

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...**

### **About the House itself**

#### **Is The House of Dreaming a theatre production?**

Yes. The House of Dreaming is a theatre production, in the form of an installation. This means that it is a life-sized structure that the audience can walk through, and there are actors inside to tell the story of the House. The story of the House is in part written by writer Halcyon McCleod, and in part imagined by the director Chris Kohn. The story is also conveyed through the objects, robots, and computers inside The House.

#### **Is The House of Dreaming an actual *house*?**

Yes and no! The best way to understand The House of Dreaming is that it is like a giant, life-sized dollhouse. Made out of plywood, the House is constructed in the Lawler Theatre at the Melbourne Theatre Company. It has furniture inside, and objects and pictures like a real house does. However, it has no plumbing or waterworks, just like a dolls house. Audience members will literally be able to walk through the house – in fact, we ask you to leave your shoes at the front porch.

#### **How big is the House? Is it large enough for adults too?**

Yes, the House is life-sized. There are doorframes and ceilings tall enough for adults to comfortably walk through, like a real, life-sized house. There are some doorways that are deliberately smaller so that children can crawl through them, however each room also has access points for adults to enter as well.

#### **Can I touch and move things inside the House?**

Yes! We encourage you to do this! Through interacting with the objects, you will be able to get a stronger understanding of how the House has fallen asleep... and certain objects have started to dream.

#### **Robotics! Cool!**

The whole House is powered by Wii Remote technology. Some of the objects have robotics in side them, and others are robots themselves. More information on the robotic technology will be available from some of the creators soon.

### **Session time information**

#### **When is The House of Dreaming showing?**

Tue 23 Oct at 6pm

Wed 24 – Sat 27 Oct at 9am, 1pm & 6pm

Sessions can be booked every half hour (for example, 9am, 9.30am, 10am etc.)

Sessions last up to one hour (for example, the 9am session lasts until 10am)



**How do the booking times work?**

The session times leave from the door of the Lawler Theatre every half hour.

Sessions leave at 3 minute intervals within your half hour bloc.

For example, you might book the 9am session. You would need to arrive at the door of the theatre at 9am. You would be asked into the House at either 9.03 or 9.06 or 9.09 and so on.

**How many people can go into the House at once?**

Three people can go in per session time, and each group experiences the House one room at a time.

**Does that mean I could book the 9am bloc, but have to wait until my turn to enter the House if it's busy?**

Yes. The exact time at which you can enter the House is determined by how many other people have booked into that session bloc. So for example, you could book the 9am bloc, but actually only enter the house at 9.03, or 9.06, or 9.09 and so on. If it's really busy, you might even need to wait until 9.27 to enter the House.

**Why do I have to get there at exactly the start of my session time if I have to wait to go in?**

The exact time at which you can enter the House is determined by how many other people have booked into that session bloc. But don't worry, there's heaps of activities and other fun stuff to do in the foyer before you enter the House...

**If I have to wait before I enter, is there anything to do?**

Yes! The experience of The House of Dreaming begins in the foyer space where you wait before actually entering the House. The Artistic Director and the Designer of the House have worked together to create activities for people who have to wait. These activities are craft-based, and resemble or contribute to some of the objects within the House itself.

**Supervision**

**Can children enter the House by themselves?**

Yes, if children are above 5 years old then they do not need to be accompanied by an adult. As there are only three audience members allowed in at one time, children might like to go in together, or they can also go with an adult if they like.

**Is there supervision in the House?**

There are adult performers in the House who are entertaining the audience and telling the story of the House. There are also back-stage assistants helping out behind the scenes. So while there is no direct supervision per se, there are adults on hand ready to help or assist if needed.



**Can adults enter the House too?**

Of course! The House is designed for everyone above the age of 5.

**Access and building requirements**

**I have a physical disability – can I still visit the House?**

The House of Dreaming is a multi-sensory experience. It is fully wheelchair accessible, and has some provisions for the vision-impaired. Please contact us at Arena if you would like more information.

**Can I eat or drink inside the House?**

No, no food or drink is allowed inside the House.

**What happens if there's an emergency?**

If there's an emergency, back-stage assistants are waiting just behind the scenes and can quickly jump to attention. There are also back-stage walkways which run behind each room, providing quick and easy access too and from all the rooms and out the front door. The Lawler Theatre also has fire hydrants inside it, and Melbourne Theatre Company's building has full emergency precautions and procedures established.

**School information**

**Can a whole school class go into the House?**

The House has been designed to accommodate whole-class excursions, and is complemented by additional downloadable classroom activities.

**How do schools book?**

Schools should contact the Melbourne International Arts Festival to discuss group-booking options. [melbournefestival.com.au](http://melbournefestival.com.au)

Direct bookings can be made via Ticketmaster 136 100.

**How much are teachers' tickets?**

All tickets are \$20, however if you are a teacher with a large class, discounts may apply. Please contact the Melbourne International Arts Festival for more details.

**Booking information**

**Where is The House of Dreaming?**



The MTC Theatre, Lawler Studio,  
140 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank

**How do I get to The House of Dreaming?**

Tram: Quick, 2 minute walk from tram stop on crn Southbank Boulevard and St Kilda Road  
Train: Easy 10 minute walk from Flinders Street Station, Melbourne  
Parking: Multiple car parking options available – see MTC for more information

**How much are tickets?**

\$20 (*Transaction & booking fees may apply*)

**How do I book?**

Ticketmaster 136 100 / melbournefestival.com.au  
\$20 (*Transaction & booking fees may apply*)

**Who made this work?**

It can sometimes be difficult to understand the relationship between Melbourne’s theatre companies, festivals and venues.

**The House of Dreaming** is made by Arena Theatre Company and is commissioned by Australia’s Major Festivals Initiative, meaning that it will tour to a number of arts festivals around Australia from 2012 – 14.

Its world premiere is with the Melbourne International Arts Festival in October 2012. The venue it is showing in is the Lawler Studio of the Melbourne Theatre Company.

[www.arenatheatre.com.au/show/the-house-of-dreaming](http://www.arenatheatre.com.au/show/the-house-of-dreaming)

[www.melbournefestival.com.au/program/production?id=3968&idx=10&max=11](http://www.melbournefestival.com.au/program/production?id=3968&idx=10&max=11)

[www.mtc.com.au/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=5242](http://www.mtc.com.au/tickets/production.aspx?performanceNumber=5242)