



## Lachlan Plain

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[www.lachlanplain.com](http://www.lachlanplain.com)  
[www.sanctumtheatre.org](http://www.sanctumtheatre.org)  
[www.sanctumstudio.com.au](http://www.sanctumstudio.com.au)  
[www.themanwhocannotsleep.com](http://www.themanwhocannotsleep.com)

## Curriculum Vitae

### Performing Arts

2006 – present **Artistic Director** of Sanctum Theatre

Through his work with Sanctum Theatre Lachlan has taken on the roles of **producer, administrator, writer, designer, curator and performer**. Under the banner of Sanctum Theatre, Lachlan has created theatrical events, exhibitions, roving acts, puppet shows and a short film.

Sanctum Theatre's inaugural production, *lament: candles & compost*, was described by The Age as, 'Full of striking images...shadowplay and puppetry were absorbingly innovative.' It's more recent collaboration with Magic Lantern Studio for White Night 2018, *The Man Who Cannot Sleep*, was described by The Age as, 'forg[ing] a dark and surreal dystopia, packed with visual surprises, from a fusion of soundscape, sculpture and full-body puppetry.'

- 2020 *Bird Colourful Jelly Sparkle*. Built three giant puppets for Moomba Parade based on the drawing of a 5 year old, (giant puppet construction and parade performance.)
- 2019 *Trail of Lights Festival*, in partnership with Little Projector Company ([www.littleprojectorcompany.com](http://www.littleprojectorcompany.com)), in Williams Landing and Truganina, Victoria, Australia, (community-led light and lantern festival.)
- 2018 *The Man Who Cannot Sleep*, in partnership with Magic Lantern Studio, White Night Melbourne, Ballarat, (giant puppet installation, including video projection & performance) [www.themanwhocannotsleep.com](http://www.themanwhocannotsleep.com)
- 2017 *Life is a Carousel*, in partnership with Magic Lantern Studio ([www.magiclanternstudio.com](http://www.magiclanternstudio.com)), Melbourne International Festival of Puppetry, Winner Green Room Award for Puppetry, (giant puppet show)
- 2017 Created 7 giant bug puppets for *Bug Lab* exhibition at Melbourne Museum, in partnership with Magic Lantern Studio, (giant puppet construction & roaming performance)
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Cabinet of Antiquated Recording Devices*, Montsalvat (silent film, live music)
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Conservatory of Singular Specimens*, Bolin Bolin Gallery, Melbourne (group)
- 2010 *the ferryman and his wife*, American Independent Film Festival & Melbourne Underground Film Festival (short film)

- 2009 *The Zero Projects* 2009 season, Brunswick and Northcote (five site specific performances in seven months)
- 2008 *The Plains: a play*, Grant Street Theatre, Melbourne, based on the novel by Gerald Murnane (play)
- 2007 *Silent Revolution*, Fitzroy (exhibition)
- 2006 *lament: candles & compost*, The Abbotsford Convent (site specific performance)

As part of Sanctum Theatre Lachlan also tours puppet shows and roving acts to schools festivals and events including for: Moomba, Tanglewood Festival, Kris Kringle Night Market (Darebin), So Frenchy So Chic, Ballarat Heritage Weekend, Rainbow Serpent, Rock Above the Falls, Melbourne International Festival of Puppetry, Snow Festival (Springvale), Australia Day Festival (Dandenong), Sustainability Market (Dandenong), Come Together Festival (Eltham), Clayton Festival, Rancho Relaxo, Castlemaine State Festival, The Practically Green Festival (Edendale Farm), Kid's Arty Farty Fest (Banyule), Maldon Puppet Festival, The Village Festival and CERES.

For further information please visit [sanctumtheatre.org](http://sanctumtheatre.org).

