

# **THE MALHOUSE**

**The Merlyn Theatre**

## **Technical Information And General Specifications 2025**

Please direct all inquiries to the Operations Manager:

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The Malthouse  
113 Sturt Street  
SOUTHBANK 3006  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

# GENERAL INFORMATION

The Merlyn Theatre is a large studio style space with seating on three levels. The theatre has an orchestra pit. In the Standard seating configuration there is seating in the pit.

The Merlyn has a capacity of up to 508 in the Standard seating configuration.

The decor in the Merlyn Theatre is black including the stage area. The seating is red with black fleck.

The Merlyn Theatre is hired “bare walls” ie with no standard masking, audio or lighting rigs, due to the flexible nature of the seating.

**The Standard seating option is End Stage with the pit covered.**

## Seating Options & Capacities

The Merlyn Theatre can be transferred into many different seating configurations, the cost of which shall be borne by the Hirer.

Level One seating is flexible, Level Two and Three have fixed balconies on three sides.

The following are some of the configurations and their approximate capacities. These do not take into account restricted viewing seats produced by the Hirer’s set/masking configuration.

End Stage Standard configuration, including seating in the Orchestra Pit	= 508
End Stage with pit covered	= 412
In the Round	= TBA
Traverse	= 454
With a centre vomitory	= 471

These figures include 82 seats on Level Two (Circle) and 90 seats on Level Three (Balcony).

## Theatre Access

The Malthouse does not have a stage door. Access to the theatre for company members is via the foyer and through the main auditorium doors.

Access for load in is via the rear of the theatre at 70 Dodds Street.

(See Stage Specifications for further detail.)

## Technical Staff

A Venue Technician and Head Mechanist must be present at all times when a Hirer is in the theatre.

The technician can be used as an operator during performances if required.

## Award Conditions

All technical and Front of House employees work under the conditions of the Live Performance Award 2010 and directly under an inhouse Enterprise Agreement.

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to be familiar with the conditions of the Award.

## Safety & Safe Work Practices

It is the responsibility of the Hirer to ensure safe working practices are adhered to by their staff.

The Hirer shall at all times defer to the venue staff if there is a question of safety and/or damage to the venue or equipment.

All electrical equipment entering the building must carry the appropriate test and tag documentation.

**Every Hirer must provide The Malthouse with risk assessment documentation.**

## Theatre Plans

Plans of the theatre are available on the website, [www.malthousetheatre.com.au](http://www.malthousetheatre.com.au) or by contacting the Operations Manager on 03 9685 5170 or [operations@malthousetheatre.com.au](mailto:operations@malthousetheatre.com.au)

## Smoking

The Malthouse is a fully non-smoking venue.

## Disabled Access

The stage of the theatre is on street level.

Any special requirements for artists should be communicated to the Operations Manager.

## Parking

There is no parking available to Hirers on the premises, this includes storage of trucks.

There is limited metered parking in Sturt, Grant and Dodds Streets and the surrounding area. There is undercover parking available nearby at the Australian Ballet Centre and the Arts Centre.

## Workshop & Wardrobe

The Malthouse has no workshop or wardrobe maintenance facilities. Laundry facilities are available. (See Additional Information.)

The Malthouse has some small hand tools for emergency repairs.

## Box Office

The Malthouse Box Office is located in the foyer of The Malthouse and is open Monday to Saturday and prior to all scheduled performances in the venue. The Box Office offers telephone, counter and web sales via the in house ticketing system. It is a condition of hire that ticket sales **must** be via The Malthouse Box Office.

For further information contact the Ticketing Manager at [ticketingmanager@malthousetheatre.com.au](mailto:ticketingmanager@malthousetheatre.com.au) or phone 03 9685 5156

# STAGE SPECIFICATIONS

## Stage Dimensions

Stage dimensions are dependent on the seating configuration chosen.

Standard end stage configurations:

Pit open - setting line to U/S wall	= 15800mm wide x 11900mm deep
Pit closed - setting line to U/S wall	= 15800mm wide x 16000mm deep
Grid height	= 9000mm

## Stage Floor

The stage floor is KD Tasmanian oak - hardwood tongue & groove flooring 105mm wide x 30mm thick covered in black Masonite. The floor is semi sprung.

This Masonite can be painted but must be restored to black at the end of the season, the cost of which will be charged to the Hirer. The Malthouse will supply the black stage paint. Screwing tech screws into the floor is permitted. They cannot be longer than 32mm due to electrical and phone wiring running under the stage.

