

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



SYDNEY THEATRE
COMPANY



Justine Clarke in *The Wonderfull World of Dissocia*, 2009; Photo: Brett Boardman Cover: Heather Mitchell in *All My Sons*, 1989; Photo: Hugh Hamilton

THEATRE HOLDS A RARE KIND OF MAGIC

When the house lights fall, strangers slip into the same story and briefly, become a community. Long after the applause, that shared spark can linger.

From the beginning, Sydney Theatre Company has been strengthened by the love and generosity of people who believe in that magic. Many choose to express that belief by including STC in their Will, a heartfelt act that becomes the source for stories yet to come.



Photo: Ken Leanfore

A gift in your Will is enduring. It's a way to say, "this has mattered to me," and to honour the nights that stay with you. Those nights when you take your seat in the theatre and you feel part of something. It sustains the live exchange at the heart of theatre: that of an idea offered, emotions embodied and stories received together. It keeps this living art luminous for those yet to take their seats.

If you're considering including Sydney Theatre Company in your Will, I invite you to read on. Thank you for your support.

Warmly,

Mitchell Butel
Artistic Director & Co-CEO

If Sydney Theatre Company has played a special part in your life through the productions you've seen, the artists you've admired or the stories that have moved you, a **gift in your Will** can be a lasting expression of that connection.



Bert LaBonté and Zahra Newman in *Fences*, 2023. Photo: Daniel Boud

IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

We asked our **SoulMates** – those who have chosen to include Sydney Theatre Company in their Will – what guided their decision. These are the reflections they shared.

What matters most to me?

Which values, experiences or passions have shaped my life and brought me joy or meaning?

How has Sydney Theatre Company made a difference in my life?

Have its productions, artists, or education programs enriched my life, inspired me or challenged me in ways I'd like to see continue for others?

What kind of legacy do I want to leave?

How do I want to be remembered by my family, friends, and community?

What impact could my gift have?

Could my contribution help create more brilliant theatre, nurture emerging talent or keep theatre accessible to future generations?

Have I provided for my loved ones first?

After ensuring their needs are met, am I comfortable designating a portion of my estate to support an organisation I love?

Do I want to discuss my intentions?

Would I like to let Sydney Theatre Company know about my plans, so they can thank me during my lifetime and understand my wishes?



Michael Smith and Rory Potter in *Storm Boy*, 2013. Photo: Brett Boardman

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS

Create more brilliant theatre like *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Harp in the South*, *RBC: Of Many, One* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

Support artists and theatre makers many of whom have a profound and lasting impact on both the national and international stage.

Invest in new work and the next generation of writers and storytellers through creative development, mentoring and commissioning.

Spark a lifelong passion for theatre by providing access to students.



Eryn Jean Norvill in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 2022. Photo: Daniel Boud



Photo: Joanna Shuen



Schools Day, 2025. Photo: Prudence Upton



Tinashe Mangwana and Maurice Marvel Meredith in rehearsal for *Purpose*, 2026. Photo: Daniel Boud

WHAT KIND OF GIFT CAN I MAKE?

By writing a Will you are providing for the people and causes that matter to you. Here are some ways you can make a gift to Sydney Theatre Company in your Will.

Residuary Gift

A percentage (or all) of what remains of your estate after your debts and specific gifts have been distributed and your loved ones have been provided for.

Because it is based on a share rather than a set amount, this type of gift maintains its relative value over time.

Pecuniary Gift

A fixed sum of money that you nominate in your Will (you can add an inflation clause if you wish).

This type of gift is straightforward to include and easy for your executor to administer.

Contingent Gift

A gift that is made only if certain conditions are met, such as if your primary beneficiaries pass away before you.

This type of gift allows you to support a charity while still prioritising your loved ones.

Cate Blanchett and Tim Richards in *A Street Car Named Desire*, 2009. Photo: Lisa Tomasetti



WHY I'VE INCLUDED STC IN MY WILL

“We want our support to continue after we've gone. Making a pledge through our Wills felt the best way to achieve this.”

Justin



“Life is so much about energy and timing...and so too it is with theatre. I adore theatre; it is as simple as that. However for me, the timing was tricky when it came to the act of giving. Like so many of us, I have numerous daily costs and commitments, including running a small business (and a large life!).

The decision to leave part of my estate to STC was a joyous one. This gift does not affect my standard of living now, however will – when combined with other gifts in Wills – ensure the future of our very, very special theatre company.”

Peter & Louise



“Sydney Theatre Company has been a significant part of our cultural lives for decades – first as subscribers and then as annual donors. We believe that a vibrant, ongoing program of theatre is a vital part of Australian culture, as it provides a window into contemporary life.

We decided that STC is so important to us, that we want our support to continue after we've gone. Making a pledge through our Wills felt the best way to achieve this.”

