



ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



THEATRE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
1 JUNE 2003

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 1 October 2003

ABOUT THIS REPORT

September 2003

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Theatre Board on 1 June 2003. 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.

The first Assessment Meeting was held on 29 – 31 July 2003 and applications were assessed in the Key Organisations category. The second Assessment Meeting was held on 9 – 11 September 2003 and applications were assessed in the New Work and Skills and Arts Development categories and the Cité Internationale des Arts Residency.

ATTENDANCE

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

Ian McRae (Chair) is based in Melbourne (Vic) and is a senior arts administrator.

Sally Beck (Vic) is the General Manager of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

Wojciech Pisarek (SA) is an independent theatre artist.

Sally Richardson (WA) is an independent theatre director.

Marion Potts (NSW) is an independent theatre director.

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

Kate Fell (Qld) is the Executive Officer of Youth Arts Qld.

Note: Sally Richardson and Marion Potts were not able to attend the Assessment Meeting 29 – 31 July 2003 and Wojciech Pisarek and Kim Walker were not able to attend the Assessment Meeting 9 – 11 September 2003.

In addition to the Board members, Stephen Armstrong (Vic), freelance Producer and Regina Heilmann, Co-Artistic Director of PACT Youth Theatre (NSW) attended the Assessment Meeting 29 – 31 July 2003 as participating advisors to assist in discussions. Maude Davey (SA) Artistic Director of Vitalstatistix and Claudia Chidiac (NSW) community cultural development worker and performance artist attended the Assessment Meeting 9 – 11 September 2003 as participating advisors to assist in discussions.



Staff attending this Assessment Meetings comprised:

John Baylis	Manager
Kim Hanna	Senior Program Officer
Antonietta Morgillo	Program Officer
Terese Casu	Assistant Program Officer
Joanne Thiele	Assistant Program Officer Youth
Vanessa Rodd	Administrator
Romany Petersen	Administrative Assistant
Andrew Pippas	Administrative Assistant

Kevin Golding, Finance & Reporting Analyst, attended part of the 29 – 31 July 2003 meeting.

Guest Swee Lim, Performing Arts Program Manager, Asialink observed part of the 9 – 11 September 2003 meeting.



CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Theatre Board held two meetings to assess the applications that were submitted on 1 June. The first meeting in late July dealt with Key Organisation applications only, while the second meeting in September assessed New Work and Skills and Arts Development applications. This is the first time that the Board has split its assessment meetings, and it allowed for considerably more discussion time.

The Board's budget for this year was slightly more than last year, but funding remains tight and many good proposals could not be supported.

There were no new applicants for Triennial Grants. We had given notice to prospective applicants that it would be very difficult for the Board to make any new three-year commitments in the current environment, and fortunately companies took this advice. While all the companies applying continued to be supported, some will be going into the next three years with funding levels that haven't changed significantly in the last six years. The Board understands the pressure that static funding creates, and urges companies not to try to do too much in these constrained circumstances. If it comes to a choice, quality is the Board's priority, not quantity.

On the other hand, there were new applicants for the relatively new Program Grants, and the Board was pleased to be able to offer one-year support to more companies. As the Handbook states, these grants allow the Board to respond to new energies and ideas when they are at their most intense, and we are committed to keeping these funds available to do just that. Successful applicants should therefore be mindful that funding is only for twelve months, and future success depends totally on the competition in each round.

There was a small increase in Program Grant support for youth theatre this year. The Board is aware however that most youth theatres are operating with minimal resources.

New Work continues to be an area of considerable pressure on our funds. The budget was less this year as we moved some of our funds into Program Grants. This was offset by the fact that many companies that used to apply successfully for New Work funding are now applying (successfully) in the other category.

I would also like to mention here a number of other matters.

Earlier in the year, the Board commissioned two reports on theatre issues. The first was a review of theatre for young people, the other an analysis of the Board's triennially-funded companies. As part of the analysis a historical meeting of representatives from thirty-five companies met with the Board members and staff at the Australia Council in late July to discuss key issues. The meeting was highly productive with important contributions being made by the field. Both reports are close to completion, and the Board will be considering their findings over the next few months. We anticipate that they will be released publicly in the near future.

The Board has also been assisting the development of an alternative venue touring circuit in Australia. There has long been a concern that innovative work has difficulty touring within the country, and the Board has been working to address this with a consortium comprising Performance Space, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Brisbane Powerhouse, Salamanca Arts Centre and Performing Lines. We are hopeful that sustainable circuits will result from an initial investment by the Theatre Board.

