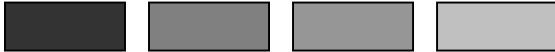




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



DANCE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

1 November 2002

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 19 March 2003

ABOUT THIS REPORT

February 2003

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Dance Board on 1 November 2002. 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 18-20 February 2003. **74 applications** were assessed in the New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowship categories.

- **New Work:** this category supports the creation of new dance works. Applications under this category may be for one or more stages in the creation, production or presentation of a single work. Funding in this category is offered in three ways: either through a New Work Development only grant; a New Work Development and Production grant; or a New Work Development only grant for Young and Emerging artists.
- **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:** The purpose of this category is to foster excellence in dance and movement arts by providing professional development opportunities to experienced individuals.
- **Fellowships:** This category provides outstanding individual artists with financial support to undertake a program of creative work or professional development for a period of two years. It is aimed at artists with a record of outstanding achievement or artists who demonstrate outstanding artistic potential.

For detail regarding the grant categories offered by the Dance Board in 2003, please see the 2003 Support for the Arts Handbook – also available on the Council's website www.ozco.gov.au



ATTENDANCE

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. His recent work includes facilitating major development projects in Western Sydney and the Northern Rivers, and the far west of NSW Outback Dance Project.

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) Steven Richardson was until recently the acting General Manager of Chamber Made in Melbourne. He was the Executive Director of Melbourne's 2002 Next Wave Festival 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.

Sete Tele (WA) is an independent dancer and choreographer who has worked with independent artists and a range of companies in Perth including 2 Dance Plus (now Buzz Dance Theatre), Fieldworks Performance Group, skadada, Australian Dancers Company, ID339 Dance Group, Company Loaded. He is founding co-director of Kompany Kido.

(3 vacancies)

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

Dianna Laska (Qld) is the Artistic Director of the World Dance Company based in Brisbane. She is also a Character and Folk Dance Lecturer and Choreographer for the University of Technology and for the Queensland Ballet Company's Professional Year Studies Program.

Nikki Heywood (NSW) is an independent multi-discipline artist with a background in movement based theatre, extensive vocal training and devised performance.

The following Dance staff attended this meeting:

Rosalind Richards	Manager
Kelly Marshall	Program Officer
Sandi Woo	Assistant Program Officer
Vanessa Rodd	Administrator
Lia Kemp	Administrative Assistant



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Sally Chance's term as Chair of the Dance Board ended in December last year. I would like to acknowledge Sally's hard work and, on behalf of Board members and staff, to thank her for her energy, optimism and solutions-orientated leadership of the Dance Board. With a new Chair not yet appointed but hopefully imminent, I accepted the responsibility of chairing this assessment meeting, keenly aware of the challenge but very pleased to do so.

The Board acknowledged the current gaps in Board appointments and took special care to ensure the fullest contribution from participating advisers Nikki Heywood and Dianna Laska. The 'gig' as a participating adviser and stepping briefly in to the Council environment could easily overwhelm, but both of them met this challenge head-on. Nikki and Dianna's contrasting experience and expertise brought additional perspectives to the Board's discussion and assisted us immeasurably.

With the research stage of the Dance Board's Analysis of the Subsidised Dance Sector in progress, we were aware of the many compelling issues underpinning our discussion and decisions. We will consider an initial report from consultants Positive Solutions in April/May and know that this is when the hard task begins, interpreting the data to determine future directions and priorities. We can see that expectations of results from the Analysis are building and urge you to realise that there is almost certainly no quick fix. See the brief update on the Analysis under Partnerships and Initiatives in this report.

As always there were a number of excellent proposals this round and the Board is pleased to support a range of projects with regional and international connections. One disappointment is that fewer applications than expected were received from young and emerging artists in the New Work-Development only category and that the overall quality of these was not high. I encourage younger and first time applicants to make sure they contact staff before applying, as I believe this will help you to develop more competitive proposals.

A growing number of applications propose the presentation of work within the programs of major festivals. Board Members have been concerned that Australian dance has not featured strongly in festivals and commend the interest now being shown. The significant opportunities that result from being part of a major festival are very seductive but the Board cautions against submitting applications where you bear the full box office risk, particularly in these highly competitive markets. Again, there are no easy solutions but the Board will seek to keep this issue on the agenda, as it is one of many factors influencing income-building strategies for contemporary dance.

