

## Glenn Hayden

Glenn Hayden has spent over 40 years in the performing arts, enjoying a career as a director, mentor, and arts leader and CCD Practitioner (Community Cultural Development) and Corporate Trainer.

He started out as an actor after graduating from the prestigious [WA Academy of Performing Arts](#) / Edith Cowan University (1986), working in film, TV, but mostly live theatre with companies such as Deckchair Theatre, National Playhouse Theatre, and Melbourne Workers Theatre among others. He toured Australia multiple times before stepping into directing in the mid-'90s.

His directorial debut was *Made in Spain* at the 1993 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. In 1996, he performed in a play for the last time and officially shifted his focus to directing. Since then, he's directed over [60 professional projects and productions](#), commissioned more than 35 new plays, and helped launch several arts organizations, including the [Blue Room Theatre](#) in Perth. He's also led three major community arts festivals and worked with some of Australia's most innovative theatre companies.

Glenn's theatre and CCD work in community sectors has been extensive. He has worked with community members from backgrounds such as Disability, Youth at Risk, Reform, Aged Care, Long Term Unemployed, Migrants and Non English Speaking Background, Survivors of Trauma and Torture, Aquired Brain Injury and several others.

In particular, Glenn's work with DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantaged in the Arts, Australia) was a fulfilling period of Glenn's career, both creatively and personally, and together with people experiencing a multitude of differing mental and physical disabilities, and other professional artists, he created celebrated theatre and performance works.

From 2004 to 2014, Glenn was the Artistic Director (later AD/CEO) of Adelaide's Urban Myth Theatre Company, guiding it to national and international recognition. Of note, Glenn's production of *Also a Mirror*, a play about dementia, won several international awards. Other [awards and nominations](#) during his tenure at Urban Myth were many.

Urban Myth was a celebrated company that serviced artists as young as 5 up to 28 years of age and employed artists of all ages. It was home to an extensive workshop program servicing 350 people per week 12 months per year, and created up to 12 theatre productions annually; many of these were commissioned works.

It was during this time that Glenn first traveled to India (2009), taking his production of *A Pirate's Ship* to the Thespo Theatre Festival at Mumbai's Prithvi Theatre and touring local primary schools - an experience that sparked a lasting connection with the country's theatre scene.

Since 2014, Glenn has been a regular in India, directing professional English-language productions, mentoring emerging artists, and running corporate theatre training for companies like SHRM, Goa Institute of Management, Mahindra Finance, and Indian Oil.

Among other plays, he has directed several Australian plays in India, including Andrew Bovell's *Speaking in Tongues* for the TATA International Literature Festival, Matt Cameron's *Ruby Moon*, and Sheila Duncan's *A Solitary Choice* featuring Ramneeka Dhillon Lobo. He's also played a key role in supporting new theatre companies such as Peas and Carrots Theatre Co, Theatre Makers, and Chakravyuh Performing Arts, helping shape their direction and programming. His productions have been staged at Mumbai's top venues, including the Royal Opera House, Prithvi Theatre, and G5A among many others.

Glenn is an accomplished theatre trainer. He has developed and delivered many actor [training programs and workshops](#) over the past 40 years and has also mentored Theatre Designers, Production Managers and Stage Managers and Arts Managers.

Glenn is a passionate advocate for the arts. He's served on numerous boards and committees, advocating for better opportunities and conditions for artists. He's been an Actors' Representative for WA Actors Equity ([MEAA](#)), worked on funding panels for [SA Arts](#) and the [Australia Council for the Arts](#), and helped develop mentorship programs with [Country Arts WA](#). In 2021, he co-authored India's *Live Performer's Guidelines* for the [Intimacy Collective](#), India.

In 2025, Glenn was honored with the Emotions Scientist Award by Andhra University.

He continues to direct, mentor, and contribute to the performing arts across Australia, India, and internationally.

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