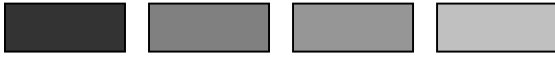




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



THEATRE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 NOVEMBER 2001

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
372 ELIZABETH STREET SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 788 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

Phone (02) 9215 9000
Toll-free (1800) 226 912
Fax (02) 9215 9111
www.ozco.gov.au

THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 27 MARCH 2002

ABOUT THIS REPORT

February 2002

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Theatre Board on 15 November 2001. It provides some statistical analysis of the results of the grant round and more general comments made by the Board during the assessment of the applications.

This Assessment Meeting was held on 18 - 21 February 2002. Applications were assessed in the New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development, Fellowships and Strategic Partnerships categories.

ATTENDANCE

The membership of the Theatre Board at the time of the meeting was as follows:

David Whitney (Chair) is based in Canberra (ACT) and is Director of the Canberra Theatre Centre.

Rachel Healy (Deputy Chair) is based in Sydney (NSW) and is the General Manager of Company B, Belvoir Street.

Sean Mee (Qld) is Artistic Director of La Boite Theatre.

Yoni Prior (VIC) is a drama lecturer based at School of Contemporary Arts, Deakin University.

Wojciech Pisarek (SA) is an independent theatre artist.

Sally Richardson (WA) is director of Stages WA and an independent theatre director.

Kim Walker (NSW/Vic) is Artistic Director of The Flying Fruit Fly Circus in Albury/Wodonga.

Note: Sean Mee was not able to attend this Assessment Meeting

In addition to the Board members, Stephen Dunne (NSW), a theatre critic and Susan Richer (Qld), Creative Producer for the Queensland Performing Arts Centre attended the meeting as participating advisors to assist in discussions.

Staff attending this Assessment Meeting comprised:

John Baylis	Manager
Kim Hanna	Senior Program Officer
Antonietta Morgillo	Program Officer
Terese Casu	Assistant Program Officer
Kim Bennett	Assistant Program Officer Youth
Vanessa Rodd	Administrator
Karina O'Neil	Administrative Assistant

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Assessment meetings get no easier, the competition for limited funds increasing while the real monetary value of the Theatre Board's funds continues to contract. As always, many good proposals could not be supported.

There was particularly high demand in the **Skills and Arts Development – Organisations** category, with recurring activities having to be assessed in competition with one-off events. We increased the money allocated to this category and were able to support a number of significant artform and industry forums and other projects, but unfortunately other activities important for the well-being of the theatre sector could not be funded.

While the **New Work** category remains the site of the most intense pressure on funds, we were pleased with the range of projects we were able to support.

Presentation and Promotion presented a challenge as we needed to preserve some Board funds for the new *Playing the World* initiative (see the *Partnerships and Initiatives* section of this report). Unsuccessful international tour applicants may come back to the Board under the new scheme, however they should first read the guidelines carefully and discuss their proposal with program staff.

This was the last round offering **Strategic Partnerships** grants. They have been replaced in the *Support for the Arts Handbook 2002* by a new, more flexible way of making proposals to the Theatre Board called **Partnerships and Initiatives**. The key features of the new program's flexibility are:

- Proposals can be floated with the Manager of the Theatre Board at any time, (though decisions will in general only be made at the Board's six-monthly assessment meetings)
- Proposals can be negotiated and developed with Board staff and members: it is not an accept-or-reject situation like the other funding categories

The new program is aimed at eliciting big ideas that have the potential to benefit many. It is not meant to be a way of funding the work or professional development of a single artist or company – the existing funding categories remain the best way to do that.

The composition of the Theatre Board is changing quite dramatically this year. At this meeting we welcomed new members Wojciech Pisarek and Sally Richardson, and I would like to thank our participating peers Susan Richer and Stephen Dunne. The terms of Rachel Healy, Yoni Prior, Sean Mee and myself will end on 23 July this year, so it will be a very different Board that meets in August to assess the next round of applications. But the current Board will meet one more time, a one-day policy meeting in Melbourne on 17 May.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as Chair of the Theatre Board and along with my colleagues, feel positive of the projects and programs we have been able to fund. We have moved to some new priority initiatives and I look forward to seeing them unfold, making access to limited funds more direct, and seeing strategic outcomes with the support. The Theatre Board, and indeed Council, is a complex yet highly dynamic organisation, and it has been a rare opportunity to contribute directly to so much good work in theatre across the country.

