

ENSEMBLE

Lakshana Bachun
Sasha Cordier
Andrea Figueroa
Mavin Karunanidhy
Wilson Liew
Sim Monga
Mai Pham
Desiree Tan
Mengyao Wang
Alice Wheaton
Charlie Zhang

CREATIVES & CAST

Director: Xanthe Beesley
Collaborator: Emma Hall
**Assistant Director/
Stage Manager:** Harriet Wallace-Mead
Dramaturgy: Petra Kalive
Creative Assistant: Thalia Livingstone
Costume Designer: Natalie Gillis
Scenic Designer: Jack Murray
Sound Designer: Sidney Millar
Lighting Designer: Paul Lim
Lighting Design Mentee: Oliver Ross
AV Design: Emma Hall & Harriet Wallace-Mead
Production Manager: Khat Kerr
Head Technician: Clynton Jones
Stage Carpenter: Allen Laverty
Publicity: Erin Adams
Poster Image Credit: Wilson Liew

ADDITIONAL MUSIC

Escape (The Piña Colada Song) – Rupert Holmes
Escape (The Piña Colada Song) – The Party Boyz
Cheap Thrills – Sia

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 25 minutes

SPECIAL THANKS

Sandie Bridie & David Atwood from UMSU Arts Programs, University of Melbourne Theatre Board, Susan Hewitt, Additive Lighting, Angie Gillis, Melinda Brodie, Freya McGrath, Liam Wardlaw, Michelle Heaven and all our wonderful theatre casuals.



Is it lonely in here? Or is that just me...



THE LONELY CROWD

Directed by Xanthe Beesley | Collaborator Emma Hall

28 MAY – 1 JUNE 2019
George Paton Gallery
Level 2, Union House

Union House Theatre

Union House Theatre is the hub for co-curricular student theatre at the University of Melbourne. We program performances, masterclasses and events giving students a taste of professional practice. We have been nurturing student playwrights, directors, performers and technicians since 1969!

Artistic Director/Theatre Coordinator:
Petra Kalive & Xanthe Beesley
Production & Venue Manager:
Khat Kerr
Head Technician:
Clynton Jones
Stage Carpenter and Mechanist:
Allen Laverty
Theatre Admin & Development Officer:
Erin Adams

  [unionhousetheatre](https://www.unionhousetheatre.com.au)
union.unimelb.edu.au/theatre

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

XANTHE BEESLEY

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/THEATRE COORDINATOR
UNION HOUSE THEATRE

Ideas for *The Lonely Crowd* came from many conversations between Emma and I where we wondered how 'we' connect and what is it that keeps 'us' apart? What are the real, technological and perceived barriers preventing people from forming community and does our digital world make this harder or easier than before? We became curious as to the impact of these ideas on young people and turned to a group of eleven committed and courageous performers to explore.

The process encouraged experimenting with different methods of theatre devising - both through movement and text - and drew on the ideas of the ensemble each step of the way. What we've made together is a piece that asks questions and (like a painting in a gallery) you can experience it washing over you or interpret its meaning as you see fit. Images come and go, words are felt as a texture rather than as story.



Photo: Erin Adams

The Lonely Crowd is a collage of ideas, movements and sound bites which have all come from the performers' own experiences of feeling alone and looking for connection.

At Union House Theatre (UHT) we work to build communities of people who, through a shared passion for exploring creativity, come together in real time to find a tribe and build relationships. The irony of this process is that together with the students, we've created a work that speaks of loneliness, isolation and being alone through a predominately community-driven art form that is reliant on so many people to make it happen.

Enormous thanks to Emma and Harriet for their extraordinary efforts, to a fine creative team and to the dedicated staff at UHT who all work very hard to facilitate great things. A special thank you to Sandra Bridie for offering the George Paton Gallery as a canvas of collaboration for our production.

PROJECT COLLABORATOR'S NOTE

EMMA HALL

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE
UNION HOUSE THEATRE

In 2014, Brendan Cormier published *Some Notes Towards an Interior Archipelago* in the design magazine *Interior Urbanism*. In it, he argues that cities are not defined by their building facades and public architecture, but rather, by a 'massive aggregation of interior environments'. Cormier suggests that a city's public shared spaces, such as its universities and art galleries, are merely transitory spaces. The real city is comprised of the highly individualised, often segregated, interior spaces of its inhabitants.

I think interior archipelago is a useful way of describing the world of *The Lonely Crowd*. Here, eleven young adults navigate the private anxieties surrounding life in the transitory space of a Big City University, and find connection through a series of loosely connected interior spaces: an online discussion board, a party, a dating app.

I hope that you are able to identify with the stories and images we will be sharing with you. Although loneliness is by definition a solitary experience, it is also increasingly prevalent.

2018 research from Swinburne University found that 1 in 4 Australians don't feel they have a lot in common with the people around them. Young adults in particular experience above average levels of loneliness and significantly greater social anxiety than older Australians.

I've been so inspired by the wisdom and curiosity the cast has brought to this topic, and grateful for their trust and willingness to share such personal experiences. They are an extremely talented and smart group of adults, who have been guided by the brilliant and clear minds of Xanthe and Harriet, and the wonderful team of creatives. Thanks to you all.



Photo: Erin Adams



Photos: Harriet Wallace-Mead & Wilson Liew