

In support of Clare Mendes

Clare's application for a Nov 2026 – Jan 2027 residency at the Keesing Studio, Paris

18 July 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Chair of Melbourne Writers' Theatre, I wish to express my strong support for Clare in her forthcoming application for the residency above.

In the 10 years that Clare has been Company Director of the Melbourne Writers' Theatre, she has worked tirelessly, demonstrating dedication and passion, to make MWT a respected key player in the not-for-profit arts sector in Victoria, Australia. Under her leadership the organisation's membership has grown steadily and in the period 2023-2025 she was able to produce three seasons of new work by local and regional emerging writers. She is also responsible for creating the significant production opportunity The Amethyst Award, which has gone from strength to strength, and her partnerships in the theatre scene have led to successful co-productions at both Gasworks and Theatreworks. As such, it is fair to say she has shown incredible persistence in securing funding in a difficult post-pandemic environment. Recently she was successful in an application to Creative Australia which will enable the Committee to upskill through a range of programs offered through ICDA (Institute of Community Directors Australia). This is just one example of many where Clare has gone beyond her responsibilities to ensure that she sets up the MWT Committee for ongoing success.

Most things Clare does in the course of a week are for the benefit of other artists. She often encourages MWT writers and artists to apply for residencies, so I'm glad to see that she is now the one making an application. This residency represents a valuable opportunity for Clare to work on her own creative endeavours outside her responsibilities to Melbourne Writers' Theatre. No doubt, she has earned the opportunity to give back to herself and focus on her own writing. The play Clare plans to work on during her international residency will be her fifth.

I hope you will view her application favourably. I wish her the best of luck.

Sincerely,

Barbara Yazbeck
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