Steven Richardson
Acting Chair



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
NEW WORK	39	6	15.4%	\$1,193,688	\$182,727
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION	5	3	60%	\$73,964	\$50,964
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT	21	5	24%	\$293,625	\$93,187
FELLOWSHIPS	9	2	22%	\$720,000*	\$160,000*
TOTAL	74	16	21.6%	\$2,281,277	\$486,878

*Includes total amount for two 2-year Fellowships

It is also important to note the following companies are supported through Key Organisations funding for 2003:

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 Theatre (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

2003 PROGRAM GRANTS

Dance Exchange (NSW)	\$ 65,000
Dancehouse (Vic)	\$120,000
Lucy Guerin Inc (Vic)	\$100,000
Stompin Youth Dance Company (Tas)	\$ 65,000

A full list of approved grants is attached.



FEEDBACK

- The successful applicants in the Fellowship category projected a strong two-year program with clear potential for professional development rather than a number of apparently disconnected projects. Some of the proposed activities would have been more competitive in other categories, particularly Skills & Arts Development. This contributed to the sense that, other than the two successful grants, the *overall* quality of Fellowship applications was not high this round.
 - Many applicants did not provide confirmation of all of the key artists involved in their project. Please note that this is *required* support material and failing to provide confirmation means that your application will not be funded.
 - Some videos submitted to this round were highly edited. The Support for the Arts Handbook specifies that videos submitted to the Dance Board must have *at least one unedited section of 'live' footage from performance or rehearsal*. This provides an uninterrupted sequence for the Board; fast-editing and "showreels" do not assist the assessment of your application.
 - Please remember that when you accept a grant you are required to seek the approval of the Dance Board for any significant changes to your proposed program of activities or project. This includes changes to the personnel or budget and to the proposed start and completion dates. Requests to vary your activity must be made in writing in advance of implementing the changes. If you think that you need approval for a change to your activity phone Dance staff for advice.
 - Much of the required support material to be provided by the meeting can be sent to Dance staff by email - eg confirmation of availability of key artists or the outcome of other grant applications. Please be aware required support material is treated as part of your application and should be clear, formal and submitted by the due date (as advised on our letter acknowledging we have received your application). Please avoid sending several drafts or updates but wait until your position is clear.
 - It is important to allow yourself time before the next closing date to read the Support for the Arts Handbook and to seek advice from staff before applying. A lot of discussion takes place over the phone or by email but staff also travel interstate.
 - A number of the first time applicants or less experienced artists may have been more competitive if they had sought advice from staff about the grant categories and selection criteria.
 - Staff will be travelling to the following centres and can give feedback on your application, discuss any future applications or answer any questions that you may have:
 - Adelaide: 19 March 2003**
 - Melbourne: 20-21 March 2003**
 - Perth: 26-27 March 2003**
 - Darwin: 2 April 2003**
 - Brisbane: 3-4 April 2003**
 - Townsville: 4 April 2003**
- For more information, or to make an appointment, contact Lia Kemp during business hours on 02 9215 9109, 1800 226 912 or l.kemp@ozco.gov.au



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Dance Board Analysis of the Subsidised Dance Sector

Last year the Dance Board announced that it would commission new research and undertake a closer analysis of the Dance sector. Look up the Dance Board's letter to the Dance Community on the Australia Council website <www.ozco.gov.au/dance> for a reminder or background information.

The analysis will provide a clearer understanding of the subsidised dance sector in Australia and clarify the Dance Board's role and importance in the funding and policy landscape. The objective is to maximise the Dance Board's contribution to the development of Dance in Australia.

In January this year Positive Solutions were appointed as consultants to the Dance Board for this very important undertaking. Positive Solutions has been providing research, planning and management services to the arts, cultural and not-for-profit sector since 1990, first in the UK and more recently in Australia.

Led by David Fishel, the Positive Solutions team are undertaking the research and analysis components and will assist the Board in identifying priorities for expenditure and policy development over the next 3-5 years. The consulting process includes, amongst other elements:

- a detailed analysis of a core group of dance companies – their finances and work patterns over the last five years, as well as their views on the dance sector and current funding programs
- an analysis of a broader group of dance companies
- interviews with a range of dance practitioners, with producers, with education and training institutions
- a scan of successful funding interventions internationally
- a detailed analysis of the Australia Council's funding of dance during the last ten years
- incorporation of data from a recent national survey of artists' earning and employment patterns

Phone interviews with individual artists and companies have been conducted in recent weeks. The Dance Board appreciates the time and effort that this kind of research project requires and thanks all those who participated. The Dance Board will consider Positive Solutions' initial report in April/May and its policy discussions throughout the year will continue to focus on finding ways to ensure that the Board's contribution to the development of dance is targeted for maximum impact.



INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Project WORKSPACE2

Project Workspace is an initiative developed by the Dance Board to address concern around the country about the availability of affordable and appropriate workspaces for dance activity. The focus of the initiative is to provide a key resource to individual choreographers, dancers or movement artists rather than an assessment of the work being developed.

