



THEATRE NETWORK NSW 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Photos are from TNN's 2020 E-News Feature Companies

First Row: *Tender Young Creatures*, The House That Dan Built | *The Secret World*, Matriark Theatre | *HMS PINAFORE*, Siren Theatre Co / Hayes Theatre

Second Row: *Dancing on Clay*, Outback Theatre for Young People | *To Be Honest*, Outloud | *Night Sky*, Bankstown Arts Centre

Third Row: *The Thing I Could Never Tell Steven*, Whimsical Productions | *Mountain*, Stalker Theatre | *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, ATYP

Fourth Row: *Curry Kings of Parramatta*, Nautanki Theatre | *Come To Where I Am – Australia, Volume 2*, Critical Stages Touring | *Othello*, Sport for Jove

Theatre Network NSW would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work, live and create. In particular, TNN acknowledges and pays respect to the Dharawal, Dharug and Gadigal peoples of the Eora Nation, and the Bundjalung Nation on whose land our offices are situated.

Theatre Network NSW acknowledges
these lands were never ceded

Theatre Network NSW

2020 – A Year in Review

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FRONT COVER PHOTO CREDITS

First Row: *Tender Young Creatures*, created by The House That Dan Built, photo by Ellen Dahl; *The Secret World*, created by Matriark Theatre, photo by Jackie Cooper; Tobias Cole, Gavin Brown, Jermaine Chau, Katherine Allen, Zach Selmes performing *HMS PINAFORE*, Siren Theatre Co and Hayes Theatre, photographer Phil Erbacher

Second Row: Dancing On The Clay Pans In Wilcannia, Regional Arts Connect - Outback Theatre for Young People, photo by Alyson Evans; Aanisa Vylet, Rangi Lemusa Tagaloa, Sidney Kisseh-Lloyd and Ebony Aanor *To Be Honest* produced by Outloud 2019, photographer Kevin Ngo; Auntie Noeline Holten and Halee-Isil Cosar *Night Sky* produced by Bankstown Arts Centre 2016, photographer Chris Woe.

Third Row: Julia Hyde, Tim Martin, Suzanne Chin and Joey Sheehan *The Thing I Could Never Tell Steven* by Jye Bryant, produced by Whimsical Production, photographer Zaina Ahmed; *Mountain* produced by Stalker Theatre, photographer Arron Walker; Jeremi Campese (foreground) with Josh McElroy, Caitlin Burley, Mia Evans Rorris (background) performing *Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore* by Dan Evans, directed by Fraser Corfield, photo by Tracey Shramm, ATYP 2017.

Fourth Row: (L to R) Yolanda Torress, Abida Malik, Zabi Mohammadi Malik, Firdaws Adelpour, Aviral Mohan & Gregory Dias performing *Curry Kings of Parramatta* by Sudha Bhuchar & Shaheen Khan, Nautanki Theatre 2019; Tahli Corin and Joshua Tyler *Come to Where I Am – Australia, Volume 2*, Critical Stages Touring' & Paines Plough, photo credit Critical Stages; Mandela Mathia and Damien Ryan performing Sport for Jove's Othello, photographer Seiya Taguchi.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

In 2020 the Arts faced an unprecedented crisis. When the COVID-19 pandemic exploded across the world, the Arts were hit quickly and brutally. Never, in living memory, have we experienced the immediate shutdown of the entire Arts sector. The impact of the closure was profound. Artists and arts workers lost work and creative projects; programs ground to a halt; venues closed temporary and in some cases permanently; and there was (and continues to be) high levels of stress, anxiety and burn out across the sector.

TNN responded quickly and decisively to the unfolding crisis. The Board re-directed company resources to increase my hours (7 to 14 hours a week) for six months to bolster support, advocacy and information for the NSW sector. This meant that throughout the pandemic TNN was able to:

- share real time updates to members about health, community and industry specific restrictions,
- send weekly e-newsletters to members and subscribers with updates, funding opportunities and resources,
- host the weekly *Coffee Catch Up*, an informal online gathering,
- lead and support bespoke advocacy campaigns,
- advocate to the NSW State Government for additional support for the sector, and
- provide an important platform for NSW artists and art workers to express their opinions about the State Government's response to the pandemic and state-based funding programs.

I'd like to thank the Board, who as well as dealing with the impact of the pandemic on their respective companies and practices, dedicated time and energy to support and assist the NSW theatre and performance sector throughout this difficult year.

With theatre re-opened and returning to 100% capacity, TNN is looking forward to working with everyone to build a stronger, more resilient and more connected Arts sector.



Katrina Douglas
Director



GOVERNANCE

BOARD

- Nick Atkins (Chair)
- Imogen Gardam (Deputy Chair until December 2020)
- Suzanne Pereira (joined August / Deputy Chair from December 2020)
- Dr Jane Kreis (Treasurer and Public Officer)
- Pippa Bailey (Secretary)
- David Clarkson (joined August 2020)
- Fraser Corfield
- Peta Downes
- Ben Kay (stepped down July 2020)
- Maria Mitar (stepped down June 2020)
- Virginia Jane Rose
- Penny Watts



TNN's 2020 Board

In 2020, the Board held nine Governance Meetings. The AGM was held on Wednesday 17th June online. The AGM was attended by 43 members – 29 in person and 14 members sent in proxy forms.

STAFF

Katrina Douglas continued as the Coordinator throughout 2020, working a standard 7 hours per week, except for a 6 month period from April to September when her hours were increased to 14 hours per week in response to the pandemic.

In November, TNN contracted Emma Diaz to produce the 2020 State of the Sector Address.

MEMBERS & SUBSCRIBERS

TNN has 189 members, 694 e-newsletter subscribers, 1409 followers on Facebook and 212 followers on Instagram.

PROGRAMMING

OVERVIEW

TNN's 2020 Annual Program aimed to build stronger connectivity between metropolitan and regional artists; increase visibility and employment of NSW theatre and performance artists and cultural workers; and establish a more unified Arts sector.

At the start of the year, TNN implemented a refreshed annual program built around three key pillars – Connect, Empower, Advocate. Each pillar responds to the demands of our members and the rapidly evolving challenges facing the NSW theatre and performance sectors. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic TNN re-designed and adapted the program by moving key programs online and implementing new opportunities to better support the sector. TNN also increased advocacy on state based issues and supported national campaigns where possible.

A number of new programs were postponed to 2021, including the Sector Working Groups and the Summit Lab. The 2020 State of the Sector Address was scheduled to go ahead in December however, it was postponed to January 2021 due to NSW Government Public Health Orders introduced late November that restricted public gatherings.

CONNECT

TNN connects the sector via The Hub, a curated information nexus that incorporates member communications, e-newsletters and social media posting. The Hub proved to be an important, much needed focal point particularly during the country-wide lockdown. The Hub provided members and subscribers with access to up-to-date information on: COVID-19 restrictions and Government Public Health Orders; new targeted funding opportunities; and industry resources that assisted artists and companies navigate the evolving situation.



Photo credit: Annie Spratt on Unsplash

– *Member Communications*

On Monday 16 March TNN increased direct member communications from monthly to weekly. The weekly emails included public health resources and links, updates on sector developments and information about available support.

Weekly emails continued until Monday 1 June then as restrictions eased, member communications reduced to fortnightly updates to the end of July, three weekly updates from August to September, and monthly from October to the end of the year. In total, 24 emails were sent to TNN members in 2020.

Please see Addendum One for two examples of the emails sent to members during 2020.