Terry & Margaret



“While we aren't wealthy, the joy that STC has given us for so many years makes it easy to allocate money from our Will to bring that same joy to others.”

Andrew



“Through my career in drama education, I've seen firsthand how theatre inspires curiosity, empathy, and critical thinking in young minds. My legacy gift to STC will help ensure that future generations continue to experience the transformative power of theatre.”

HOW TO INCLUDE STC IN YOUR WILL

If you've decided supporting Sydney Theatre Company through your Will is right for you, here are some steps to help you feel comfortable as you put your wishes in place.

1 Talk to your loved ones

A gentle conversation can reassure your family that they remain at the centre of your plans. Sharing your reasons for supporting Sydney Theatre Company can also bring comfort and understanding, making your gift even more meaningful.

2 Seek professional guidance

We recommend that you seek independent legal advice from a lawyer, accountant or tax advisor before making a gift to STC in your Will. If you already have a Will, a simple amendment known as a codicil may be all that's needed.

3 Have our details to hand

Sydney Theatre Company is a not-for-profit organisation and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).

Address

Sydney Theatre Company
Wharf 4/5
15 Hickson Road
Walsh Bay NSW 2000

ABN

87 001 667 983

4 Suggested Will wording

I give, devise and bequeath [% of my estate / \$X / the rest and residue of my estate] to Sydney Theatre Company ABN 87 001 667 983 for the use and benefit of STC at its discretion and I direct that a receipt from STC shall be sufficient discharge for such gift.

5 Notify STC

This can be a simple email to foundation@sydneytheatre.com.au. Some people let us know the amount or percentage they've pledged, however this is your information to share if you choose and we will never ask the amount. Your intention alone means the world.



Miranda Otto and Ewen Leslie in *The River*, 2026. Photo: Daniel Boud

STC SOULMATES

Some relationships with theatre last a lifetime. Becoming a **SoulMate** is a way to ensure that relationship continues.

SoulMates are Sydney Theatre Company's extended family – people who believe theatre matters, and who've chosen to keep it thriving through a gift in their Will.

If you let us know that you intend to include STC in your Will, we will invite you to become a SoulMate.

The program is called SoulMates because we believe those who have made this commitment are kindred spirits. They love Sydney Theatre Company and want its magic to outlive them. They are people who believe that art, like friendship, is meant to last.

While joining SoulMates is optional, if you decide to, you'll meet a wonderfully diverse group of theatre lovers of all ages and backgrounds. You'll receive invitations to special events and exclusive updates about the Company.

The program is STC's way of expressing our gratitude for your generosity, and to involve you in the life of the Company. As a SoulMate, you'll be celebrated during your lifetime for the difference you'll make long into the future.



2022 SoulMates event with Richard Roxburgh and Heather Mitchell. Photo: Joanna Shuen



2025 SoulMates event with Helen Thomson. Photo: Keith Saunders



2024 SoulMates event with Glenn Hazeldine. Photos: Carlita Sari

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to be wealthy to leave a gift in my Will?

Not at all. A gift in your Will, no matter the size, costs you nothing during your lifetime but can help ignite the creativity of generations to come. Every gift makes a lasting difference.

Where will my money go?

All gifts in Wills received by Sydney Theatre Company go directly towards supporting our mission to create brilliant theatre and to share it with audiences for generations to come.

Can I specify how my gift will be used?

While we can't direct most gifts to specific purposes, all bequests are used at Sydney Theatre Company's discretion to support our core purpose of creating brilliant, inspiring theatre: from developing new work to supporting artists and welcoming new audiences. For larger bequests, we can discuss whether directing the gift to a particular area is appropriate and sustainable for the future.

Do I have to tell you if I've included STC in my Will?

No. However, letting us know allows us to thank you personally and celebrate your generosity. Those who let us know are invited to join our community of **STC SoulMates**.

Do I have to tell my family if I've included Sydney Theatre Company in my Will?

Talking openly with your loved ones about your Will can bring peace of mind, for you and them. Letting them know your plans helps reassure them that they will still be provided for and your decision to include Sydney Theatre Company doesn't diminish your care or intentions toward them.

Can I change my Will later if my circumstances change?

Yes. You can amend your Will at any time by seeking advice from your legal representative.

I have other questions. How do I contact Sydney Theatre Company?

For a confidential, no-obligation conversation, please contact the Philanthropy team at foundation@sydneytheatre.com.au



Andreea Demetriades in *Home, I'm Dating*, 2021. Photo: Prudence Urpton

WILL YOU CONSIDER MAKING SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY PART OF YOUR LEGACY?



Renee Lim in *Into the Shimmering World*, 2024. Photo: Daniel Boud

Photo: Grant Sparkes-Carrall. Back cover image: Heather Mitchell in *RBC: Of Many, One* 2022. Photo: Daniel Boud

Please contact the
Philanthropy team at
foundation@sydneytheatre.com.au
or call (02) 9250 1976.



