

MELBOURNE

A FEW OF MY

favourite

THINGS



Michael Kantor
Theatre Director



FAVOURITE OBJECT

My director's hat, a silly pork-pie hat. The actors play their roles, and I play at being a director.



MELBOURNE

Culture seeps from Melbourne's pores. A restless creative energy gives the city its distinctive vibe. The arts are celebrated and explored in major cultural precincts and less mainstream locales alike. From Shakespeare in the Botanical Gardens to multimedia experiences at Federation Square, settings are mixed and matched with events to maximise impact. Specialist venues for music, dance, opera, theatre and film

provide the infrastructure required by a city of enthusiasts, most notably in the stunning Southbank precinct. Love of participation produces massive crowds for sport and other public events. Breathtaking galleries, a major museum, public art both iconic and quirky, street performers, repositories of Indigenous treasures, iconic festivals: in Melbourne, cultural activity is everywhere, every day.

'MELBOURNE IS A REALLY DYNAMIC, CHALLENGING PLACE. THERE IS A LIFEBLOOD OF CREATIVITY THAT HAS ALWAYS RUN THROUGH THIS CITY. LIKE ANY RIVER IT HAS FLOODS, IT HAS DROUGHTS, BUT IT'S GREAT TO BE SWIMMING IN IT.'

Michael Kantor calls his face 'over-expressive'. It is by turns puckish, wonder-filled, scholarly, solemn. If physiognomy is destiny, then he was always set for life in the theatre.

Michael has been the Artistic Director of Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre since July 2004. Prior to that he was an acclaimed director (and occasional actor and writer) working in various parts of Australia. He is known for devising contemporary productions that pack a wallop, the antithesis of safe or stale theatre.

'I like theatre that is wild, silly, raucous,' he says. 'I think theatre needs to be really surprising. Whether or not it

is challenging, whether or not it has a message, it must be astonishing on some level. It has to incite a reaction.'

As well as devising new theatre pieces and reexamining classics, Michael has directed opera and contemporary dance as well. 'There are extraordinary skills in Melbourne within the acting and broader theatre community. It brings me real joy when I can engage with these artists and help them bring their visions to the stage.'