– *E-newsletter*

TNN sends a monthly e-newsletter with information, resources and funding opportunities to our subscriber base. In March, TNN increased production in response to the lockdown and distributed a weekly e-newsletter up to end of June. A fortnightly e-newsletter was sent in July and then TNN moved back to monthly distribution. In total 23 newsletters was sent to subscribers throughout the year.

TNN's e-newsletter was an important source of information throughout the year. It provided detailed health information, links to Government resources, advice about available support services, funding opportunities and job alerts. The e-newsletter was also a platform for specific campaigns, including:

- Showcasing NSW Youth Arts Companies
- Friday 8 May and Friday 15 May.
- A round up of support services and funding offered by every single NSW Local Government – Friday 17 April to Friday 3 July
- A special mid-week newsletter with funding and grant opportunities – Wednesday 13 May
- Featuring the work of 12 NSW Theatre Companies – May to November (as shown on the cover of this review)



photo credit: Peta Addy

Please see Addendum Two for the Youth Arts Companies showcased in the e-newsletters. Please see Addendum Three for an e-newsletter with featuring the Local Council Wrap Up.

– *Social Media*

At the start of the lockdown in March TNN's social media posts focussed on providing information to help people survive lockdown. This included real time updates on health orders, Government announcements and changes to restrictions; featuring the creative resources and offers from Australian and International Companies; and links to interesting articles. As theatres re-open, TNN showcased live events and performances from NSW companies, opportunities and jobs for artists, and real time changes to public health orders.

EMPOWER

TNN empowers the NSW theatre and performance sector by providing opportunities for artists and arts workers to connect, share resources and offer feedback about relevant issues. In 2020 TNN adapted and re-designed the company's 2020 networking opportunities, and implemented new strategies including the Coffee Catch Up, a weekly online gathering and the IETM . The Annual State of the Sector Address was schedule for December 2020 however the event had to be postponed due to

– *Coffee Catch Up*

Coffee Catch Ups were held every Wednesday at 10.30am. They were an opportunity for anyone in the sector to gathering on Zoom for an informal chat and debrief. There was no formal agenda or topic for each gathering, instead the conversations were led by the needs of the people who joined the gathering on that day. Coffee Catch Ups ran from Wednesday 15 April to Tuesday 25 August.



photo credit: Nathan Dumlao on Unsplash

– *IETM Multi-location Plenary Meeting – Sydney Meeting*

IETM - International network for contemporary performing arts is a network of over 500 performing arts organisations and individual members working in the contemporary performing arts worldwide. IETM hold two plenary meetings a year in different European cities, and smaller meetings all over the world.

On 1-2 October 2020, IETM invited the global performing arts sector to their very first Multi-location Plenary Meeting, which combined participation in both online and physical activities in more than twenty different locations in the world. The local Plenary meeting in Sydney was hosted in collaboration with Theatre Network NSW and with the support of Legs on the Wall.

Produced by TNN Board member and longstanding ITEM member Pippa Bailey, the Sydney meeting was attended by 40 artists / arts workers. They met in Legs on the Wall's spacious Red Box in Lilyfield on Wangal Land where social distancing was possible. At the meeting, artists Vicki Van Hout, Tasnim Hossain and Paschal Daantos Berry presented responses to the provocation *What Happens Next*.

Please see Addendum Four for Pippa Bailey's overview of the meeting.

– *2020 State of the Sector Address*

TNN's State of the Sector Address is an annual convening of the live performance sector to gather and begin to work through critical challenges and opportunities. TNN established a partnership with Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre and NORPA to present three simultaneous picnics in Sydney, Lismore and Bathurst in December 2020. Ten artists / arts workers were contracted to present at the picnics a response to the provocation:



There Is No 'New Normal': You are the NSW Arts Minister, what is your vision for the Arts, and the role it can play in the wider community in a post pandemic, climate impact world.

An important aim of this year's Address was to bring the sector back together and meet face-to-face after a year of isolation and disconnection. When Sydney faced a cluster late in the year, TNN decided to postpone the Address to January rather than move the event online.

ADVOCATE

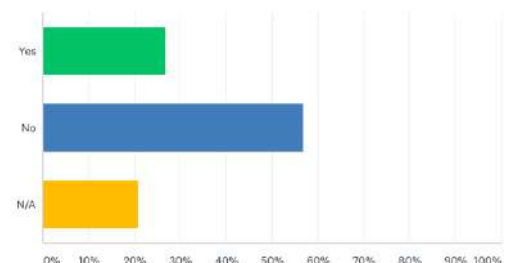
As a NSW based organisation, TNN is primarily focussed on advocacy about state based issues. Our aim is to ensure that we advocate effectively on targeted issues rather than place undue stress on the company by attempting to 'be all things to all people'. TNN continues to support and liaise with peer national advocacy bodies such as TNA, NAVA, MEAA and LPA about national issues and campaigns.

TNN's advocacy work from March onwards included writing on behalf of the sector to the Minister Don Harwin and Shadow Minister Walt Secord about the urgent needs of the NSW sector. TNN also maintained regular contact with Create NSW throughout the lockdown and subsequent re-opening of the industry.

– Survey About NSW Government Grant Programs

In July 2020 the NSW Government announced an *Inquiry into the integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grant programs* and called for submissions from all sectors about their experiences. In preparation for a formal submission, TNN sent out a short 6 question survey to ascertain feedback, thoughts and concerns from members and the wider sector. The survey was open to all NSW based artists and arts workers. The survey received 86 responses to the following questions:

1. Overall, has your experience with NSW Government Grant Programs been?
2. If you have applied for funding to a NSW Government Grant Program (either successful or unsuccessful), did you receive clear and appropriate feedback on your application?
3. Do you believe that NSW Government Grant Program funding decisions (and the processes they have followed) are suitably transparent?
4. Do you feel the NSW Government is investing appropriate levels of funding to support and build a sustainable performing arts industry?
5. Do you have trust in NSW Government Grant Program outcomes?
6. Do you have any additional comments or examples you wish to add?



– Inquiry into the integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grant programs

TNN partnered with Ausdance NSW, Regional Arts NSW and MusicNSW to prepare a submission to *Inquiry into the integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grant programs* on behalf of the NSW performance sector.

The submission included an analysis of the statistical data unearthed by TNN's survey, alongside a commentary of key concerns and challenges, as provided by the NSW based artists and arts workers who completed the survey. The submission acknowledged the hard work of staff at Create NSW, which administers funding on behalf of the State Government and provides substantial support for artists and organisations across the sector. The submission did however provide a succinct snapshot of an Arts sector that is frustrated by a

lack of investment, the bureaucratic nature of funding processes, a lack of transparency and the lack of feedback to artists and arts workers.

The submission's conclusion stated:

"The outcomes of the survey suggest that the NSW government needs to take a more hands-on approach and consult directly with the Arts sector to determine priority areas and put in place processes which are transparent and accountable, utilising the expert peer-assessment panels to provide more constructive feedback on applications. Additionally, it is observed that there needs to be a clearer demarcation between the peer-review and decision-making process of the different arts panels and the approval process of the Ministry."

On Friday 18 October, Katrina Douglas spoke alongside Nicole Beyer, Executive Director of TNA, at the public hearings for the *Inquiry into the integrity, efficacy and value for money of NSW Government grant programs*. They spoke alongside Kerri Glasscock Festival Director, Sydney Fringe Festival; Penelope Benton, Acting CEO NAVA; and Chris Tooher Executive Director, Sydney Festival. The public hearing was an opportunity to represent NSW based artists and arts workers, and present in person the thoughts and opinions of the current state of Arts funding.

