles alone"



Juliet Wong Min
Performer & committee member - Creative Designer, social media officer

"When you join BYBS, you will not want to turn your back. "



Laura Inez Acevedo Vargas
Performer

"BYBS Makes me boost my confidence, reflect about life experiences, feelings and connect me with others"



Lingling Zhao
Performer

"I start expressing my deepest feelings because BYBS"



Maram Almazrui
Performer

"I've never thought that I'll have the confidence to perform in front of people, BYBS made me believe in myself."



Shirley Liang Yuan
Performer

"BYBS can help me become better to show my good and bad life"



Silvia Gudino
Performer

"BYBS is like going to therapy but better, meeting people and learning from them"



Maria Isabel Peñaranda Mejia
Performer

"I gained the confidence to speak up in english and to raise my voice for others to really listen to what I needed to express"



Samad Shiraz
Performer & committee member - writer

"I think BYBS is the best thing that could happen for an international student. Knowing you aren't alone with your issues and having a place to express that is invaluable"



Skylar Yangyang Lin
Performer

"Each scene mirrors part of me, vulnerable but secured, confused but loved, that's how 'be scene' becomes powerful when we have the courage to 'be ourselves'"



Tammy (Zhao) Yang
Performer & committee member - video editor, social media officer

"I enjoy all the multi-cultural impacts here. I've known more about the other side of the world and myself. And I have my first Arepa here :P"



Thanh Truc (Maika) Tran
Performer & committee member - event coordinator, treasurer

"BYBS created a safe place where I could be vulnerable, that really gave me the courage to be my true self"



Thet Thinzar Nwe
Performer

"The more stories I hear, the more human being I've become"



Wong Chun Tat Teddy
Performer & committee member - project assistant

"I grow stronger from the weakness in BYBS"



Youyou Li
Performer

"I never thought I could be an 'actress' and do the performance, BYBS provides a lot more than the stage for me"



Thi Phuong Anh Ngo (Ana Maria)
Performer & committee member - photographer, social media officer

"BYBS helped me grow"



Tsz Ho Wong (Ivan)
Performer

"BYBS has opened up my deeper soul"



Yutong Zhang
Performer

"BYBS brings me confidence and courage, and being in the family is the luckiest thing that I have in Melbourne"



Ziwei (Wendy) Huang
Performer & committee member - social work placement, event coordinator

"Be You Be Scene makes me feel like having a family here in Melbourne, where I can finally be honest about my true feelings."



Andrew Coulter
Committee member -
photographer, advisor

"BYBS gives me the opportunity to hear the deeply personal stories of people living around me that I might otherwise never meet"



Michael Baker
Comittee member -
event coordinator

"I am lucky I chose this place"



Ujash Patel
Participant & Former
social media officer

"BYBS was a space where I got a chance to unleash my creative instincts, get inspired by personal stories and live out my theatre dream"



Miranda
Former project intern
(Monash College)

"BYBS gave me an opportunity to explore the different myself and feel the power of performance. Thanks for all team members of BYBS and best wishes for you all"



Zihao (Momo) Chen
Committee member -
project intern (Monash
College)

"It's all about the journey, of finding yourself: BE the real YOU, BE on the amazing SCENE!"



Raquel Ribeiro
Participant

"Bybs where I can open my heart without fear to be judged"



We also acknowledge and thank the many volunteers from ISANA and AFIS who are helping for the smooth running of tonight's event !

End Note

The Be You Be Scene family wants to thank you for coming to our performance, and thus becoming an agent of change for International Students.

Each brave performer and generous volunteer is here today because we believe that our stories can help to cross the gap between communities. We could not have accomplished this without our dear Catherine, BYBS participants, and supporters and volunteers. Thank you for being a part of Be You Be Scene, we hope to see you again soon.



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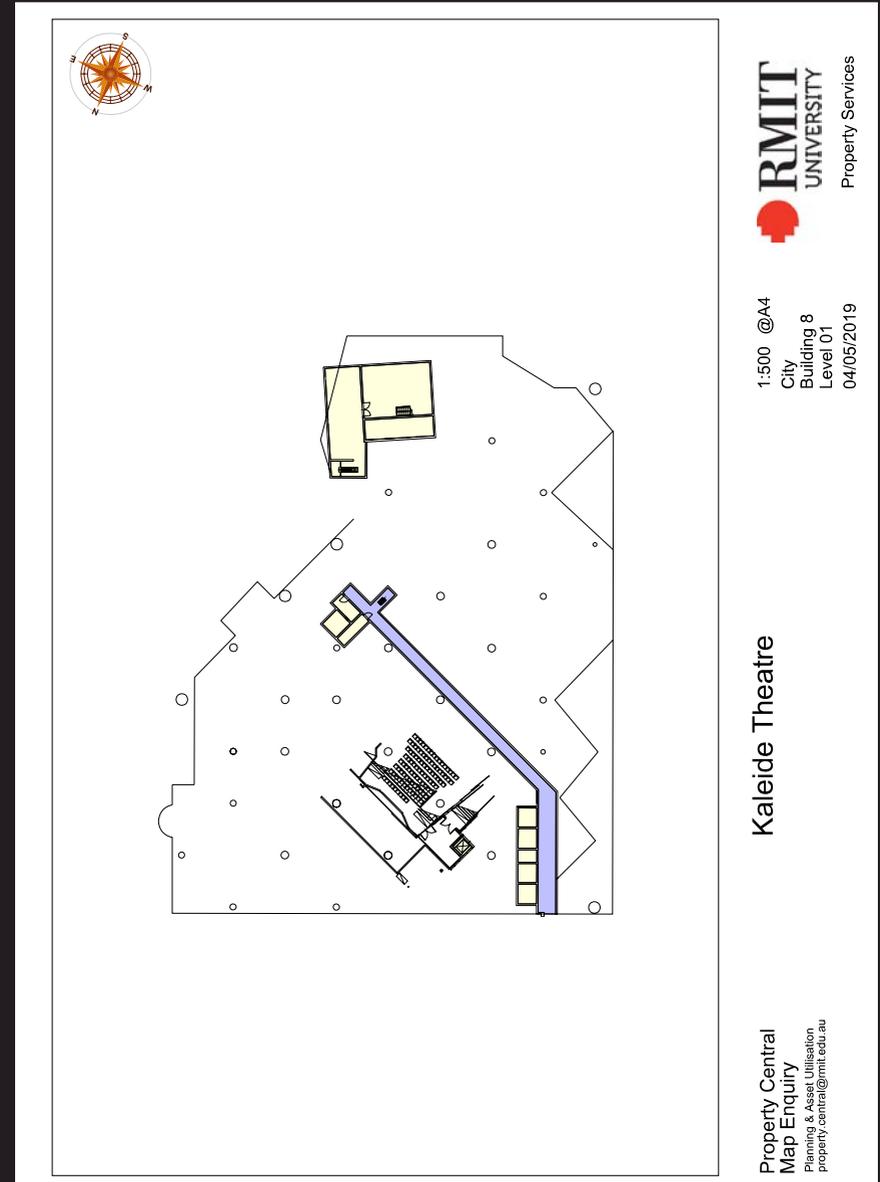
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MAP



Evaluation form:



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Project Manager

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