Finally, we had four advisors at our meetings: Regina Heilmann and Stephen Armstrong at the 29-31 July meeting, and Maude Davey and Claudia Chidiac at the 9-11 September meeting. I would like to thank them all for their contribution.

Ian McRae
Chair



OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
KEY ORGANISATIONS: TRIENNIAL	10	10	100%	\$4,696,500	\$4,060,000*
KEY ORGANISATIONS: PROGRAM	29	26	90%	\$1,991,006	\$1,255,600
NEW WORK – CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT	49	9	18%	\$1,411,777	\$172,141
NEW WORK – PRODUCTION	62	9	15%	\$1,956,643	\$411,987
NEW WORK – YOUNG ARTISTS INITIATIVE	12	3	25%	\$ 127,966	\$ 42,046
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	15	3	20%	\$ 121,602	\$ 29,960
ARTFORM DEVELOPMENT	4	2	50%	\$ 180,954	\$ 85,000
CITE INTERNATIONALE DES ARTS RESIDENCY	7	1	14%	N/A	\$ 10,000
TOTAL	188	63	34%	\$10,486,448	\$6,066,734

* Includes total amount for 10 Triennial grants.

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
Partnerships and Initiatives	2	1	50%	\$ 38,250	\$22,000
Out of Time since February Meeting	8	3	38%	\$ 32,185	\$ 12,557
Playing the World since February meeting	13	5	38%	\$283,927	\$120,042
Dah Theatre Initiative	19	2	11%	N/A	\$12,000
Regional Theatre Company Professional Development Initiative	6	5	83%	\$23,825	\$19,485
Technical Design Initiative	8	1	12%	N/A	\$10,000
Regional Theatre Initiative	14	7	50%	\$200,063	\$99,659
TOTAL	70	24	34%	\$578,250	\$295,743

A full list of approved grants from this meeting and all approved Out of Time grants and Playing the World grants since the February meeting is attached.



Key Organisations

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

<i>Triennial funding:</i>	
Arena Theatre Company (VIC)	\$ 195,000
Australian Theatre for Young People (NSW)	\$ 25,000
Australian National Playwright's Centre (Nat'l)	\$ 75,000
Barking Gecko (WA)	\$150,000
Carclew (Lowdown Magazine) (Nat'l)	\$ 58,000
deckchair Theatre Inc. (WA)	\$150,000
Doppio Teatro trading as Parallelo (SA)	\$150,000
Griffin Theatre (NSW)	\$205,000
HotHouse Theatre (NSW/VIC)	\$ 120,000
Kooemba Jdarra Aboriginal Corporation (QLD)	\$100,000
La Boite Theatre Inc (QLD)	\$145,000
Melbourne Workers Theatre Incorporated (VIC)	\$140,000
PACT Youth Theatre (NSW)	\$ 57,000
Patch Theatre (SA)	\$ 65,000
Playworks (Nat'l)	\$ 90,000
Riverina Theatre Company (NSW)	\$150,000
Sidetrack Performance Group Pty Ltd (NSW)	\$135,000
Snuff Puppets Inc (VIC)	\$ 75,000
Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Inc (WA)	\$ 80,000
The Flying Fruit Fly Foundation (NSW/VIC)	\$125,000
Urban Myth Theatre of Youth (SA)	\$ 47,000
Vitalstatistix (SA)	\$105,000



FEEDBACK

- New Work budgets often did not breakdown Box Office income. Applicants are reminded that they should indicate how the Box Office sum is arrived at by indicating number of shows X average attendance X average ticket price.
- Applicants are encouraged to investigate current recommended rates of pay for professional artists. There were instances where such fees were well below industry standards. The Theatre Board commits itself to supporting work that is properly budgeted.
- Applicants are encouraged to speak with staff before submitting their application. There was one New Work application that requested over \$500,000 – an unrealistic amount. Please refer to the list of successful applicants to view amounts funded.
- The Board found some applicants used impenetrable language that did not present the project in an accessible way. It is suggested that applicants avoid jargon in their project descriptions.
- The Board was disappointed to see that there were so few applications to the new sub category of New Work – Young Artists Initiative. Artists aged of 26 and under are encouraged to consider applying to this sub category in the future.
- Applicants are reminded that confirmation of key artists is a requirement for funding. Some applications did not have written confirmation by the nominated artists.
- Skills and Arts Development applicants seeking professional development opportunities are reminded to submit confirmation letters from host organisations. In some instances these were not submitted.