The Submission and the uncorrected Hansard Transcripts from the public hearing can be downloaded at <https://tnn.org.au/publications/>

- *Western Sydney Arts Sector Responds to NSW Government Stimulus Package for the Arts.*

In May TNN supported and shared the joint statement from the Western Sydney Arts Sector about the NSW Government Stimulus Package. This response outlined the significant work undertaken in Western Sydney and the need for targeted support during the pandemic.

Please see Addendum Five for the statement.

- *TNN's response to the Federal Government's \$250million Support Package*
TNN responded to the Federal Government's July announcement of a \$250m support package for the Arts. The response was sent to members, posted on social media and included in the weekly newsletter.

Please see Addendum Six for the full response.

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2020

ABN 59 590 131 741

Theatre Network NSW adapted the 2020 program and moved all services online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This shift had a significant impact on the organisation's finances. The organisation's budget and programming was revised at the start of 2020, before the pandemic, to reflect an actual grant of \$50,000 from Create NSW Annual Service Organisation funding from the original \$80,000 request. The program and budget was subsequently revised when lockdowns were introduced in Australia and Internationally. The majority of expenditure continued to be staff salary, with the Coordinator's hours increased for 6 months during the peak of the pandemic. Operational expenses were reduced as all programs moved to online platforms and key events such as the State of the Sector Address was postponed until January 2021 when restrictions on gatherings were re-introduced in December 2020. Theatre Network NSW received inkind support from Penrith Performing & Visual Arts, who provided online access for programs and meetings. The organisation also benefitted from the ATO Cash Flow Boost, which was part of the Federal Government's COVID Support Packages. The resulting surplus allows the company to regroup and build resources after two financially challenging years.

Dr Jane Kreis, Treasurer

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee on:



Nick Atkins (Chair)

Date 21 April 2021



Dr Jane Kreis (Treasurer)

Date 21 April 2021

Balance Sheet

Theatre Network NSW Inc As at 31 December 2020

31 Dec 2020 31 Dec 2019

Assets

Bank		
ANZ Online Saver (6365)	54,240	19,202
ANZ Operational (7563)	14,336	7,139
PayPal Account	6,126	6,126
Petty cash	58	58
Total Bank	74,760	32,525
Total Assets	74,760	32,525

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
ATO Running Balance Account	759	828
ATO		
GST	(75)	(74)
Total ATO	(75)	(74)
Income In Advance		
Unexpended Grants	12,000	-
Total Income In Advance	12,000	-
Trade and Other Payables		
Accounts Payable	827	-
Wages payable	8	-
Total Trade and Other Payables	835	-
Total Current Liabilities	13,519	754
Non-Current Liabilities		
Annual Leave Accrual (Liability)	2,059	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	2,059	-
Total Liabilities	15,578	754
Net Assets	59,182	31,771

Equity

Current Year Earnings	27,411	6,336
Retained Earnings	31,771	25,436
Total Equity	59,182	31,771

Profit & Loss

Theatre Network NSW Inc 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	31 Dec 20	31 Dec 19
Income		
ATO Cash Flow Boost	13,000	-
Create NSW - Core	50,000	50,000
Entry Fees	-	1,277
Interest	39	94
Membership fees	-	1,391
Total Income	63,039	52,763
Less Cost of Sales		
Production/Exhibition/Tour cost including events	-	391
Total Cost of Sales	-	391
Gross Profit	63,039	52,372
Less Operating Expenses		
Allowances and Per diems	-	260
Annual Leave Accrual	2,059	-
Audit and Accounting Fees	1,500	3,820
Bank Fees	2	2
Conferences	560	-
Contractors and Consultants	-	225
Insurance	750	900
IT Maintenance & Software	549	1,086
Marketing & Promotion	300	493
Meetings/Catering	-	79
Memberships, Subscriptions	1,439	833
Office Equipment, Supplies and consumables	-	271
Parking	-	95
PayPal Fees	-	54
Printing / Mailouts	-	607
Salaries and Wages	24,615	30,665
Stationery	-	73
STRIPE Fees	-	38
Superannuation Expense	2,338	2,192
Telephone and Internet	-	620
Travel & Accommodation	7	2,144
Website / Hosting / Ecomms	917	358
Workers' Compensation	592	1,223
Total Operating Expenses	35,628	46,036
Net Profit	27,411	6,336

Cash Summary

Theatre Network NSW Inc For the 12 months ended 31 December 2020 Excluding GST

	Dec 2020	Avg	Variance
Income			
ATO Cash Flow Boost	13,000	13,000	0.0%
Create NSW - Core	50,000	50,000	0.0%
Interest	39	39	0.0%
Total Income	63,039	63,039	0.0%
Less Operating Expenses			
Annual Leave Accrual	2,059	2,059	0.0%
Audit and Accounting Fees	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Bank Fees	2	2	0.0%
Conferences	560	560	0.0%
Insurance	750	750	0.0%
IT Maintenance & Software	549	549	0.0%
Marketing & Promotion	300	300	0.0%
Memberships, Subscriptions	1,439	1,439	0.0%
Salaries and Wages	24,615	24,615	0.0%
Superannuation Expense	2,338	2,338	0.0%
Travel & Accommodation	7	7	0.0%▲
Website / Hosting / Ecomms	917	917	0.0%
Workers' Compensation	(160)	(160)	0.0%
ATO Running Balance Account	69	69	0.0%
Unexpended Grants	(12,000)	(12,000)	0.0%
Wages payable	(8)	(8)	0.0%
Total Operating Expenses	22,937	22,937	0.0%
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	40,102	40,102	0.0%
Plus Non Operating Movements			
Annual Leave Accrual (Liability)	2,059	2,059	0.0%
Total Non Operating Movements	2,059	2,059	0.0%
GST Movements			
GST Inputs	(5,499)		
GST Outputs	5,573		
Net GST Movements	74		0.0%
Net Cash Movement	42,235	42,161	0.2%▲
Summary			
Opening Balance	32,525		
Plus Net Cash Movement	42,235		
Closing Balance	74,760		

THEATRE NETWORK NSW

Theatre Network NSW (TNN) is the peak body for theatre and performance in NSW. Its purpose is to connect, empower and advocate for the professional theatre and performance community. TNN does this by working with the small-to-medium and independent sectors as well as major performing arts companies. We are a membership based organisation, driven by demand to deliver outcomes for the sector as determined by the sector. Our long term vision is a stronger and more united NSW theatre and performance community.

TNN established in 2011 in response to the expressed need for a theatre focussed state based advocacy organisation. Kim Hanna's Scoping Study 2011, commissioned by Create NSW, led to the development of TNN, identifying it as being "essential in giving the sector an empowered voice" (Hanna, 2011). TNN's 2019 Health of the Sector Survey, completed by over 200 artists and arts workers from across NSW, confirmed the ongoing need for state based and lead advocacy: "There is a huge unfunded industry in Sydney that has needed the support of an organisation like TNN for the past 5-10 years."

THANKS & SUPPORTERS

Theatre Network NSW is proudly supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and APM Graphics.



Theatre Network NSW thanks ATYP, ITEM International Performing Arts Network, Penrith Performing & Visual Arts, Legs on the Wall, Regional Arts NSW, Ausdance NSW and Music NSW for their support throughout 2020.



ADDENDUM ONE

Examples of emails sent to members during 2020

Theatre Network NSW Mail - re: Create NSW & Weekly Catch Up <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=...>



re: Create NSW & Weekly Catch Up
1 message
Theatre Network NSW <emails@joinit.org> Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 2:47 PM
Reply-To: Theatre Network NSW <director@tnn.org.au>
To: Jane Kries <director@tnn.org.au>



Theatre Network NSW



Hi,

I hope that you are doing okay today.