Project WORKSPACE was first offered in 2001 with 24 grants of \$1,000 awarded and generating activity in 2002.

The Dance Board recently offered the initiative for a second time and awarded 24 grants to recipients who are using a variety of spaces in a wide range of rental arrangements throughout 2003.

Grant recipients:

Kay Armstrong (NSW)
Shannon Bott (WA)
Eleanor Brickhill (NSW)
Deanne Butterworth (VIC)
Philip Channells (SA)
Sara Chesterman (NSW)
Natalie Cursio (VIC)
Paul Gazzola (WA)
Robert Griffin (WA)
Eleanor Jenkins (VIC)
Paea Leach (WA)
Katy MacDonald (VIC)
Cadi McCarthy (ACT)
Olivia Millard (WA)
Betchay Mondragon (NT)
Siobhan Murphy (VIC)
Stephen Noonan (SA)
Rachel Ogle (WA)
Shaun Parker (NSW)
Lee Pemberton (NSW)
Julia Quinn (NT)
Rebecca Reid (TAS)
Zsuzsanna Soboslay (ACT)
Yumi Umiumare (VIC)

Two projects to benefit independent artists

The Dance Board recently supported two partnership proposals which aim to provide infrastructure support for dance artists:

Dolgoed House - a national and international multi artform production hub based in Victoria; and

STRUT - a support mechanism for Western Australian contemporary dance.

These projects are part of a broader Dance Board strategy to assist in the development of infrastructure in each State and Territory to assist independent artists to develop work and maintain their practice.

Partnerships & Initiatives

Since 2002 Partnerships are not considered applications and there has been no closing date. This is made even clearer in the 2003 Support for the Arts Handbook with Partnerships and Initiatives centrally located under Arts Development (see Page 112). Ideas for partnerships that will result in substantial benefits across the artform or to a targeted sector are discussed and developed with the Board Manager prior to being considered by the Board.

Partnerships should achieve one or more of the Australia Council's corporate objectives as outlined in its corporate plan 2001-2005 (see Page 2). Please note that in the context of these broad Council objectives, the Dance Board is particularly interested in partnerships and initiatives that develop infrastructure to support the work of independent artists, or provide residency opportunities in new contexts, or facilitate cross-disciplinary partnerships.

Please note that the Dance Board also generates partnerships and initiatives.



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 November 2002

NEW WORK -Development Only

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	State
Long, Julie-Anne	Stage two of the development of a new work entitled 'The Nun's Picnic'.	14,000	NSW
Newman-Preston, Jennifer	Creative development of a new work entitled Jillinya Mantis Dance meets contemporary dance.	\$20,252	NSW
Vanhakartano, Juha	Further creative development of the new chamber-Dance-Opera work entitled 'Undertow'.	8,990	SA

NEW WORK- Development and Production

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	State
In the Dark	Rehearsal and production of new work which combines video footage with live action and spoken text.	\$64,485	NSW
Kage Physical Theatre	Production of a new dance work entitled 'Me, Myself and I' to be performed at MIFA 2003.	\$50,000	Vic
Yumi Umiumare and Tony Yap	Further development and production of 'Incompatibility?' which will be performed at MIFA 2003.	\$25,000	Vic

**DANCE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST**

Closing Date: 1 November 2002

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT-Individuals

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	State
Brickhill, Eleanor Brown, Josef	To participate in three European dance festivals and workshops. To develop skills as an arts worker in Ramallah, Palestine under the direction of Nicholas Rowe.	\$17,439 \$13,000	NSW NSW
Denborough, Kate	To undertake an eight week mentorship with Benoit Lachambre and Compagnie Par.b.leux.	\$7,000	Vic

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT-Organisations

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	State
Anangu Arts & Cultural Aboriginal Corporation The One Extra Company	The development of performance and production skills of Pitjantjatjara dancers. A workshop for 8 experienced choreographers/directors with British film director Miranda Pennell.	\$26,500 \$29,248	SA NSW



DANCE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 November 2002

PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	State
Chapel of Change	To perform 'The Descent' at the International Festival of Women in Contemporary Theatre, Brisbane	\$2,730	Vic
Hirano	To participate in the 2003 Little Asia Dance Exchange in Sydney, Taipei, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul.	\$18,050	NSW
Tasdance	To conduct a regional tour of the 'Treasured Island' program to venues in Victoria and Tasmania.	\$30,184	Tas

FELLOWSHIPS

Recipient	Project Description	Amount	State
Cook, Rosetta	A two-year program of creative work and professional development in dance for the screen.	\$80,000	Qld
Silvan, Delia	A two-year program to develop skills as a dance-creator, collaborator and director.	\$80,000	Vic