Other performing arts companies Lachlan has worked for include:

- 2005 – present **Puppeteer & tour manager** for Snuff Puppets roving acts in Australia, Sweden, Denmark, South Korea and Chile ([www.snuffpuppets.com](http://www.snuffpuppets.com))
- 2017 - present **Puppeteer** for a blank canvas ([www.ablankcanvas.com](http://www.ablankcanvas.com))
- 2015 – 2016 **Script development, puppet construction & performer** for *Everybody*, Snuff Puppets, at Testing Grounds (Melbourne), Somersault Festival (Melbourne) and Cultural Virada (Sao Paolo, Brazil) – according to the Daily Telegraph (UK) the online video of *Everybody* has one billion views
- 2009–10 **Performer and designer** for *Beast of Hoof and Trunk* by Tar Pit Productions at The Next Wave Festival (Melbourne)
- 2007 **Puppeteer** for *The Legend of Ned Kelly* at Festival Theatre (Adelaide) and The Arts Centre (Melbourne)
- 2007 **Puppet maker** for *Sharing Stories* at Bunjilaka Centre, Melbourne Museum
- 2004 **Puppet design & construction** for *The Now Hour*, winner of the Melbourne Fringe Visionary Award Cultural Community Development

## Community Development

2012 – present **Artist in Community** Sanctum Theatre & Sanctum Studio

- *Trail of Lights Festival* (2019) – Working with 250 children from 2 primary schools located in the Wyndham area to construct 52 large sculptural lanterns over 6 weeks. These lanterns were included in a parade at the festival launch, and installed along the trail for 2 weeks.
- *Look, a Book!* (2019) – Working with 7 pre-school age children living with intellectual disabilities, and their families, to write and illustrate a picture story book, *Choo Choo the Magic Train*. Co-facilitated with Jasmine Powell and funded by City of Banyule for children who access Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Services.

- *Invisible Dancers* (2019) – Engaging adults with intellectual disabilities – members of the DVA ensemble - to build giant puppets. Funded by the City of Banyule.
- *The Beginning of Everything* (2018) – Engaging adults with intellectual disabilities – members of the Fusion Theatre ensemble - to build giant puppets. Funded by the City of Greater Dandenong through their [SUB]URBAN Program.
- *Ghost Turtle* (鳌, *Áo*) (2018): Collecting stories of recent migrants, then working with them to build a turtle for a video and sculptural installation. Part of an artist residency at Heritage Hill Museum. Funded by the City of Greater Dandenong through their [SUB]URBAN Program.
- *Montsalvat Solstice Celebration & Bonfire* (2012 & 13) – Working with members of the Eltham community at Nillumbik Living and Learning Centre. Designing and building 7 giant sculptural lanterns to display and carry in the parade. Funded by Shire of Nillumbik.

2005 – present **Show director** for Snuff Puppet’s ‘People Puppet Projects’ (PPPs)

- Enhancing social cohesion and adult learning through constructing and performing with giant puppets, working with groups such as:
  - Vietnamese community in Sunshine (Vietnamese Community of Australia, 2020)
  - VCAL students in Croydon (LaTrobe University, 2019)
  - Pacific Islander community in Sunshine, Melbourne (Australian Pacific Arts Network 2015 & 2016),
  - rural youth in Swan Hill (Fairfax Festival 2013),
  - local artists, activists and young people interested in drawing attention to the plight of hill tribe people in Chiang Mai, Thailand (Gabfai, Third Way Theatre 2012),
  - young people in South Korea (Hi! Seoul Festival 2012).

2014 – 2018 **Drama Teacher**, Flag Theatre

- Engaging youth and children through drama workshops and games, working with groups such as:
  - Young people from different cultural backgrounds in Footscray, (WYPIN 2017);
  - Students who risk not completing high school due to un-met personal, interpersonal and learning needs, (Kensington Community High School 2017);
  - Primary School aged children, (Montmorency Primary 2015).

2006 – 2016 **Artist in Community**, City of Boroondara:

- *Unmasked* (2016) – Working with people suffering mental health issues and issues of social isolation to construct large sculptural masks for Barking Spider Visual Theatre’s community project at the Kew Uniting Church;
- *Cogs of Consciousness* (2015) - Working with people suffering mental health issues and issues of social isolation to design and construct a permanent kinetic sculpture in the garden at Hawthorn Community House;
- *The Enchanted Ark* (2010) - Working with children, young adults, people with intellectual disability and people with mental health issues to develop puppet performances for a family fun day at Hawthorn Community House (awarded honourable mention, Victorian Government’s Live Local Awards);
- *CROP Program* (2006 – 2015) – Facilitating art and creative writing classes for people with mental health and social isolation issues. Curated three exhibitions with a focus on collaborative installation art and compiled two anthologies in book and CD formats as part of this role.

