

THERESA BORG

BEd(Sec)(Mus), AssocDipOperaticSt, MThtr(Writing)

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Theresa Borg

*I am a Maltese Australian,
married and mother to three children.*

*I acknowledge that I live and work on Wurundjeri Woiwurrung lands
and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.*

CONTACT DETAILS

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 2022 National Library of Australia Creative Fellow for Australian Writing
- 2020 Victorian College of the Arts Masters of Theatre (Writing) High Distinctions in all subjects.
- Dux of Dramaturgy across the post-graduate cohort of Directors, Dramaturgs and Writers, and Dux of Writing for Performance and Writing in Collaboration
- Writer/director of multiple musical plays for children in direct collaboration with creative teams from global studios including Disney, E-one, Nickelodeon, Silvergate, Warner Brothers and Sesame Workshop for tours of main, metropolitan, and regional stages and arenas in Australia and across the USA, the UK, UAE, Europe, South America and Asia. Long experience with puppets including walk-around, muppets and bunraku.
- Career as a principal performer with MPAs and international producers in Australia and overseas. Sings, dances, good musician.
- Director and Resident/Associate Director of musicals, plays and operas for mainstages and metropolitan stages in Australia.
- Engaged Australia's first two all-female creative team leads (director, choreographer and musical director) for two mainstage musicals paid at LPA rates in first class venues.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2020	<p>Master of Theatre (Writing) Victorian College of the Arts <i>High Distinction in every subject.</i></p>
1991 - 1993	<p>Associate Diploma of Operatic Studies ('Opera Studio') Victorian College of the Arts</p>
1987 - 1992	<p>Bachelor of Education (Secondary) (Music) University of Melbourne</p>

PRIZES

2022	<p>2022 Creative Fellow for Australian Writing, National Library Australia for new work HYGEIA</p>
2012 -2020	<p>Prizes many and varied for licensed children's entertainment including: Warner Brothers Golden Bunny, eOne Licensing Partner of the Year, WhatsON 4 Junior Award, Turner Entertainment International Licensing Award.</p>

PRODUCTION CREDITS (Highlights 2014-2024)

2023-24	<p>Associate Director Death of A Salesman Dir. Neil Armfield. Crown Theatre Perth, The Theatre Royal, Sydney, Her Majesty's Theatre Melbourne, Sept 2023.</p> <p>Writer/Director The Spare Room by Helen Garner: a new opera Workshop, Victorian Opera 2024 Workshop, Ian Potter Centre, Monash University 2023</p> <p>Dramaturg/Director Short Stories: The Music of Harry Chapin Book by Mike Bullen Workshop, Ian Potter Centre, Monash University 2024</p>
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- 2023**
- Writer**
Jump!
 Kadimah Theatre 2023
- Director**
Little Women
 VCA Music Theatre Company 2023
- 2022**
- Director**
Titanic the Musical (In Concert)
 Melbourne Town Hall, September 2022.
 The Marrollo Project
'...director Theresa Borg's engagingly active and sensitively detailed realisation of broad tableaux and simultaneously occurring vignettes provided consistent interest ... No more than a ship's wheel, a telegraph operator's desk and a stepped stage area created Borg's ocean liner setting' Paul Selar. Arts Review
'Director Theresa Borg makes excellent use of space and heights, readily creating distinct zones of the ship and creating ongoing visual interest without the use of any scenery... the ensemble cast of 23 plays at least two roles, the characters distinguished by small changes of costume along with varying physical expression. The success of Borg's approach is exemplified by ...the rigidity of the elite first class passengers ...neatly contrasted by the far more languid energy of Third Class' Man In Chair
5 Green Room nominated performances, 2 wins.
- Writer**
 Creative Fellow for Australian Writing
 National Library of Australia, July 2022
- Resident Director**
An American In Paris
 QPAC, ACM, Theatre Royal Sydney, Burswood Perth
 GWB Entertainment & The Australian Ballet Dec 2021 – July 2022
7 Green Room nominations, 2 wins
- 2021**
- Director**
The Music of the Night – Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber starring Debra Byrne
 Chapel off Chapel
 Spears Entertainment
 - 5 Star reviews
- Writer**
Songs of the Helmeted Honeyeater
 Melbourne Recital Centre/fortyfivedownstairs 2021/Melbourne Conservatorium (2022)
 w/ Dr Jane Hammond, Coady Green, Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater & Wandooon Estate Aboriginal Corporation.
 - 5-star review Limelight magazine