On Friday, Create NSW announced a range of new funding initiatives and the repurposing of existing funding totalling \$6.34 million to support independent artists and small to medium arts, screen and cultural organisations impacted by COVID-19. Full details about their initiatives are available [here](#).

Their new programs include \$450,000 for a new COVID-19 Support Round – a new arts funding program specifically targeted at those impacted by COVID-19. Funding is available across four program categories: [Digitise Initiative](#); [Creative Koori Digital Initiative](#); [Health and Well-being Initiative](#); and [Regenerate Regional Event Initiative](#). Create NSW has also increased funding to their [Small Projects Grants](#) by \$350,000.

1 of 3

22/9/20, 5:08 pm

Theatre Network NSW Mail - re: Create NSW & Weekly Catch Up <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=...>

Plus, Create NSW have launched *Create Connects*, a webinar series that aims to engage with artists and organisations in new thinking around the delivery of artistic programs, exhibitions, performances, content and critical discourse. *Create Connects* will demystify digital platforms and to explore alternative opportunities for monetising content in this challenging new environment. Full details are [here](#).

In other news, the deadline to enrol for the Jobkeeper Allowance is [Thursday 30 April](#). If you are planning to apply make sure you head to [myGov](#) and submit the form as soon as possible. The Government have also refined the guidelines and introduced alternate income tests so double check the ATO website [here](#) before submitting your application.

TNN's next *Coffee Catch Up* is [10.30am Wednesday 29 April](#). These chats are a great way to connect with peers and meet friends from across the state. Log in details are:

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82263332583>
- Meeting ID: 822 6333 2583

Big thanks to Hania, Nick and all the team at [Penrith Performing & Visual Arts](#) for sharing their Zoom account for these sessions.

Finally, in this week's enews I'll be featuring opportunities and resources for young people. If you have anything you'd like included please forward the information and weblinks to director@tnn.org.au by Wednesday 29 April.

As always, if you have any questions, issues you'd like to discuss or opportunities you want to share, don't hesitate to reach out.

Stay safe and connected.

Best wishes

Katrina

Contact Us: director@tnn.org.au

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22/9/20, 5:08 pm

Theatre Network NSW Mail - Monday Update

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=all...> Theatre Network NSW Mail - Monday Update

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=all...>

Theatre Network NSW Mail - Monday Update

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=all...>



Monday Update
7 messages

Theatre Network NSW <emails@joinit.org> Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 10:55 AM
Reply-To: Theatre Network NSW <director@tnn.org.au>
To: Jane Kries <director@tnn.org.au>



Theatre Network NSW



Good morning,

I hope you found time over the weekend to rest and safely connect (virtually, real time or however possible) with family and friends.

Today our sector faces more challenges with the Australia Council informing companies across the country about the outcome of the 4 Year Funding program. TNN is thinking of everyone waiting on that call and is sending strength and solidarity to the sector. We're also thinking of Australia Council staff who have to have some very difficult conversations throughout the day.

Please reach out to peers who are expecting to hear news and let them know you are there for them. Importantly, for those who receive not great news please seek out the support you need to help get through this period.

Sector Update

Here is a brief summary from the sector:

1 of 6

20/4/21, 1:33 pm

- Create NSW

Create NSW announced a range of recommendations and options. More info [here](#). Create NSW are also encouraging everyone who has questions or would like to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on your work/company to contact the Arts Funding Team [here](#).

- Australia Council for the Arts

The Australia Council released important information about changes to upcoming grant rounds and their soon to be released Resilience Package. You can read the announcement [here](#). They also set up a hub with information and resources for the arts sector [here](#).

- Regional Arts Australia

Regional Arts Australia is working with arts organisations to support a coordinated impact assessment and industry response. You can find out more [here](#).

- City of Sydney

The City of Sydney announced a \$47.5 million package of support measures that will provide financial relief and support for artists, creatives and organisations. More info can be found in the Minute by the Lord Mayor [here](#).

Government Update

Last night tougher restrictions were introduced by the Federal Government including:

- Outdoor, and in NSW and Victoria Indoor, gatherings are restricted to two people. The only exemption is households. If you live with more than two people, you can all be in the house at the same time and can all go outside together, at the same time. But you can't invite anyone else over, and you can't meet up with anyone outside of your household.
- If you live alone, technically, you can have one visitor.
- Public playgrounds, outside gyms and skateparks are closed from today, and group boot camps are no longer permitted.
- Everyone should stay home unless you are shopping for food and other essentials, attending medical appointments, exercising (as long as you stick to the 2 person limit) or attending work / education.
- The "strong advice" is that people aged 70 and over "should stay at home and self-isolate for their own protection". The same advice applies to people over 60 with a chronic illness and First Nation people over the age of 50.
- There will be a 6 month moratorium on evictions from rental properties for people who are facing financial distress.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced this morning that the new restrictions will be enforced from midnight tonight. If you break the rules you can receive on the spot fines of \$1000 and at worst a 6 month jail term for repeat offenders.

The Federal Government announced two new ways to receive up to date official information and advice:

1. A WhatsApp messaging service, which can be accessed by visiting australia.gov.au/whatsapp on your smartphone.

2 of 6

20/4/21, 1:33 pm

For more information on Theatre Network NSW please visit www.tnn.org.au
page 16

ADDENDUM TWO

NSW Youth Arts Organisations

as featured across two special edition e-newsletters on Friday 8 and Friday 15 May.

AERIALIZE is Sydney's home of circus and aerial training and performance. They produce high quality performances and offers fun, dynamic, challenging and safe training in circus and aerial arts. Aerialize are offering online classes to help you get active and fit. This includes workshops for young people aged 3 to 11 years old. For more info and bookings email board@aerialize.com.au. Keep up-to-date on their programs and workshops on via their Facebook page [here](#).

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (ATYP) is the national youth theatre company. ATYP connects young people with the professional theatre industry locally, regionally and nationally. ATYP is offering their regular workshops live each week via Zoom and Google Classroom. Get involved [here](#). You can watch ATYP's award-winning productions on *ATYP On Demand* [here](#). They are currently accepting applications for *The National Studio* and the *ATYP Foundation Commissions*. Plus, they have launched *ATYP Home Theatre*. With help from the ATYP Foundation, they have commissioned 10 Australian playwrights to each write a 5-minute script that you can download and perform with your family and friends. Check it out [here](#).

BLACK BOX CREATIVES (BBC) was formed in 2016 and has evolved into a team of young theatre producers living in the Dubbo/Wellington region who work together to produce original work for local audiences. BBC's *2020 Playwriting Challenge* is currently underway! Local youth aged 10-24yrs are undertaking the three stages of the challenge to devise their very own playscript. Plus, BBC's writers are penning scripts for future seasons. Updates are available on their Facebook page [here](#).

BLUE MOUNTAINS DRAMA delivers workshops for the Blue Mountains community. Their aim is to build a community of children with common interests and to provide adults with a place to play again. To support young people, Blue Mountains Drama have moved their workshops online. Pre-schoolers can enrol [here](#); and 6 to 18 year olds can enrol [here](#).

BRAINSTORM PRODUCTIONS tour live, innovative, interactive educational theatre that brings about positive social change through a range of bullying programs, cyber safety programs, positive behaviour programs, resilience programs and mental health programs for schools. Brainstorm offer young people comprehensive information about COVID-19 [here](#). They also offer fun and informative content via Facebook [here](#).

