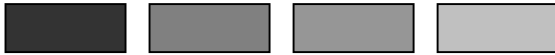




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



DANCE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
1 May 2004

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 20 August 2004

July 2004

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Dance Board on 1 May 2004. 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 13-15 July 2004. **38 applications** were assessed in the New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development-International Residency and Key Organisations categories.

- **New Work:** this category supports the creation of new dance works. The Dance Board encourages artists to take time to develop a work; to proceed to each stage of its life cycle following a critical analysis of what has been accomplished. The number and nature of the stages in a work's life cycle will vary from project to project. Funding in this category is offered in two ways: either through a New Work Development only grant; or a New Work Development and Production grant.
- **Presentation and Promotion:** this category supports the distribution and promotion of existing dance and movement work to broader audiences within Australia and overseas.
- **Skills and Arts Development-International Residency-** this category supports one dance or movement practitioner to undertake a period of professional development at the Australia Council's studio at the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris between January and March 2005. Access to this studio rotates and each Board of the Australia Council is able to offer a three-month residency once every three years.

At this meeting 14 applications for Key Organisations grants (Triennial and Program) were also assessed. The results for this category will be available in late-September.

For detail regarding the grant categories offered by the Dance Board in 2004, please see the 2004 Support for the Arts Handbook – also available on the Council's website www.ozco.gov.au



ATTENDANCE

Shane Carroll, Chair (NSW) trained at The Australian Ballet School, and has danced with several companies including Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) and the Sydney Dance Company. Shane has a wealth of experience in teaching and lecturing both in classical and contemporary dance. She regularly teaches for major companies across Australia and internationally.

Simon Dow (WA) Simon Dow is currently the Artistic Director of the West Australian Ballet. Prior to this he was the artistic director of the Milwaukee Ballet. Simon has been a principal dancer with many companies including the San Francisco Ballet, the Washington Ballet and The Australian Ballet. He has appeared frequently as a guest artist internationally and at prestigious festivals. He has choreographed ballets for many companies including the Washington Ballet, New York Festival Ballet and the Boston Ballet. Simon has taught extensively throughout Australia and overseas.

Simon was not able to attend this meeting.

Rebecca Hilton (Vic) is a Melbourne based performer, teacher and choreographer. A Victorian College of the Arts Graduate, she has performed with many companies including Dance Exchange, Dance Works and Stephen Petronio Company. Rebecca was a founding member of the Lucy Guerin Dance Company and has appeared in the work of Margie Medlin. Her choreography has been presented in Australia, the U.S.A., South America and Europe.

Jeff Meiners (SA) has been involved in dance for 20 years in the UK, Sydney and now Adelaide teaching all ages and running programs with artists, teachers and community workers to support development in metropolitan and rural regions. Jeff is currently a lecturer at the University of South Australia's de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies.

Jan Pinkerton (NSW) is an independent dancer and choreographer. She has worked with many companies including Sydney Dance Company, the Australian Choreographic Ensemble, Bangarra Dance Theatre, One Extra Company and Theatre of Image.

Steven Richardson (VIC) has worked for a number of arts festivals and other organisations and has a broad experience in the arts spanning more than twenty years as a creative producer and director in the small to medium arts company sector. Steven has worked for many Australian arts companies in a variety of creative roles from performer to producer.

Suzan Williams (Qld) has worked as a dancer, teacher and choreographer for a range of companies including Darc Swan Contemporary Dance Company and the Queensland Ballet. She formed her own school-touring company, PointeBlank Productions in 1996. Suzan retired from performing in 1999 and now works full-time with Brisbane-based company, ToadShow.

For this meeting the Board was assisted by two Participating Advisers:

Lewis Lampton (NT) is a professional dancer who has lived and worked in the Northern Territory for over ten years. He has undertaken significant work in the Darwin and Katherine regions working with both professional and community artists. Lewis trained at NAISDA and has performed with companies such as Bangarra Dance Theatre and Tracks Inc.

Bill Handley (WA) is an independent artist who studied at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Bill was a member of "Fieldworks", and is a co founder and member of ID339. Bill likes to introduce other media and more theatrical techniques into dance and performance art.