The Point Load capacity on the floor is 7.5kpa.

## Load In Access

Load in access to the Merlyn Theatre is at ground level, through the staff carpark via a roller door, into the scene dock (see below) and onto the theatre stage.

The rollerdoor is 7000mm high x 3300mm wide.

A pair of Bifold double doors opens from the scene dock directly onto stage.

Truck access into the carpark must be approved by the Operations Manager.

The rear gates are at 70 Dodds Street, Southbank, Victoria 3006.

There is also a pair of dock doors at the west end of the theatre. Access to these is restricted due to them backing on to the kitchen/café area and carpark.

## Scene Dock

The scene dock has limited storage available, but does allow flat floor access for load in and out.

## Levels

There are four levels in the Merlyn Theatre.

We refer to stage level as Level 1.

First balcony as Level 2.

Second balcony as Level 3.

Grid, top level and control position as Level 4.

## Orchestra Pit

The Merlyn orchestra pit is 14700mm wide, 4000mm long and 1200mm deep. It is normally used for seating but can be emptied to allow for musicians.

The floor is bare concrete and an audience barrier is erected when the pit is not used for seating.

There is no understage access to the pit.

## Overhead Work Platform

There is a movable work platform in the grid of the theatre that tracks east to west. It is used to rig lighting and scenery from the grid.

When rigging anything in the roof it is necessary to take the path of the work platform into account, as it sits below the grid.

The underside of the work platform is at 7050mm from stage floor.

The handrail height of the work platform is at 8280mm from stage floor.

**Only staff or crew inducted by The Malthouse can drive or be on the work platform.**

## Compressed Air Lines

There are compressed air lines that run throughout the theatre.

These can be used for such things as air tools and oil crackers.

## Masking

Black wool tabs (flat): 2 x 8.5m x 9m drop.

Black wool legs (flat): 6 x 3.5m x 9m drop.

Black wool borders (flat): 1 x 16m x 1m drop.

1 x 16m x 2m drop.

There is additional masking that can be hired.

Please check availability with the Operations Manager.

## Staging

The venue does not have a stock of such things as flats, rostra and treads. It has a limited stock of rigging hardware.

The Operations Manager can however rent such items on behalf of the Hirer.

## Stage Management Position

The Stage Manager can be positioned either side of stage or on any level as per individual production requirements.

## Control Position

The Merlyn Theatre has no fixed control box. The sound operation area is generally set up on Level 2 at the west end of the auditorium. The lighting operation area is generally set up on Level 4 at the west end of the auditorium.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Pre Production Meetings

It is requested that a pre production meeting occurs at least two weeks prior to bump in.

### Fire Services

If your production uses a smoke machine, hazer or anything that is likely to cause smoke, the smoke detectors must be turned off for the duration of the performance. ONLY the Venue Technician on duty in the theatre does this.

**Any charges arising from false alarms, including the cost of Fire Brigade attendance are the responsibility of the Hirer (approximately \$2000.00 per truck, with a minimum of two trucks).**

### Rigging Overhead

Any item that is rigged overhead - over the stage or auditorium – is at the discretion of the Operations Manager.

If required and after discussion with the Hirer, a licenced rigger will be employed to carry out the work, the cost of which will be borne by the Hirer.

### Insurance

Please ensure that all company members that come into the theatre are covered by insurance – particularly volunteers and people on work experience.

Please also ensure all equipment that comes in is insured.

The Malthouse public liability does not cover either.

### Noise Levels

As a guide to safe working practice, The Malthouse maintains a policy of limiting audio output from both the audio systems, as well as any device or machine, to 90dB (SPL, A-weighted for up to 60 seconds).

**The Malthouse reserves the right to impose a noise limit lower than the stated limit on a specific Hirer or production in order to ensure compliance with OH&S regulations and in line with the Code of Practice for Noise Management.**

## Access Equipment and Ladders

The Malthouse owns:

1 x Genie AWP-30S MEWP Max platform height 9m, 1 x Haulotte Compact12AE Max platform height 11.75m and 1 x Haulotte Star 10 lifter Max platform Height 10m.

Which can be used by the Hirer subject to availability providing the operator has a current MEWP license and/or is deemed competent by the Malthouse staff. The Malthouse safety procedures **must** be adhered to at all times when working at height.

The theatre has a variety of ladders available for use.

For any specific enquiries please contact the Operations Manager.