- 2020**
- Lyricist**
Octonauts & The Great Barrier Reef
 Netflix
 w/ composer Craig Bryant for Silvergate
- Dramaturg**
The Life Cycle of Blanco
 Online Winter Retreat
 Antipodes Theatre Company
- Writer**
Dame & Commander dir. Maude Davey
 Online Reading
 Antipodes Theatre Company
- 2019**
- Director**
Sweeney Todd - starring Anthony Warlow and Gina Riley
 Darling Harbour Theatre Syd/Her Majesty's Theatre Melb.
 Life Like Company/TEG Live (see:
<https://www.facebook.com/SweeneyToddAU/>)
- 'In a unique concept, Theresa Borg has the spirit of Sweeney summoned forth at a seance with the grisly story... playing out in the rooms of a crumbling Victorian mansion. Borg makes clever use of the space, keeps storytelling brisk and clear and successfully warms the edges of the grand guignol thriller with delectable humour' ... **Man In Chair** 'We begin with a séance. And it is a brilliant, clever concept from director Theresa Borg Playing into this (Victorian) Spiritualist obsession ... serves the darkness and mood of the musical... This is a delicious production which understands it is playing to an audience of 2019. Sondheim always classifies the work as a 'musical thriller'. It is that but as this production reminds us, it is also a social piece about the price to be paid when women are treated as objects and not as people.' **Kate Stratford, Theatre Now Sydney***
- Remount Director**
 Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years of School at a Certain School of Magic and Magic - Sydney
 TEG Live/Tinted Windmill (USA)
- 2019**
- Director and Dramaturg**
 Susan Ann Walker is NOT QUITE RIGHT
 3 Fates Media
- 2018**
- Associate Director**
 Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years of School at a Certain School of Magic and Magic - Alex Theatre, St Kilda - Australian premiere
 TEG Live/Tinted Windmill (USA)
- Record breaking 12-week season
- 2018**
- Writer/director**
 Avengers S.T.A.T.I.O.N - Federation Square iteration – Australian premiere
 New content commissioned by Disney & VHE
- 2018**
- Director**
 Tomfoolery - Melbourne Fringe, Gasworks
 Loaded Productions – independent producer
Facilitating the freshness is director Theresa Borg, who shows a canny hand in guiding the revue into a natural flow and rhythm. With all manner of props and percussive instruments hidden within the set, there is a new focus for basically every song. The

work is clearly well planned, but the performers successfully bring an authentic air of spontaneity that adds to the enjoyment. The running time of 60 minutes fairly flies by, with each song feeling funnier than the last.’ ... Man In Chair ‘With an enviable back catalogue of work, versatile performer, writer and director Theresa Borg has ...created a really enjoyable evening that generates knowing smiles, belly laughs and some very current thinking about the state of everything’ ... Listen Now, Doug Knight

2017

Director, Additional Writing

Paw Patrol Live: Race to the Rescue – Australian Premiere

Life Like Touring, Veestar & Nickelodeon

- Australian premiere
- mainstages and arena tour Australia/NZ/Singapore
- rehearsing in new companies in Portugal, Canada and UK
- Gala Opening at Wembley Arena

‘Seeing their favourite characters come to life kept them glued to their seats in awe and leaving wanting more... hundreds of happy little faces skipped out of the venue...’ Chronicle Live, UK ‘Four stars ... Paw Patrol Live is a great introduction to theatre for little ones...’ Birminghammail.co.uk ‘We had the absolute pleasure of seeing it at SSE Wembley last week. What a show! The show was exciting, they got everyone involved from the audience and we really felt like we were on an adventure with them’... blogbybaby.com

2017

Experience Design and Writer/Director

Peppa Pig Playdate - International premiere

Life Like Touring & eOne

- Australian Capital Cities tour of immersive & participatory world
- Winner eOne Licensing Partner of the Year, 2017

2016

Director

The Light in the Piazza - Arts Centre Melbourne – Australian Premiere

Life Like Company (See: <https://vimeo.com/190200010>)