The following Dance staff attended this meeting:

Rosalind Richards	Manager
Kelly Marshall	Program Officer
Sandi Woo	Assistant Program Officer
Vanessa Rodd	Administrator
Linda Goodman	Administrative Assistant

In addition the following Council staff attended parts of the meeting:

- Ben Strout, Executive Director, Arts Development (AD)
- Karilyn Brown, Executive Director, Audience and Market Development (AMD)
- Lisa Colley, Executive Director, Policy, Communications and Research (PCR)
- Ron Layne, Manager, (AMD)
- Rebecca Mathews, Program Manager, International Market and Development Promotions (AMD)
- Emma Barron, Research Adviser, (PCR)
- Kevin Golding, Finance and Reporting Analyst, (AD)
- Julie Grayland, Project Coordinator, International (AMD),
- Sarah Barns, Senior Research Officer, (PCR)



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Dance Board met in July to assess 52 applications submitted to the New Work, Presentation and Promotion and Key Organisations categories. This meeting also assessed applications to take up the international residency at the Cité in Paris, an opportunity that the Board is able to offer every three years.

This report is unusual in that it provides information about the project categories assessed only. The results of the Board's discussion about key organisations will be available in late-September. The reason for this is linked to the Australian Council's budget outcomes for 2004-05. As you may know, the Australia Council received an increase of \$2 million per year from the Government and a one-off injection of \$3 million for the current financial year. A primary focus for the new money is small to medium organisations as well as developing international markets while \$2 million will help to ensure that Australian stories are developed and presented here and overseas.

Council's budget provided good news for Dance which will benefit from an additional \$553,000 offered to the Dance Board to begin to address issues faced by small to medium companies. One of four boards prioritised for assistance, the Dance Board will put forward a proposal on the use of these funds, for the Council to consider at its August 26 meeting in Brisbane. The Board's funding and strategies to assist Key Organisations are linked to Council's August discussions. Therefore the results for this category can't be confirmed until September.

In addition to assessment the Board also looked at a number of reports on current partnerships and initiatives coming to a close. These discussions help to shape new initiatives and a focus for this meeting was an evaluation of initiatives for young and emerging artists. The Board will decide on initiatives to support young and emerging artists in 2005 at its policy meeting on September 13.

The Board also discussed *Don't Give Up Your Day Job – An economic study of professional artists in Australia* by Professor David Throsby and Virginia Hollister. The report is the fourth in a series spanning 20 years and contains key data on the economic situation of artists, trends and issues. A number of the issues identified resonate across the arts while some are art form specific. The former include unemployment and taxation as well as the range of skills needed by individual artists to manage their careers as a 'micro-business'. Each of the Boards will be working with Council to identify some key actions to address the issues raised.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution to our discussion made by participating advisors Bill Handley and Lewis Lampton. We were delighted to welcome them from far-flung Perth and Darwin respectively and I thank them for all their work. Board member Sete Tele's term expired between meetings so we bid him farewell and look forward to introducing new member Simon Dow to the Board's business at our next meeting.

Shane Carroll
Chair



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
NEW WORK-total	22	5	23%	\$559,219	\$205,566
Development only	14	3	21%	\$319,533	\$117,400
Development and Production	8	2	25%	\$238,686	\$88,166
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION	5	2	40%	\$119,733	\$88,281
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT	11	1	9%	\$110,000	\$10,000
TOTAL	38	8	21%	\$788,952	\$303,847

It is also important to note the following companies in receipt of Key Organisations funding in 2004 (amounts are per annum):

TRIENNIAL GRANTS:

Australian Dance Theatre (SA)	\$232,000
Ausdance National (Nat)	\$170,000
Buzz Dance Theatre (WA)	\$120,000
Dance North (Qld)	\$180,000
Expressions Dance Company (Qld)	\$120,000
Restless Dance Company (SA)	\$65,000
The Australian Choreographic Centre (ACT)	\$160,000
Chunky Move (Vic)	\$100,000
Dance Works (Vic)	\$160,000
Leigh Warren and Dancers (SA)	\$200,000
Tracks (NT)	\$120,000

PROGRAM GRANTS:

Balletlab (Vic)	\$65,000
Dancehouse (Vic)	\$110,000
De Quincey Company (NSW)	\$55,500
Lucy Guerin Association Inc (Vic)	\$100,000
Stompin' Youth Dance Company (Tas)	\$65,000

A full list of approved grants is attached.