## Laundry Facilities

There is a washing machine, dryer, drying cabinet, iron and ironing board in the laundry/maintenance room backstage. It is shared between the Malthouse Theatre Company and Hirers of the venue. It is **not** for personal laundry.

Times of use **must** be organised via the Operations Manager.

Hirers must supply their own detergent, bleach etc.

## Air Conditioning

The theatre is air-conditioned.

Heating is through the air conditioning.

## Dressing Rooms

Dressing rooms are located at the north east end of the theatre, on stage level. The large dressing room comfortably seats nine people and the small one seats two.

They are equipped with mirrors and lights.

There is show relay to the dressing rooms and a paging system via the Stage Manager's control position. There are only two toilets and one shower outside the dressing rooms.

## Green Room

The Green Room is located on the third level above the dressing rooms backstage.

It doubles as a staff room and occasionally a meeting room.

There is an urn on the wall and a fridge for general use.

Visiting management must provide all tea and coffee making facilities.

**IT MUST BE KEPT CLEAN.**

## Delivery of Equipment

All equipment delivered to The Malthouse (excluding set items) shall be itemised and all details such as hire company delivery times should be given to the Operations Manager prior to bump in.

All equipment delivered before the bump in date must have the suitable number of people to unload it. The Malthouse cannot supply staff.

A Crown fork lift with driver can be organised, but **only** if sufficient notice is given to the Operations Manager.

All equipment must be removed following the final performance. Anything left at the venue for more than half a day may be charged a rental fee.

## Rubbish

All rubbish and extraneous items must be removed from the theatre at the end of the bump out. Limited rubbish may be emptied into the theatre skip, however over usage will incur pickup charges.

## FOH Manager's Form

All Hirers are required to fill in this form, available from the Front of House Manager on Tel. 9685 5145 or [fohmanager@malthousetheatre.com.au](mailto:fohmanager@malthousetheatre.com.au)

It details the running time, latecomers call and any specific requirements in order to enable the smooth running of your show.

## Foyer

The foyer is shared between the Merlyn, Beckett and Tower Theatres. Any use of the foyer, including putting up posters, signage or holding functions, must firstly be approved by the Building Manager.

## Ushers

The minimum requirement for the Merlyn Theatre is four.

## Bar & Cafe

A fully licensed bar operates two hours prior to and one hour post of each performance.

The bar is licensed from 07:00 until 02:00 Monday to Saturday and on Sunday, Good Friday and Anzac Day from 12:00 to 23:00.

There is a cafe in the foyer that is open from 08:00 to the commencement of performances in either theatre.

Catering can be arranged through the cafe.

## Rehearsal Rooms

The Malthouse has three rehearsal rooms of varying sizes, which are available for hire through the Building Manager.

The two larger rehearsal rooms have semi sprung floors and contain upright pianos.

## Telephone

There is a public telephone at The Malthouse, located in the foyer.

## Additional Services

We can provide access to photocopier, fax and stationary supplies at a cost.

The Merlyn Theatre

**Technical Equipment  
Specifications  
2025**

Please direct all technical inquiries to the Technical Manager:

ph 03 9685 5172

fax 03 9685 5112

email: [bmckenna@malthousetheatre.com.au](mailto:bmckenna@malthousetheatre.com.au)

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# LIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Lanterns	Rating	Quantity
Selecon Pacific 12/28 Profile	1000W	30
ETC Source 4 Junior 25/50 Profile	575W	46
ETC Source 4 19° Profile	575W	18
Selecon Arena Fresnels	2000W	2
Selecon Fresnels	2000W	46
Selecon Fresnels	1000W	38

All fresnels are equipped with barndoors.

All lanterns have hook clamps, colour frames and safety chains.

There is additional equipment available for hire, subject to availability.

Please ask the Technical Manager.

## Lighting Control

1 x ETC Ion 6144 Channel Console.

40 fader submaster wing and wireless remote.

DMX, EDMX & Artnet control protocols.

## Dimmers

2 x State Automation Solution X72 2.4Kw dimmers (144 Dimmers). Artnet / DMX back up controlled. Hard wired to patch outlets on level 4.

6 x State Automation Solution Cool 12 way 2.4 Kw dimmers (72 Dimmers) Hard wired to patch outlets located on stage level and the 2 balconies.

All dimmers are able to be dimming, relay or hot power.