David Whitney
Chair

OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
NEW WORK: COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT	51	10	19.6%	\$1,095,489	\$240,657
NEW WORK: PRODUCTION	80	15	18.7%	\$2,706,124	\$493,603
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION	19	2	10.5%	\$612,016	\$61,000
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - INDIVIDUALS	19	5	26.3%	\$195,817	\$23,770
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS	14	7	50%	\$283,724	\$128,850
FELLOWSHIPS	12	3	25%	\$960,000	\$240,000*
PARTNERSHIPS	2	1	50%	\$133,737	\$40,000
TOTAL	197	43	21.8%	\$7,186,907	\$1,227,880

* Includes total amount for three 2 year Fellowship grants.

A full list of approved grants is attached.

Out of Time Grants Approved since last meeting:

Snuff Puppets (Vic): Presentation and Promotion tour to UK \$34,000

Daniel Keene (Vic): Skills and Arts Development Individual to travel to Europe \$7,000

Key Organisations

It is also important to note the following companies currently in receipt of Key Organisations funding (amounts are per annum):

Triennial funding:	
Arena Theatre (Vic)	\$195,000
Aust Theatre for Young People (NSW)	\$25,000
Aust Theatre of the Deaf (NSW)	\$105,000
Aust National Playwright's Centre (Nat'l)	\$75,000
Back to Back Theatre (Vic)	\$80,000
Barking Gecko (WA)	\$150,000
Carclew (Lowdown Magazine) (Nat'l)	\$58,000
Deckchair Theatre (WA)	\$190,000
Doppio Teatro trading as Parallelo (SA)	\$150,000 (2002 only)
The Flying Fruit Fly Circus (NSW/Vic)	\$120,000
Freewheels (NSW)	\$143,000
Griffin Theatre (NSW)	\$205,000
Hothouse Theatre (NSW/Vic)	\$100,000
Keene/Taylor Project (Vic)	\$125,000 (2002 only)
Kooemba Jdarra (Qld)	\$95,000 (2002 only)
La Boite (Qld)	\$145,000
La Mama (Vic)	\$165,000
Legs on the Wall (NSW)	\$135,000
Mainstreet Theatre (SA)	\$140,000
Melbourne Workers Theatre (Vic)	\$130,000 (2002 only)
PACT Youth Theatre (NSW)	\$57,000
Patch Theatre (SA)	\$65,000
Performing Arts Centre (WA)	\$45,000
Performing Lines (Nat'l)	\$320,000
Playworks (Nat'l)	\$90,000
Polyglot Puppet Theatre (Vic)	\$100,000
Riverina Theatre Company (NSW)	\$150,000
Rock 'n' Roll Circus (Qld)	\$95,000
Is Theatre Ltd (Tas)	\$150,000 (2002 only)
Sidetrack Performance Group (NSW)	\$125,000
Snuff Puppets (Vic)	\$55,000 (2002 only)
Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (WA)	\$80,000
Terrapin Puppet Theatre (Tas)	\$175,000
Theatre of Image (NSW)	\$60,000 (2002 only)
Urban Myth Theatre of Youth (SA)	\$47,000
Urban Theatre Projects (NSW)	\$150,000
Vitalstatistix (SA)	\$105,000

Special Program Funding:	
2 til 5 Youth Theatre (NSW)	\$30,000
Backbone Youth Arts (Qld)	\$14,181
Canberra Youth Theatre (ACT)	\$20,000
Cirkidz (SA)	\$34,500
Corrugated Iron Youth Arts (NT)	\$50,000
Footscray Community Arts Ctre(Vic)	\$32,000
Powerhouse Youth Theatre	\$21,000
Riverland Youth Theatre (SA)	\$31,000
Shopfront Theatre (NSW)	38,000
South West Arts (NSW)	\$26,500
Southern Edge Arts (WA)	\$29,000
Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble (SA)	\$28,000
St Martins Youth Arts Centre (Vic)	\$25,000

FEEDBACK

- Applicants undertaking creative developments are encouraged to invite Board members to public showings. Although Board members receive weekly mailouts from the Australia Council that contain such invitations please allow a timeline of at least three weeks when planning to alert Board members of your activities.
- With the New Work category please check that the appropriate box is ticked indicating if the project is for creative development only or for production.
- Many budgets in this round were not accurate. Please check your figures before submitting. Also investigate current rates of pay for artists where industry standards apply. Applications with poor budgets score low against the 'good planning' criterion
- The Board values in-kind support when viewing budgets and this should be clearly identified in both Income and Expenditure.
- Applicants are reminded that staff and not Board members are the most appropriate source for feedback on unsuccessful applications.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Emerging NESB Creative Producer Attachment

The Theatre Board has supported the 6 month appointment of Ms Sui Chan at the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts in 2002.