2009 – 2014 **Teaching artist** for The Songroom

- Building resilience through art and play with children at the Royal Children's Hospital, Flowerdale Primary School and Western English Language Schools. Developing a school puppetry program using various styles of puppetry, including hand, rod, shadow and mask.

### **Street Art & Public Art**

Established Sanctum Studio in 2018, a dynamic arts space in the North Eastern suburbs of Melbourne creating public art, street art and giant puppets for government, commercial and private clients. Sanctum Studio also facilitates collaborative arts projects alongside community groups and schools. We work with children, youth, families, ethnic groups, ESL classes, and people experiencing disability or mental health issues. ([www.sanctumstudio.com.au](http://www.sanctumstudio.com.au))

**Project managed, designed and created** the following permanent sculptural installations and murals:

- 2014 & 2016 *Still Life with Fruit* fibreglass sculpture (4m x 2m x 2m), Bulleen Art & Garden
- 2015 *Life on Planet Daisyworld* mural (30m x 10m), commissioned by The City of Yarra and funded by The Department of Justice, 117 Argyle Street Fitzroy, Melbourne, featured in *Inside Street Art: Melbourne* (Thames & Hudson 2016)
- 2015 *Cogs of Consciousness*, kinetic sculpture (2 x 2m), Hawthorn Community House, Melbourne
- 2015 *The Belle and the Bull-Headed Ranger* mural (8m x 2.5m), private commission for Interlandi-Mantesso Architects and Grollo Group, residential property, Fitzroy, Melbourne
- 2015 *Basement Redux* mural (2.5m x 2m), private commission, Mont Albert, Melbourne
- 2012 *The Final Voyage of Pedro Piscator* mural (5m x 11m), Bulleen Art & Garden, Melbourne, described by Jason Smith, director of Heide, as, "On the one hand whimsical, but with a darker side...ambitious and thought provoking."
- 2010 *Rose the Turtle* fibreglass sculpture (2.5m x 2.5m x 1.5m), Bulleen Art & Garden, Melbourne
- 2007 *Untitled* mural with ceramic relief (8m x 5m), in collaboration with ceramicist Meredith Plain, Child Psychiatric Centre, Austin Health
- 2006 *Untitled* metal relief mural (5m x 5m), in collaboration with Jody Nunn, Bulleen Art & Garden
- 2005 *Untitled* mural (8m x 2m), Organically Grown Grocery Store, Malvern

Completed the following reports:

2019 *art, community, place*

Highlighting the importance of a dynamic public art program for North East Link (NEL). Emphasising work by local artists, small-scale sculptural work, street art, projection art and land art, in addition to the more familiar large-scale sculptural work found on freeways.

Commissioned by Bulleen Art & Garden, to be included in the CLG working document. It will be taken into consideration by tenderers, specialists undertaking EES studies and the NEL project team. The process included a survey of local artists, consultation with local councils, and a cost benefit analysis for an ongoing public art program.

It was endorsed by Heide Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), the Association of Sculptors of Victoria (ASV) and Eastern Studio Potters and Artists.

## **Exhibitions**

Lachlan has taken part in the following exhibitions:

- 2014 *The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator*, Light Factory Gallery, Melbourne (solo)
- 2012 *Sanctum Theatre's Conservatory of Singular Specimens*, Bolin Bolin Gallery, Melbourne (group)
- 2010 *The Nillumbik Prize*, Montsalvat, Melbourne (group)
- 2007 *Sanctum Theatre's Silent Revolution*, Melbourne (group)

## **Publications & Prizes**

- 2012 - 2016 *The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator and other tales*, winner of the 2012 Impress Prize, published by Impress Books (UK, 2014) and Lachlan Plain Studios (Aust, 2016) (illustrated collection of short stories)
- 2013 'The Lost Journals of Pedro Piscator' in *Going Down Swinging*, (interactive digital fiction)
- 2013 'The Mandrake in the Marsh' in *Page Seventeen*, second prize for the Page Seventeen Short Story Competition (short story)

## **Educational History**

- 2008 **Masters of Theatre Practice (animateuring)**, Victorian College of the Arts
- 2005 **Postgraduate Diploma in Puppetry**, Victorian College of the Arts
- 2003 **Bachelor of Creative Arts**, The University of Melbourne

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### **Other Interests**

Lachlan lives on a permaculture property with his extended family. He is interested in intergenerational land management - designing domestic and agricultural systems to sustain future generations.