In this moving and entralling production, with assured direction by Theresa Borg, heightened emotions drive the story and compel all characters to sing...’ Herald Sun ‘... gorgeously directed by Theresa Borg Beg, borrow or steal your ticket ... You won’t regret it’ BWW Review ‘Director Theresa Borg shows an impeccably assured hand in securing honest, empathetic performances from her cast and telling the story in a captivating and affecting manner ... This production is a gift to be cherished. Drop everything to see The Light in the Piazza’ Man In Chair. ‘Theresa Borg’s sharp direction keeps eye engaged and action brisk’ Cameron Woodhead, The Age/SMH

2016

Director, book and lyrics

Scooby Doo Live: Level Up! – International Premiere

Her Majesty’s Melbourne and additional Australian mainstages

Life Like Touring & Warner Brothers

‘.. an exciting new take on the traditional Scooby-Doo, thanks to special effects, big musical numbers, stunning multi-media content and kooky characters that pay homage to classic video games’ ... Kidtown Melbourne

2016

Director/Art Direction/Content Curator

Disney Under the Stars - Myer Music Bowl/SOH Forecourt/Riverside Theatres

Australian premiere - commissioned by Disney for Live Nation

Disney Under the Stars is everything you wished for ... Songs you could sing backwards are given new life in this remarkable production, the good vs bad ‘Once Upon a Dream’ from the ladies and the Pixar mash-up from the boys were very notable highlights I’d love to have on my iPod. Do Your inner child a favour, or your present children...’ BWW

2016

Director, Voice-Director, Book & Lyrics

Elmo’s Super Fun Super Hero Party! – International Premiere

Life Like Touring/Sesame Workshop/HBO.

- Australian mainstages including. Arts Centre Melbourne
- Included voice-directing the Muppeteers in NYC.

- 2015** **Director, Book & Lyrics**
 Chuggington Live: The Great Rescue Adventure - International Premiere
 Life Like Touring/ Ludorum
- USA tour inc. Beacon Theatre, NYC
- 2015** **Director, Book & Lyrics**
 The Octonauts Live: Operation Reef Shield – Inaugural license/International
 Premiere
 Life Like Touring/Silvergate
- Australian Tour
 - Winner International What's ON 4 Junior Awards, 2016
- 'I liked the fact that Operation Reef Shield doesn't just trade on the popularity of the TV series ... the show itself is an artfully constructed piece of children's theatre, brimming with swift episodic storytelling, engaging visuals and curious facts about life under the sea.... Catchy songs are seamlessly woven in.'* **Cameron Woodhead, THE AGE/SMH**
- 2015** **Director**
 La Cenerentola - Hawthorn Arts Centre
 Citiopera
- 'This was a magnificent, surreal re-imagining of this opera... the direction was excellent... If you only go to one opera a year, make sure this is the one.'* **Stage Whispers** '...Director Theresa Borg's notes explain the concept as recycled objects being used to tell a recycled story ...The overall aesthetic may not necessarily appeal to purists, but the concept pays ongoing dividends in continually providing amusing moments.'
'Man In Chair 'Borg not only maintains the manic entertaining sharpness of Rossini's two-act operatic drama giocoso but recycles the story yet again while turning up the frivolity with a delightfully tacky appeal... Borg injects an unstoppable vitality to the pacing... comical dance with golden broomsticks elevated the romance ... the bottom line is fun and a zero tolerance for mediocrity is evident' **OperaChaser.**
- 2015** **Associate Director**
 City of Angels - Arts Centre, Melbourne
 Life Like Company
- 2014** **Director**
 The Consul by Menotti - 45 Downstairs
 Gertrude Opera
- First placing in Melbourne's top 5 operas of 2014, Herald Sun
- 'Anyone who thinks opera is an elitist artform should visit Gertrude Opera's new production of The Consul ... by dint of fine singing and intelligent direction they have pulled together a compelling account'. **The Age/SMH** 'an up-close, bare-bones staging of real immensity, director Theresa Borg drew solid, nuanced performances from a strong voiced cast.'* **The Herald Sun, best operas of 2014.** '...the whole cast benefit greatly from Theresa Borg's direction which does not allow so much as a hint of melodrama ... Borg makes inventive use of a relatively simple setting to create a highly theatrical production that never feels stagy ... storytelling strikes a neat balance between straightforward clarity and elements that treat the adult audience's intelligence with respect by providing food for thought' **MAN IN CHAIR.**
- 2012** **Director, Voice Director, Book & Lyrics**
 Sesame Street presents Elmo's World Tour - Inaugural License outside the USA
 Life Like Touring and Sesame Street Workshop
- Australian/NZ/Taiwan tour
 - Includes voice-directing The Muppeteers in NYC.
- 2011** **Director, Book & Lyrics**
 Scooby Doo Live: Musical Mysteries – International premiere
 Life Like Touring and Warner Bros.
- Australia/USA/UAE/Spain/NZ/South Africa/Mexico/UK tours
 - Winner Warner Brothers 'Gold Bunny' 2012
- 'This new production is every bit as bright, colourful, energetic and fun as reminiscing adults and children ... could hope for. It's aimed at the kids but every now and then a rather witty line that theatre buffs will appreciate is thrown in ...'* **the reviewshub, London.** **** Four Stars, **BRITISHTHEATRE.COM**'... an action packed, dynamic and