BYRON YOUTH THEATRE is a not-for-profit, social-action, theatre company, based in Northern NSW. They deliver performances and workshops to local schools, community events and conferences. Byron Youth Theatre are moving their Term Two workshops online. Hear more about their workshops [here](#). Byron Youth Theatre post updates and information about their programs [here](#).

BYTESIZED PRODUCTIONS is the Youth Theatre arm of Albury-Wodonga Theatre. They develop the creative skills of young people in the region and beyond by creating high quality musical theatre productions. BYTESized have re-scheduled their upcoming production of *Aladdin JR* to 16 and 17 October. More info [here](#). Updates on BYTESized are available on their Facebook page [here](#).

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE provides young people aged 7-25 years with the opportunity to explore, extend and develop their drama skills with professional artists. To help young people in isolation, Canberra Youth Theatre have moved their Term Two workshops online. Young people in years 4 to 6 enrol [here](#); and in years 7 to 9 [here](#). Actors wanting to refine their audition skills can sign up to a one-on-one online session with Artistic Director Luke Rogers [here](#). They have launched the *Young Playwrights Program*, a new initiative for 16-25 year-olds who are passionate about developing their skills in playwriting. Apply [here](#). Plus, Canberra Youth Theatre is streaming live Q&As with leading Australian theatre-makers [here](#).

FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS is dedicated to advancing and innovating the art form of circus. They are a celebrated producer of contemporary circus-based theatre for young people and a national centre of arts training excellence. Flying Fruit Fly Circus have launched *Make Our Way Out*, an initiative committing resources worth \$25,000 to develop up to three new circus works from established Australian circus and physical theatre artists. Applications for *Make Our Way Out*, close 20 May. More info [here](#). Flying Fruit Fly Circus are posting regular updates and gems from their archives on Facebook [here](#).

GARLAMBIRLA YOUTH THEATRE started in 2013 with an original musical based on Gumbaynggirr stories and the Aboriginal history of Coffs Harbour. *Garlambirla: A Musical with Soul*, was created with Elders, community members and students. You can hear more about the musical [here](#). Garlambirla Youth Theatre offer updates and links to resources on Facebook [here](#).

JOPUKA PRODUCTIONS is the Central Coast's leading youth arts company. They have launched *Jopuka Digital* to showcase their work during this time. Donate via *Jopuka Digital* to receive a link to *because there was fire* the audio drama by Jamie Hornsby [here](#); or donate to receive a link to *Under the Blood Moon* by Danielle Brame Whiting [here](#). Jopuka Productions provide regularly updates and links to resources on Facebook [here](#).

LIEDER YOUTH THEATRE COMPANY was established in 1993 to provide regional and isolated youth in the Goulburn area with recreational and training opportunities in the performing arts. They are working on a series of weekly online play readings that will be open to all Lieder members and friends who might like to read or just listen. More information is available on their Facebook page [here](#).

MARION STREET THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (MSTYP) is based in Sydney's North Shore. They use theatre training alongside live performance to magnify and amplify the stories and questions about our world. MSTYP's Term Two weekly drama classes are all live streamed and interactive. Enrol [here](#). They have launched *#nowwemake2020*, an online art campaign. MSTYP invite young people under 18 to send in artwork that shows a snapshot of their lock down life. MSTYP will publish a selection of works each week on our social media and e-news. Full details [here](#).

MATRIARK THEATRE build worlds made of stories, working in collaboration with young people to create and present original, visual theatre. Matriark's education program delivers shows and workshops in schools all year round and their award-winning shows have toured venues across NSW & Victoria. In 2019 Matriark initiated a regional engagement program in Cootamundra, NSW called 'The Secret World'. This program brought together 100 young people from Cootamundra and surrounds for a digital and live art tour taking over their town. Driven by a philosophy of access and inclusion, Matriark continues working hard to reach young people that might not ordinarily access live performance and storytelling. Keep up-to-date with Matriark's upcoming projects via Facebook [here](#).

MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY is Australia's widest-reaching professional theatre company for young people. Based in the ARA Darling Quarter Theatre, they curate an annual season of theatre for young people, presenting Monkey Baa plays and work from other Australian and international companies. Monkey Baa is starting a new digital offering, focussing on 'behind the scenes' conversations and Q&A's with our artists. Their first session is a conversation with the Director, Writer and Composer of our latest production, *Edward the Emu*. People can tune in via Facebook at 11am on Wednesday 13th May [here](#).

OUTBACK THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE (OTYP) is dedicated to creating innovative, participant-owned youth theatre. They engage young people aged 4 to 26 years, from South West NSW, in collaborative theatre projects that celebrate their lives and aspirations. OTYP post regular updates and comprehensive resources for young people and families on Facebook feed [here](#).

OUTLOUD (formerly BYDS – Bankstown Youth Development Service) makes and supports meaningful community art and positive cultural development. For more than 27 years, Outloud has had an incredibly active community arts practice in the Bankstown and surrounding areas. **RESPECT**, their [in-school project](#) for boys under 12, teaching about domestic violence causes and prevention through song writing and performance is **now online**. The Outloud team are working on more exciting programs live and direct over the internet for young people in Western Sydney and beyond. Keep up-to-date with Outloud [here](#).

PYT | FAIRFIELD is an arts company based in Western Sydney focused on the development and engagement of local young and emerging artists as core practice. In response to the pandemic PYT commissioned six emerging artists to create a series of films that explore their experiences during COVID-19. They also moved the *2020 FUNPARK Festival* online so you can still connect and have fun in the comfort of your own home. FUNPARK will broadcast local films and offer eight live workshops for young people. More info [here](#).

For more information on Theatre Network NSW please visit www.tnn.org.au

RYDE YOUTH THEATRE offers a range of weekly workshops, performances and various skill development opportunities for anyone between the ages of 13 and 24 in the City of Ryde. They have moved their Term Two acting, voice work, storytelling and playwriting workshops online. The term will culminate in a Zoom performance. Sign up [here](#). Ryde Youth Theatre provide updates via their Facebook [here](#).

SPARK YOUTH THEATRE provides meaningful and accessible creative opportunities for young people aged 12-24 in Sydney's inner west. They believe good ideas can come from unlikely places and can affect the world in ways we cannot envisage. Spark offer a range of workshops and performance opportunities for young people and emerging artists. Keep in touch with Spark via Facebook [here](#).

SHOPFRONT ARTS COOP is a space where young people come together to express themselves; to learn, share and bring their imaginations to life. Based in Carlton NSW, Shopfront celebrates the amazing ideas and creativity generated by young people and emerging artists. Shopfront have moved their term 2 drama, film and technical theatre workshops online. Enrol [here](#). They have also moved the Monday 11 May *Scratch Night* online and are inviting emerging artists to submit a new work. More info [here](#). Shopfront have opened voting for their Short Stuff Film competition. Check out all the films [here](#). Plus Playwave, their young audience program, has gone digital. Check it out [here](#).

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS INC is a circus school and performing arts company, which promotes excellence in circus arts and physical theatre. They seek to develop the artistic, theatrical and physical skills of youth around the NSW region of the Northern Rivers. Spaghetti Circus provide regular updates about their programs on Facebook [here](#).

STORY FACTORY is a not-for-profit creative writing centre for marginalised young people aged 7 to 17. Their storytelling workshops have been designed by creative writing and literacy experts to build literacy, confidence, and creativity: essential skills young people need to shape their future. In response to the rapidly changing situation with the COVID-19 virus, Story Factory have a range of online programs and resources that allow young people to continue to engage with creative writing. Information about their online workshops for students is [here](#). They also offer online workshops for teachers and parents [here](#); and resources for writing at home [here](#).