FEEDBACK

- **Dance Board's aims and objectives:** You should ensure that you have read page 40 of the Support for the Arts Handbook, which provides information on the Dance Board's aims and objectives. This helps to give a sense of what the Board is interested in supporting, how this influences the Board's activities and is related to both the purpose of the categories and selection criteria.
- **New Work applications:** should communicate a clear sense of the work to be created. This is important at any stage of the work's development.
- When providing the rationale for your project, it is important to give some insight into your movement practice and how your philosophies and creative processes will influence this particular project. This gives Board Members a context for your current proposal.
- You are encouraged to use jargon-free language when describing your project. Project descriptions can be simple or complex in terms of concepts, but please do not assume that Board Members are familiar with specific elements - eg technology - that you may be working with. It is most important to describe your project as directly and clearly as possible.
- **Selection criteria:** Please ensure that your application directly addresses the selection criteria for the grant category you have chosen. If Board Members cannot find information relating to the selection criteria it is unlikely that the application will be assessed highly enough to be supported.
- **International applications and artists:** Applications from non-Australian individuals or organisations must involve Australian artists or artworkers. Applications from Australian individuals or organisations that involve international artists must provide evidence of income other than Australia Council funding.

- **Support Material:** Please read page 49 of the Support for the Arts Handbook carefully. This page outlines the material you must provide in support of your application. Some of the material must be sent to us with your application by the closing date and some other material is due *before the Board Meeting*. This second date is provided in our letter to you acknowledging that we have received your application. We recommend that you keep this letter for reference.

Please remember that both of these deadlines are important. Providing the support material required by the closing date does not appear to be problematic but a number of applicants are forgetting to later on confirm key artists, provide written confirmation of confirmed venue bookings or overseas invitations where these are required. Missing information affects the assessment of your application and may mean that you will not be funded.

Video support material: The video footage you provided must be on one tape only. We dub the first 30 minutes of each tape onto compilation tapes for Board members. If you send more than one tape only one will be dubbed and sent to the Board. Please also note that videos should be recorded in 'short play' format rather than 'long play'.

- **Next closing date:** The Dance Board's next closing date is 1 November 2004. This closing date offers New Work, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowship grants. Allow time before November 1 to read the *Support for the Arts Handbook* and to seek advice from staff before finalising your application. Dance Staff can assist you to target your application, explain selection criteria or advise you on any questions you may have. Please note that staff cannot read your application before it is formally submitted.

For information on either the New Work or Skills and Arts Development category, please contact Sandi Woo on 02 9215 9179 or by email: s.woo@ozco.gov.au.

For information on either the New Work category or Fellowships category, please contact Kelly Marshall on 02 9215 9164 or by email: k.marshall@ozco.gov.au.



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Dance Board/AMD International Market Development Strategy

The Dance Board and Audience Market Development Division have developed an international market development strategy to build on our successful collaboration on a number of significant international projects – notably the Franco Australian Dance Exchange in 2002-03. The strategy responds to the growing international interest in, and demand for, Australian contemporary dance through an informed and strategic approach to promotion, export and exchange.

The strategy combines responsive and proactive ways of working to ensure optimum impact. Therefore, projects may be initiated and developed by Council or may be developed through proposals from artists, companies, and Australian or international producers/presenters.

Four key markets have been identified on which to focus a consolidated promotion and profiling of Australian contemporary dance. These are

- North America (primarily USA)
- Western Europe (i.e. France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland)
- United Kingdom
- Japan

Our objectives are:

- To promote Australian contemporary dance in all its diversity to position it favourably in the four identified key markets.
- To capitalise on the demand for currently export ready artists and works and in the longer term to facilitate opportunities for artists who are not yet export ready.
- To develop long-term relationships and international partners.
- To export high quality contemporary dance to the four identified key markets.
- To facilitate artist/cultural exchange.
- To facilitate self-sustaining longer-term opportunities for Australian Dance.