This initiative aspires to address the lack of NESB producers in influential decision making roles to ensure the ongoing representation and visibility of culturally diverse works. For further information contact Kim Hanna on 02 9215 9103 or email:

k.hanna@ozco.gov.au

FUTURE INITIATIVES

AD2002

This is a training conference event for theatre and dance company artistic directors funded by the Theatre Board and currently scheduled for 13-19 October 2002 in Ballarat.

The project is being co-ordinated by Alex Prior at John Paxinos and Associates. For further information, please contact Alex on 03 9696 5085

Royal Court International Residency

This is an intensive four-week program designed specifically for playwrights and theatre directors at an early stage of their career. In association with the British Council, the Theatre Board has secured and supported three places in the past three years. Current applicants are currently being considered by the Royal Court and the successful Australian playwright will be announced shortly.

The Theatre Board has agreed to continue this program in 2003. Companies will be asked to nominate writers later in 2002 for consideration for next year. For further information contact Terese Casu on 02 9215 9117 or email: t.casu@ozco.gov.au

Time_Space_Space1

The Theatre Board has contributed to the New Media Arts Board cross-artform interdisciplinary workshop program in September 2002, titled *Time_Space_Space1*.

Time_Space_Space1 will be a two-week intensive training forum for 15 – 20 Australian artists engaged in performance practice and interested in hybridity as a methodology for making work. The workshop will occur between 7/9/02 – 29/9/02 in Wagga Wagga.

For further information please contact the Performance Space on 02 9698 7235 or email: admin@performancespace.com.au

Technical Design

The Theatre Board confirmed their commitment to providing professional development opportunities for technical design workers. To reach a broader number of applicants the Theatre Board will undertake to develop a flexible initiative that allows professional technical workers to propose an individual program of development that best reflects their perceived training needs. This will be developed and announced later in the year. For further information contact Terese Casu on 02 9215 9117 or email:

t.casu@ozco.gov.au

Playing the World

This is an initiative of the Theatre Board and the Audience and Market Development Division. *Playing the World* aims to provide a flexible funding process to assist theatre artists and companies with exportable work to develop sustainable international markets and audiences. For further information contact Terese Casu on 02 9215 9117 or email:

t.casu@ozco.gov.au

STEPS IN THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BEFORE THE MEETING

Staff check eligibility and register applications on Council's computer database. You will receive a letter acknowledging your application with an application number and staff contact for your reference. Staff analyse the statistical information provided by applicants to help Council measure the effectiveness of its grant programs. Staff prepare applications and support material for the Board assessment meeting. Applications are made into booklets and sent to Board members. Peers are invited to participate as advisers to the Board at the meeting bringing additional expertise and perspectives to the assessment process. Staff also check and manage any conflicts of interest that Board members and peers have with applications and study the applications in order to provide information to the Board as required (see below *).

AT THE MEETING

ASSESSMENT

Board members assess your application against the published selection criteria. Board members may examine support material at the meeting or by prior arrangement.

Board members may also take into account information from other sources such as:

- their attendance at performances and other events;
- reports from members of the Register of Peers who may be asked to provide formal assessments of designated works;
- reviews, videos and recordings, referee reports and other material;
- any previous Australia Council grant acquittal reports and performance agreements you may have had; and
- communication with State and Territory agencies.

Boards may decide not to fund the application at the level requested. While your application may meet the stated selection criteria, this does not guarantee you a grant. The Australia Council receives many more applications than it can support. The success of your application must rest ultimately on the merits of your proposal against published criteria and in competition with all the other applications considered for funding.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

All applicants will be notified of the Board's decision by mail during the month indicated in the Handbook and the application forms. Information about grant decisions will not be released over the phone.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will receive a letter of agreement offering you a grant. This letter outlines the terms and conditions of the offer. Payment of a grant will not be made until you have accepted the conditions by signing and returning the letter of agreement.

ACQUITTAL OF GRANTS

Acquittals are the artistic and financial reports that you must provide after completing your project. Acquittal reports enable the Council to fulfill its obligations of accountability as well as allowing us to learn about the success or otherwise of your project. These reports are a valuable way for you to contribute to the policy development work at the Australia Council.