TANTRUM YOUTH ARTS is the leading youth arts company in the Hunter region. They offer meaningful creative workshops, projects and opportunities for young people aged 5 to 26 that build confidence, connections and compassion. To assist young people and families during home isolation, Tantrum have launched *Tantrum Transformed*, a fantastic new suite of Online Drama + Performance Workshops, Tantrum FleX Ensemble and Offline Creative Resources. More details [here](#).

KIM CARPENTER'S THEATRE OF IMAGE (TOI) commissions, nurtures, develops and workshops distinctive new work, made with a combination of diverse forms to tell a story. TOI recently shifted focus to producing work for older audiences, however you can see an exhibition of images from their work for young audiences [here](#).

THE HOUSE THAT DAN BUILT is a visionary force that creates unique experiences to change the world. The House aims to activate women across the world to feel empowered to speak, to feel like they belong, like they are part of an Army. In response to the pandemic, The House have teamed up with Psychiatry, Philosophy & Arts for a creative writing competition. They are looking for 400-1000 articles written by young women aged 12 to 25 from Australia. The TOP 10 entries will be published and paid \$100. More details [here](#). They have also launched *The House in Lockdown*, three online workshops - *Beginners Toy Choir Pack*, *Intermediate Girls Singer Songwriter Session* and *Advanced Song Writing and Production*. Full details [here](#).

ZEAL THEATRE is an internationally renowned touring theatre company dedicated to producing original plays for theatres, schools and festivals. ZEAL have produced over 50 plays, specialising in exploring complex social issues for a broad range of cultural and ethnically diverse audiences. Their catalogue of plays and links to where you can purchase them is available [here](#).

ADDENDUM THREE

The e-newsletter sent Friday 17 April featuring the start of the NSW Local Councils Round Up.

Theatre Network NSW Mail - New Opportunities & Council Resources

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=all...>

Theatre Network NSW Mail - New Opportunities & Council Resources

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=14a766782a&view=pt&search=all...>



Theatre Network NSW TNN <director@tnn.org.au>

New Opportunities & Council Resources

1 message

Theatre Network NSW <director@tnn.org.au>
Reply-To: Theatre Network NSW <director@tnn.org.au>
To: Katrina <director@tnn.org.au>

Fri, Apr 17, 2020 at 12:23 PM

TNN is the peak agency for theatre in NSW.

[View this email in your browser](#)



New Opportunities & Council Resources

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 - Coffee Catch Up
 - Grants & Opportunities
 - Council Resources
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Hi,

I hope you're doing okay at the moment.

Earlier this week TNN wrote to our new Arts Minister, Premier Berejiklian to introduce ourselves and seek assistance for NSW artists and companies. We encourage you to also reach out and let her know about the important work you are doing to support your community throughout this crisis. You can contact

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an employee not eligible for JobKeeper payments, franchise fees and paying creditors, if your business is closing. More info [here](#).

WHITE ROCK WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND

The White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund offers grants to the Glenn Innes Severn community. Local companies can apply for projects targeting: community development, the arts, education and training, health and wellbeing, sport, economic development, and the environment and sustainability. Download the guidelines [here](#). The application form for grants under \$5000 is [here](#) and the application form for grants over \$5000 is [here](#). Applications close 4.30pm Friday 1 May.

COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL ARTS & CULTURAL GRANTS

Applications are open for the 2020-21 Coffs Harbour City Council Arts and Cultural Development Grant Program. Funding assistance of between \$2,000 and \$7,000 is available to support events and projects that reflect the goals of the Creative Coffs Cultural Strategic Plan 2017-2022. Applications close Sunday 24 May. More info [here](#).

HURFORD HARDWOOD PORTRAIT PRIZE

The Hurford Hardwood Portrait Prize is a biennial prize open to artists Australia wide. This prize was originally open to paintings and drawings but has now expanded to include portraits of any subject in any medium. The judge in 2020 is artist Abdul Abdulla and the winner will receive \$10,000 (acquisitive prize). Entries close at 12am Monday 29 June 2020. The exhibition will be on display from 7 November 2020 until 31 January 2021. More info [here](#).

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Council Resources

Tweed Shire Council offers a list of resources and information regarding current Government regulations [here](#). This link includes information about their COVID-19 Care Package, which offers more than \$600,000 in support for local residents and businesses.

Kyogee Council provide up-to-date information for local residents and businesses [here](#).

Byron Shire Council offer a list of resources and support options for locals (including assistance with paying rates and assistance for business) [here](#). They also have a comprehensive Coronavirus, Bushfire, Drought and Disaster Funding Grant Finder [here](#).

City of Lismore have a webpage outlining changes to Council services and facilities, as well as information about support options for residents and local businesses [here](#). The City of

Lismore also have a thorough Grants Hub [here](#).

Ballina Shire Council offer Coronavirus updates and resources [here](#). Ballina Shire Council have launched the Ballina Business Support Package, which is estimated to provide \$800,000 in financial relief across a range of rent, fees and charges for local businesses. More info [here](#).

Richmond Valley Council provide regular updates [here](#). They also administer a range of grant programs including the Community Financial Assistance Program. Full details are available [here](#).

Tenterfield Shire Council have an extensive list of resources regarding the COVID-19 Crisis [here](#). Submissions for their Council Community Contributions/Donations program will open June/July. Information about this program is available [here](#). Information regarding specific Emergency Funding for COVID-19, Drought and Bushfire Recovery is available on their website [here](#).

Clarence Valley Council provide updates on current information and links to resources [here](#). The Council also have a wide-ranging Grant Guru [here](#).

Glenn Innes Severn Council offer updates for locals on their home page under Public Notices [here](#). Information regarding the Glen Innes Severn Shire Business Directory is available [here](#). This directory aims to help local business stay open throughout the lockdown. Glenn Innes Severn Council administer the White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund – see above for more details.

Inverell Shire Council have up-to-date information for locals [here](#). The Council also offer assistance to community groups, not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs and businesses via a number of grant programs outlined [here](#). Currently on offer is the Small Business Enhance Grant, which offers support of \$500 to \$10,000 for Inverell Shire businesses with fewer than 10 employees. More info [here](#).

Gwydir Shire Council have information regarding changes to their service, closures and local updates [here](#).

Moree Plains Shire Council provide the latest information and resources regarding COVID-19 [here](#).

Armidale Regional Council offer advice and resources to their community [here](#). This link includes information about their draft Hardship Policy and advice on local businesses that are open for business throughout the lockdown. Information regarding Armidale Regional Council's grant programs is [here](#).

the Premier via an online form [here](#).

Over next few weeks, I'll be sharing what Councils across NSW are doing to support their local communities. I'm starting with Northern NSW in this e-news and will head south in future bulletins. All the information has been sourced from Council websites and is valid at the time of publication. The information is by no means exhaustive so please let me know if I've missed anything.

Stay safe and look after each other.

Katrina x

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Coffee Catch Up

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Wednesday for TNN's first Coffee Catch Up. It was great to chat and hear how you're all doing.

Our next Coffee Catch Up is Wednesday 22 April at 10.30am. One of the topics we'll be discussing is how we can work together to better advocate for the Arts now and into the future. Log in details are:

- Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82263332583>
- Meeting ID: 822 6333 2583

Big thanks to Hania, Nick and all the team at Penrith Performing & Visual Arts for sharing their Zoom account for these sessions.

Every Wednesday at 10.30am TNN invites you to join us for a chat on Zoom. TNN's Coffee Catch Up is open to all artists, companies and arts workers who want to connect with peers.