The strategy supports the promotion of Australian contemporary dance at key international performing arts markets such as the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) in New York and the Tokyo Performing Arts Market, and at key gatherings such as the Informal European Theatre Meeting (IETM). There are a number of projects currently in development.

These include a 3 – 5 year partnership to support the touring of Australian dance to the US and the reciprocal exchange of US dance artists to Australia; an exchange with Japan in 2006 to coincide with the Year of Australia-Japan Exchange which celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between our two countries; support for the presentation of Australian dance in the UK as part of a broader UK focus to promote contemporary Australian culture.

In all cases, the involvement of partners including international agents, presenters and artists or other funding sources such as the Department of Foreign Affairs, international funding agencies is vital.

Projects to date include:

rising-tide productions received \$53,692 to tour *The Australian Body*, a program of small scale work, to the prestigious Zurcher Theater Spektakel from 12-25 August 2004. The featured artists are Lucy Guerin Inc, Rosalind Crisp, Helen Herbertson/Ben Cobham, Ros Warby and Andrew Morrish/Volker March.

Leigh Warren & Dancers (LWD) received \$13,345 to present *Swerve* and *Divining* at the New National Theatre in Tokyo in September 04 as part of Dance Exhibition 2004 and to develop their relationship with key dance presenters in Japan.

Erin Brannigan has been supported with \$5,000 towards her participation in the Monaco Dance Forum (MDF) 2004, specifically the Forum for Videodance Festivals (FVF). Erin has been invited to present a special screening of Australian films and videos and will curate a program from the last two Reel Dance programs.

Dance Theater Workshop in New York has been supported with \$20,000 to present Ros Warby in *Swift* in conjunction with the Australia Council's presence at APAP.

This international market development strategy has been developed as a *working* strategy, which will be subject to change based on an ongoing evaluation of relationships and activity and on further research.

For further information, please contact Rosalind Richards on 02 9215 9164 or Rebecca Matthews in AMD on 02 9215 9042.

Audience Development Workshops

The Dance Board and the Audience and Market Development (AMD) also worked together to draw on the experience of a visiting audience development specialist. Ann Daly, Associate Professor at the University of Texas (USA) was one of four international keynote speakers at the DANCE REBOOTED-Initialising the Grid conference in Melbourne from 1-4 July looking at the sustainability of dance practice and research. Ann Daly's visit was extended so she could direct workshops for dance companies in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane to assist the development of long-term, sustainable audience development strategies.

These workshops were part of the Dance Board's initial response to the audience issues highlighted in *Resourcing Dance: an analysis of the subsidised Australian dance sector*. For the participating small and medium companies the workshops were a kickstart to an 18-month program currently being developed by the Dance Board and AMD – a national audience development strategy. This 3-stage strategy will span 18 months plus and will provide skills development and capability building for independent choreographers and companies. More information will be available soon.

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 fulfil 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

DANCE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 May 2004

NEW WORK- Development Only

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Healey, Sue	To undertake a creative development for a new work titled INEVITABLE SCENARIOS.	\$35,200	NSW
Omeo Dance Incorporated	To undertake a period of creative development in collaboration with Didier Theron Company.	\$39,200	NSW
Stalker Stilt Theatre Inc	For the second stage creative development by the Marrugeku company of a new work titled TAMARIND.	\$43,000	NSW

NEW WORK- Development and Production

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Company Loaded	To present a season of dance works titled AQUEOUS for the Perth International Arts Festival in 2005.	\$48,166	WA
Splinter Group	For the third stage development and premiere of a new dance theatre work titled LAWN.	\$40,000	QLD

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT –International Residency

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Gray, Melissa	To undertake a residency at Cite Internationale des Arts from January to March 2005.	\$10,000	VIC

GRANTS LIST

**DANCE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 May 2004**

PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Australian Dance Theatre	To tour BIRDBRAIN & HELD to various cities in Europe.	\$27,000	SA
Margie Medlin and Roslyn Warby	To produce and present SWIFT as a dance film.	\$61,281	VIC