## Lighting Accessories

30 x Gobo holders "M"size for Pacific 12-28

30 x Gobo holders for Source 4 Juniors

20 x Gobo holders for Source 4 19° Profile

5 x Iris' for Pacific 12-28

30 x Iris' for Source 4 Juniors

18 x B size Iris

8 x Booms for the theatre (these do not free stand).

25 x Boom arms

15 x Half coupler boom pipes

17 x H-stands

**Please note all accessories are shared between the three theatres, therefore any item required must be booked with the Technical Manager as soon as possible.**

## Lighting Outlets

There are 144 patch outlets hard wired to dimmers on Level 4 distributed in 6 way or 9 way patch boxes along the walk way. 122 on PS, 122 on OP.

The other 72 Patches are distributed around stage level and the two balconies.

## Lighting Bars

There are ten lighting bars (48mm OD) in the roof of the theatre (referred to as *trolley bars*), divided into five sections each, (referred to as *bays*), effectively becoming 50 lighting bar positions.

They can be tracked up and down the space but cannot be lowered into the floor. They commence 6000mm from the East (U/S) wall and run the full length of the auditorium. There are three fly lines (single purchase counterweight) located at approximately 1800mm, 3100mm and 4400mm from the East/back wall. Out dead is 9000mm high, batten length is 15500mm.

## Other Lighting Positions

There are eighteen “gravity” bars (48mm OD) available to create lower level lighting positions. These can be placed into the gutters at floor height on balcony levels 2 and 3. They are 900mm long and stand out from the edge of the floor approximately 350mm. The placement of all gravity bars must be approved by Malthouse staff.

## Power

There are 3 x 32A Wilco 3 phase outlets on the US/OP (East) wall.

There are 2 x 32A Wilco 3 phase outlets on the US/PS (East) wall.

There is 1 x 32A Wilco 3 phase supply available on the US/OP (East) wall dedicated to audio.

## Colour & Globes & Tapes

The Malthouse does not carry any colour.

The Hirer is charged for the replacement of any blown theatre globes.

Gaffer tape is available for purchase from the Operations Manager.

## Looms & Cables

The lighting bars are not hard wired. They are cabled for each production using 6 way looms.

The theatre has a reasonable stock of 10amp 240V extension leads, but cannot guarantee these will be sufficient if large rigs come in.

## Worklights

There is a limited number of backstage worklights.

If your production requires a large number, please bring extras.

## Production Desk

There are 2 portable desks that sit in the auditorium that can accommodate the lighting desk, Design Team, Director and Stage Manager.

# AUDIO EQUIPMENT

## Mixer

Digico SD-9  
96 input  
48 Aux/Sub Group  
12x8 Matrix  
2 x D Rack 32/8  
Local I/O 8/8  
72 analogue inputs  
24 analogue  
outputs  
4 mono AES I/O

## Speakers

2 x L'Acoustic MTD 115a  
4 x L'Acoustic X12  
2 x L'Acoustic X8  
2 x L'Acoustic SB18  
1 x L'Acoustic MTD 118 - Sub

## Processors / Signal Modifiers

2 x L'Acoustic MTD 115LLCa

## Amplifiers

L'Acoustic's LA15a  
L'Acoustic's LA17a  
1 x C1000 250w stereo amplifier  
3 x LA4X Amp/Controller

**There is additional stock for hire subject to availability.  
Please contact the Technical Manager with any enquiries.**

**The theatre is set up for playback only. We do not have such items as foldback wedges, reverb units etc. This can be hired in on your behalf.**

## **Radio Mics.**

652 – 680 MHz

*The Merlyn Theatre – The Malthouse – Technical Schedule*

This range is reserved for The Malthouse venue equipment  
Equipment in this frequency range must not be used in the venue without prior consultation and the approval of the technical manager

## **Noise Levels**

Please see Additional Information.

## **Clean Power**

There are two dedicated 15amp double power points on the East wall Level 1 and also 1 x 32 Amp Wilco 3 phase supply available on the USOP (East) wall Level 1.

## **Talkback**

The Merlyn has 6 x headsets and 6 x beltpacks.  
The system brand is Concertcom. It is Jands compatible.

## **Show Relay**

There is show relay to both dressing rooms. The Stage Manager communicates with the dressing rooms through a paging system and Front of House through the internal phone system.

There is no video relay.

## **Piano**

The Malthouse owns a 5'7" baby grand Kawai piano that is available for hire.. The cost of moving, returning and tuning it will be borne by the Hirer. For hire cost and availability please call the Building Manager on 03 9685 5161.