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Grants & Opportunities

SERVICE NSW

The NSW Government is providing financial support to ease the pressures on small business as a result of COVID-19. The Small Business Support Grant offers up to \$10,000 for unavoidable business expenses that are not supported by other government funding. These expenses include, but are not limited to: utilities, council rates, telecommunication charges, insurance payments, professional advice, wages for

Coffs Harbour City Council provide updates and information about changes to their services [here](#). Applications are now open for their Arts and Cultural Development Grant Program. See above for more information.

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Support Services

Entertainment Assist are offering a free webinar series related to mental health and wellbeing. The series covers finance, sleep, healthy habits and staying connected. You can access the series [here](#).

If you need additional support during this time there are free services available to help, including:

The Support Act Wellbeing Helpline 1800 959 500
Lifeline 13 11 14
Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636

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Contact TNN

Over the coming months TNN will endeavour to provide up to date, factual information through social media, e-newsletters and directly to our members. If you wish to receive member updates you can join [here](#). Membership is free.

If you have, or hear of, any opportunities that are available to assist artists and companies during this time, please send the information with weblinks and we will include it in our weekly round up.

Email: director@tnn.org.au
Facebook: [@theatrenetworksw](#)

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Theatre Network NSW is supported by the NSW State Government through Create NSW



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For more information on Theatre Network NSW please visit www.tnn.org.au
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ADDENDUM FOUR

Pippa Bailey's Overview of the IETM Multi-location Plenary Meeting – Sydney Meeting

This week I had the great fortune to sit in theatres on four separate occasions. Yes, I know, it's an exciting development for us in Australia and almost unthinkable for anyone in the UK or Europe right now. I was attending Australian made live Performance at Sydney Festival. It felt so good, a well-earned concentration of cultural highlights after a year of staying in.

In January 2021, Theatre Network NSW hosted its annual State of the (Performing Arts) Sector Address happening concurrently on Gadigal Land at the newly refurbished Sydney Theatre Company Wharf Bay in Sydney, on Wiradjuri Country with the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC) and on Bundjalung Country in Lismore with Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA).

TNN couldn't host a State of the Sector Address in 2020 due to a reprisal of restrictions due to an outbreak of COVID-19. However, we did partner with IETM to host a local/international event at the beginning of October, as part of an urge to 'pivot' and experiment to the spirit of the times. Back then, a mere four months ago, venues were still closed, fear of infection was strong, and few people were venturing out to any social occasions.

The International Performing Arts Network (IETM) based in Brussels has been on the front foot in responding to the constraints of 2020. They accelerated a collaborative process they were already undertaking to Rewire their network, responding to Climate Emergency and ongoing systemic challenges to the predominantly European Performing Arts Sector membership. During 2020, and unable to meet in person, IETM also embarked on an ambitious experiment to host a multi-location event with events in more than twenty sites across the world.

'If we look on the bright side, 2020 allowed us to reinvent activities and explore new ways to network, communicate and connect across our membership and beyond.'

As a longstanding IETM member and on their Advisory group, this felt like an opportunity to focus on the local in the context of the international, something I have long wanted to explore. With so much cultural cringe still influencing our creative systems and with international travel off the agenda for the foreseeable, it seemed a good moment to explore how to locate our own questions of cultural expression and identity in a global conversation.

Legs on the Wall generously partnered so the event could take place in the spacious Red Box in Lilyfield on Wangal Land where social distancing was possible for 40 people. It was a wet night at the beginning of October with a full moon, an auspicious moment for three speakers to respond to the question: *What Matters Now?*

Vicki Van Hout started with a provocation about the current trend of truth telling amongst the culturally marginalised. Vicki Van Hout is an Indigenous independent choreographer with Wiradjuri, Dutch, Scottish, and Afghan heritage

'Truth telling in an Indigenous context encompasses ownership of one's identity, including a right to a self-determined reckoning of history. In this current climate it is sometimes meant to mean that one must only tell a story or base a narrative around the utilisation of an author's own background. It stands to reason that a white person can't hijack a black narrative, but does this mean that a white person shouldn't author narratives that include characters that reflect the full gamut of society?'

She references a question posed on the diversity initiative led by the Sydney Opera House website: 'Is it your story to tell?' and critiques the premise. 'I think this approach breeds divisiveness and exclusivity, as strategies well used in colonial practice. So, if we are going to decolonise, then I do not think this is the way. We (Indigenous artists) do need to be well represented and not exploited but...is it imperative that narratives are first-hand personal accounts, are the subjects closest to these narratives always the best people to tell these stories and is one sole perspective ever the best method to engage in history or the bigger picture?

Vicki is clear that her body is her language and wants to be more nuanced about who she speaks to, when and how? 'Maybe we need to reconsider the audience as a proper artistic component in every artwork, whether the artist has solicited their participation or not.'

So much of this conversation is very particular to Australia now at a moment when First Nations people are calling for a Voice to Parliament and to be recognised in the constitution after generations of subjugation. First Nations people's connection to place defies the generations of settlers who have imported and imposed other cultures on this land.

Tasnim Hossain is a playwright, dramaturg, director and screenwriter. She grew up on Ngannawal land in Canberra and started developing her practice with the Australian Theatre for Young people. She is now on their board; 'because they needed someone under the age of 40'.

Tasnim believes that making theatre is 'less about an individual view of self-expression and more about a community view. One thing I really struggle with is artists who don't care about their audiences. My work is about connection and addressing dislocation.'

Tasnim works in Mental Health communications and proudly states; 'I have always worked in another job outside of the arts, because it's good to pay the rent.'

Her parallel career paths enable her to be connected to most of the people she grew up with because art making didn't seem possible when there has been a serious lack of diverse representation in the Australian Arts sector.

As it was also Mental Health Week and Tasnim reflected on her other work in mental health: 'One in four Australians feel lonely one day a week, others feel it more frequently, and in the last six months we have seen this so many more people experiencing loneliness...When we are distanced from each other it has an impact on us. People who experience loneliness mean they find it harder to connect because they are in a constant state of fight or flight and misconstrue social interactions.'

Tasnim's overall answer to the question of What Matters Now? is about connection and importantly how theatre can connect us. Yet, she also reflects on how theatre is also a place where people do not feel welcome. As a woman in a hijab, she has felt alienated when people stare, choose not to sit next to her or laugh at racist content on stage.

Tasnim concludes: 'Making Art should be an act of service, creating moments of shared transcendence to help make people feel a little less lonely.'

Finally, Paschal Daantos Berry, a performance maker, writer, dramaturg and curator, addresses the question. His practice is focused on interdisciplinary, cross cultural and collaborative processes and he has just started at the Arts Gallery of NSW, directing the visitor experience.

Paschal talked about making space and after so many years of being defined as a young artist. Now nearing fifty, he feels a responsibility to create space. That sometimes means space is for shitty conversations with the public, who do not see racism or privilege. It's also making spaces and demonstrating leadership, in terms of creating pathways and catching those people who are falling through the cracks.

'How do we create much more elastic ways of collaboration across different parts of our industry and even beyond the arts to cross-sector thinking. The amount of space we make for ourselves to advocate for ourselves is a very laborious task.'

Ultimately Paschal challenges us all to take responsibility; 'Asking *What Matters now*, is to get very serious about the fact that we are still talking about the same things, repeating these conversations. They are occupying space.'

'In a post covid reality we need to critically look at these systems and not repeat them so that we don't have to have these exhausting conversations twenty years down the track when we are talking about our connection to our European colleagues.'

These are Australian artists speaking about specifically Australian challenges. They are not exclusive to this country, but our cultural context is unique. In the midst of a global pandemic that has shut down the performing arts sector across the world, it's a great moment to stop rushing about and focus locally.