**Staff do not make funding decisions. Staff provide information and advice to Council, Boards and advisory bodies to assist their determination of policy and assessment of grant applications. Staff also provide information to potential grant applicants and administer the Australia Council's grant programs to enable a simple, fair and efficient assessment of applications.*

GRANTS LIST

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

NEW WORK- Creative Development Only

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Brink Productions Limited	'The Rope Project' – Stage One – creative development	\$14,000	SA
Critical Mass Theatre	'Surface Tension' – creative development	\$19,750	NSW
Freshwater Production Tank	'Fecundity Country' - commission	\$18,400	QLD
Grossetti, Adam	'The Black Hand Gang' – commission	\$13,150	NSW
Jerusalem Syndrome project	'The Jerusalem Syndrome' – creative development	\$27,000	NSW
Kite Theatre	Professional artists fees for creative development	\$15,320	QLD
Knee High Puppeteers	'The Family from Away' – creative development	\$11,486	SA
Playlab Inc	Creative development of new works for performance	\$38,497	QLD
Precarious Incorporated	'Leyland Swiss Army Knife' – creative development	\$55,054	NSW
Stalker Theatre Inc	'Catapult' -- creative development	\$28,000	NSW

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

NEW WORK- Development and/or Production Stages

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Asian Australian Artists Association Inc (Gallery 4A)	'Four 'n' Twenty – creative development and production	\$30,000	NSW
Atkinson, Zoe	'The Hunting of the Snark' – creative development and production	\$23,100	WA
Cerini, Angus	'Smashbrat' – creative development and production	\$6,900	VIC
Cirkidz Inc	'Gravitas' – professional artists' fees creative development and production	\$37,177	SA
ERTH Visual and Physical Inc	'Bushfire' – creative development and production	\$38,800	NSW
Glenorchy City Council	'Blockbusters' – creative development and production	\$30,800	TAS
Institute of Complex Entertainment	'Teratology' – creative development and production	\$59,800	VIC
La Luna Youth Arts Association	'Fresh Alice' – professional artists' fees creative development and production	\$26,500	QLD
Not Yet It's Difficult Inc	'21K' - production	\$50,000	VIC
SALT Writers – Silenced Authors Lavish Tales	'Revelation' – creative development and production	\$23,000	WA
Staggs, Barton	'A Derelict Woman' – creative development and production	\$12,675	NSW
Strangio, P. Lawrence	'Far Away' – production	\$38,951	VIC
The Performance Space Ltd	'The Boxed Set' – creative development and production	\$51,000	NSW
Tuggeranong Community Arts Assoc	'Push and Shove' - professional artists' fees creative development and production	\$16,900	ACT
Women's Circus Inc	'Ghosts' – creative development and production	\$48,000	VIC

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Patch Theatre Company Inc	'The Boy and the Bamboo Flute' – tour to Canada and USA	\$12,012	SA
Primary Source Inc trading as Strange Fruit	'The Spheres' – tour to Europe, Singapore and Canada	\$48,988	VIC

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT- Individuals

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Beck, Jonathon	Professional development assisting Barrie Kosky with set design at the Schauspielhaus in Vienna	\$5,300	NSW
Herbert, Kate	Attachments to four improvisation theatre companies in San Francisco and Los Angeles	\$7,000	VIC
Mack, Tony	Attend July 2002 ASSITEJ World Congress in Seoul	\$2,370	SA
Mundy, Jodee	Attend intensive lab in Corporal Mime in London and attend International Deaf Festival in USA	\$5,000	VIC
Simon, Ra'uf Lucien	Attachment as assistant director on the Melbourne Worker's Theatre Company's production of 'Fever'	\$4,100	TAS

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT- Organisations

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Magdalena Australia	Support to bring Julia Varley from Odin Teatret, Denmark to present masterclass at Magdalena Festival Brisbane April 2003	\$12,000	QLD
National Circus and Physical Theatre Association	National Conference - Adelaide October 2002	\$20,000	NSW
National Performance Conference	National Conference - Brisbane September 2002	\$13,000	NSW
National Puppetry Summit	National Conference – Melbourne October 2002	\$25,000	VIC
Salamanca Arts Centre Inc	Support for a series of intensive workshops led by Ranters Theatre	\$4,050	TAS
Spaghetti Circus Inc	20 week training program in advanced physical theatre skills for young people	\$19,800	NSW
The Australian Script Centre	To provide a national program to profile and distribute the work of contemporary performance writers.	\$35,000	TAS

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

FELLOWSHIPS

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Balodis, Janis	2002 –2004 Fellowship	\$80,000*	NSW
Cathcart, Sarah	2002 –2004 Fellowship	\$80,000*	VIC
Wilson, Peter	2002 –2004 Fellowship	\$80,000*	ACT

* Includes total amount for three 2 year Fellowship grant

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2001**

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library	Partnership with Perth Theatre Company to develop and present 'The Shadow of the Eagle'	\$40,000	WA