enthraling clue hunt that's as close to an episode of the brilliant children's TV show on stage as you're ever likely to see. Yikes! **Official London Theatre**

2004-2019 Additional productions for Australian and international destinations include: **Ben and Holly Live!** remount Director Australian premiere & tour, **Peppa Pig's Big Splash** remount Director, Aust. Premiere & tour, **Barney Round the World** writer, UAE, Saudi Arabia, **Paw Patrol Live: Pirate Adventure**, remount Director NZ, writer and creative supervisor **Going Places**, writer fully commissioned multi-IP show for Nickelodeon, **Octonauts in the Antarctic** writer, **Peppa Pig Muddy Puddles** writer /director NZ Tour, multiple cities, **Dora's Pirate Adventure** director Australia/India/UAE/China/SE ASIA tours **Peppa Pig's Treasure Hunt** Remount director, Aust. Premiere and Aust/NZ/ SE Asia and Chinese tour, **Yo Gabba Gabba: Get the Sillies Out!** remount director, Australian premiere and tour, **Ben 10 Live: Time Machine** director, International premiere Australia/NZ/Middle East/India/Egypt tours *Winner Turner Entertainment Licensing Award Live Entertainment International 2011, **Yo Gabba Gabba: There's a Party in my City!** Remount director, Australian premiere and tour, **The Zingzillas: Live on Stage** writer/director, Australian premiere SOH, **Yo Gabba Gabba! Live on Stage** writer/director Inaugural license International premiere & Australian tour, **Dora the Explorer: City of Lost Toys**, Remount director, Spanish tour, **Funtime with Friends**, writer/director Australian tour (multi-IP show for ABC/BBC), original and only Australian Licensee of **The Wiggles** character shows.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Roles in commercial theatre and for mainstage opera companies include:

Angelique	Angelique*	Victorian Opera
Ariadne Auf Naxos	Zerbinetta	Victorian Opera
Metamorphoses	Mrs Samsa	Victorian Opera
The Love of the Nightingale	Philomele (Cover)	Victorian Opera/OQ
The Magic Flute	Queen of the Night	In concert for Victorian Opera
Passion	Fosca	Life Like Company
Voicing Emily	Emily Dickinson	Helen Noonan @ The Malthouse
My Fair Lady	Eliza (cover)	Opera Australia
La Boheme	Musetta	Opera Australia
The Mikado	Peep-Bo	Opera Australia
Anything Goes	Hope	The Production Company
Cats	Jellylorum/Griddlebone	Really Useful Company
The Phantom of the Opera	Christine	Cameron Mackintosh
Les Misérables	Cosette	Cameron Mackintosh
West Side Story	Maria (cover)	Victorian State Opera

**Green Room nominated performance*

Many and various ensemble, chorus, cover and concert appearances for Opera Australia, Victorian State Opera, The Parlour and various independent producers. TV guesties and commercials: many and various.

PUBLISHED CHILDREN'S FICTION

Borg, T. (2018). *Scooter Witch*. London: Austin Macauley.

REFEREES

On request