2021, is another step into the new decade. It's becoming increasingly clear that we cannot go back and need to shed destructive values of the 20th and early 21st century. We need to move on.

In a changing world we need to keep asking; What matters now. Last October three generous artists gave of themselves to answer this question at a time of crisis. To insist on robust 'truth telling' led by our Indigenous colleagues, see art as a service to connect increasingly lonely people and embrace the idea of creating space for others could steer our changing systems towards a fairer more authentically diverse new Australian reality.

Pippa Bailey

ADDENDUM FIVE

Statement from the Western Sydney Arts Sector about the NSW Government Stimulus Package

28 May 2020

WESTERN SYDNEY ARTS SECTOR RESPONDS TO NSW GOVERNMENT STIMULUS PACKAGE FOR THE ARTS

The Western Sydney Arts Sector welcomes the NSW government announcement of \$50 million in stimulus for the arts and urges the government to remember Western Sydney's small to medium sector and local government run arts centres, theatres, galleries and studios who contribute directly to the states hospitality, employment, community, tourism and health sectors.

The impact of COVID-19 on the Western Sydney Arts Sector has been significant, with organisations losing between 60 - 100% of self-generated income from ticket sales, tours, education programs, hospitality and venue hire.

The Western Sydney Arts Sector improves the lives of the people in Western Sydney, the most culturally and socio-economically diverse region in NSW. The artistic offerings from this region are so strong and culturally unique we also attract audiences from regional NSW and wider Sydney. With the Aerotropolis and other major infrastructure investment in the area, the Western Sydney Arts Sector needs support now in order to meet future demand.

Our social, economic and cultural impacts include:

- Access to the mental health benefits of a creative life for people/communities otherwise excluded;
- Innovative education pathways to 'future jobs' for young people, in a region already disproportionately un/underemployed through skills-based workshops, internships and capacity building programs; and
- Community building through events and public programs where diverse communities meet in their local area, forgoing the need to travel, which will be an increased barrier due to COVID-19 health concerns in relation to public transport.

Everyday local citizens fought hard for the creation of a Western Sydney arts ecology. We cannot see our region lose these essential services in this crisis. Western Sydney communities are the fastest growing in the country and will be dramatically affected if any one organisation in the region is ineligible for this stimulus package.

We are an interconnected network and call for all arts organisations to be eligible for this stimulus. The Western Sydney Arts Sector is one of the most resilient arts ecologies in Australia, but COVID-19 has imposed massive challenges. We are agile and will adapt but we need support to do so.

Impacts on the sector due to COVID-19 include:

"Dance Makers Collective have lost our entire service income stream; we have a comprehensive program of education offerings for young people and school-aged students that disappeared and is unlikely to pick up again until 2021. As a company this generates revenue that is invested in the development of new Australian dance works and provides casual employment for a range of freelance dance teachers." Carl Sciberras Dance Makers Collective GM

"Casula Powerhouse is losing all of its income stream from catering, box office sales, commercial hires, internal and community hires." Craig Donarski, Director CPAC

"Campbelltown Arts Centre is preparing to cut 30% of its arts program starting this July to accommodate the loss of income and increased costs. This includes postponing and cancelling exhibitions, performances and the commission of new Australian works by First Nations artists visual artists, musicians and performers." Michael Dagostino, Director, Campbelltown Arts Centre

"Sixty-five percent of FORM's core program has been cancelled or postponed including participation of local Western Sydney, NSW regional, national and International artists. Although taking some programs digital, we are disappointed to lose the momentum establishing the We Are Here Company, with all the fabulous young dancers from diverse Western Sydney communities, we have fostered over the last 20 years through our artistic and education programs." Annette McLemon, Director FORM Dance Projects

"The good news is that we are continuing to program online, even so UTP is predicting a 61% decrease in performance income in 2020. We have also seen a 57% decrease in anticipated sponsorship and donations for 2020. This affects our ability to annually employ the 40+ casual staff, 90 artists, not to mention the support of local business we would normally engage this year, and into the future." Dr Jessica Olivieri, Artistic Director/ CEO UTP

"Where we can we have adapted to digital delivery and creation – but even so the closures mean that our casual wages for the year are 55% down on budget and artist fees are currently 60% down – that's a lot less local creative employment." Hania Radvan, CEO, Penrith Performing & Visual Arts; Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Q Theatre, Penrith Conservatorium and Penrith Regional Gallery, Home of the Lewers Bequest

"As a small emerging organisation, with no current funding, such a body blow at the impact of losing small projects or postponement for a year. Just as we completed a two-year residency with a successful production in the old Granville Town Hall... Just as new creative connections were opening." Alissar Chidiac, Arab Theatre Studio

"From March to June, Riverside Theatre had to cancel 57 events, which impacted 1,141 cast and crew" Joanne Kee, Executive Producer, Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta.

"Parramatta Artists' Studios has had to cease face-to-face community engagement programs which see our diverse creative residents and families come together to share important cultural stories and social connections through art-making. While we continue to reach out to our community in new ways through the digital space, this is a loss to our local community that will have ongoing impacts." Hayley Megan French, Programs Officer, Parramatta Artists' Studios Rydalmere

We have consulted widely with Western Sydney organisations including FORM Dance Projects, UTP, Dance Makers Collective, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Penrith Performing & Visual Arts, Cumberland City Council, Arab Theatre Studio, National Theatre of Parramatta, PYT Fairfield, Curious Works, I.C.E, Parramatta Artists' Studios, Riverside Theatres, PARI and Blacktown Arts.

We urge the government to ensure that the whole of the Western Sydney Arts Sector is supported during this crisis.

Yours Sincerely,
Western Sydney Arts Sector

ADDENDUM FIVE

Response to the Federal Government's \$250m Support Package:

Theatre Network NSW welcomes the Federal Government's \$250m support package for Australia's arts and cultural sectors. The package include four streams:

1. \$75 million of capital funding to help production and event businesses put on new festivals, concerts, tours and events as social distancing restrictions ease. These are grants of between \$75,000 and \$2 million are available from next month;
2. \$90 million in 'show starter' concessional loans to fund new productions and events that stimulate job creation and economic activity. The loans program will be delivered through commercial banks, backed by a 100 per cent Commonwealth guarantee;
3. \$35 million in direct financial assistance to support Commonwealth-funded arts organisations to get them up and working;
4. \$50 million fund to assist local screen production, both film and television. It will be administered by Screen Australia.

Thanks to Gina Fairley for the overview in Artshub. You can read her article at:

<https://www.artshub.com.au/news-article/news/covid-19/gina-fairley/250m-federal-government-arts-and-entertainment-package-260619>

Jade Macmillan also provides further details on ABC News:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-25/arts-industry-to-receive-250-million-coronavirus-rescue-package/12390282>

TNN notes with concern that concessional loans could result in long term, unsustainable debt for companies that are already under resourced and struggling. The \$35 million in direct financial assistance for Commonwealth-funded arts organisations is a welcome investment, however we are concerned that this will struggle to address the considerable crisis facing artists and companies nationally. TNN looks forward to the release of the full guidelines and further details of how each funding stream will ensure that the Arts continue to grow and thrive beyond the next 12 months.

TNN recognises and celebrates the important contribution that everyone working in the Arts gives to the sector, in particular artists working across all artforms. Artists are the reason our industry exists and contributes \$112 billion dollars into the Australian economy. We look forward to working with Minister Paul Fletcher and our sister peak bodies to ensure that artists receive the support they need to continue creating work that will help the wider community recover and regenerate.