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: 1 June 2003**

KEY ORGANISATIONS – Triennials

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Back to Back Theatre	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 270,000	VIC
Is Theatre Ltd	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 450,000	TAS
La Mama	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 495,000	VIC
Legs on the Wall	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 465,000	NSW
Performing Arts Centre	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 180,000	WA
Performing Lines	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 960,000	Nat
Polyglot Puppet Theatre	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 300,000	VIC
Rock 'n' Roll Circus	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 285,000	QLD
Terrapin Puppet Theatre	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 175,000	TAS
Urban Theatre Projects	Triennial 2004 - 2006 Activities	\$ 480,000	NSW

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 June 2003**

KEY ORGANISATIONS – Program

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
2 Til 5 Youth Theatre Co-op Ltd	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 33,000	NSW
Australian Theatre of the Deaf	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 90,000	NSW
Backbone Youth Arts Association Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 36,000	QLD
Brink Productions Ltd	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 60,000	SA
Canberra Youth Theatre	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 23,000	ACT
Cirkidz Incorporated	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 35,000	SA
Corrugated Iron Youth Arts Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 51,600	NT
Footscray Community Arts Centre Ltd - Y3P	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 38,000	VIC
Jigsaw Theatre Company Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 60,000	ACT
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 52,000	QLD
La Luna Youth Arts Association Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 15,000	QLD
Mainstreet Theatre Company	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 100,000	SA
not yet it's difficult	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 70,000	WA

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 June 2003**

KEY ORGANISATIONS – Program cont.

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Perth Theatre Company	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 45,000	WA
Platform Youth Theatre Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 25,000	VIC
Powerhouse Youth Theatre Inc.	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 40,000	NSW
Primary Source Inc (Strange Fruit)	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 70,000	VIC
Riverland Youth Theatre Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 36,000	SA
Shopfront Theatre for Young People Co-operative Ltd	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 44,000	NSW
Southern Edge Arts Incorporated	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 43,000	WA
Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 35,000	SA
Stalker StiltTheatre	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 75,000	VIC
St Martins Youth Arts Centre	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 20,000	VIC
The Courthouse Project Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 25,000	VIC
Theatre of Image Ltd	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 50,000	NSW
Women's Circus Inc	Annual program of activities 2004	\$ 84,000	VIC

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 June 2003**

NEW WORK - Creative Development

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Conspiracy Theatre	Commission and Creative Development of 'The Zeitgeist Room'	\$ 13,257	VIC
Mr Marcel Dorney	Creative Development of 'Thousand and Flag'	\$ 4,970	QLD
Force Majeure	Creative Development of 'Twilight'	\$ 45,776	NSW
Ms Sophia Hall	Creative Development of 'The Refugee Project'	\$ 25,618	WA
Ms Kate Mulvany	Creative Development of 'The Embalmer'	\$ 12,650	WA
Shott dance theatre	Creative Development of 'so....do you come here often?'	\$ 22,405	WA
The Border Project	Creative Development of 'Disappearance'	\$ 16,000	SA
Ms Ingrid Voorendt	Creative Development of 'Babushka'	\$ 22,865	SA
Mr John du Feu	Commission and Creative Development of a new production exploring conditions in high growth housing areas.	\$ 8,600	QLD

NEW WORK - Young Artists Initiative

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Ms Arminelle Fleming	Young Artists Initiative – Production of 'The Club Scene Series'	\$ 15,000	QLD
Ms Natalea Iskra	Young Artists Initiative – Production of 'Fabricating Fates'	\$ 12,046	VIC
Western Australian Youth Theatre Company	Young Artists Initiative – Production of 'The Daedalus Project'	\$ 15,000	WA

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 June 2003**

NEW WORK - Production

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Australian Festival for Young People	Production of 'Soaring'	\$ 60,000	SA
Brown Room	Production of 'Scribble'	\$ 29,350	QLD
Ms Rakini Devi	Production of 'Women in Transit'	\$ 42,525	NSW
Historic Houses Trust of NSW	Production of 'Eora Crossing'	\$ 50,000	NSW
Knock-em-Down Theatre	Commission and Production of 'North Myth'	\$ 55,000	NT
Precarious Incorporated	Production of 'Swiss Army Knife Project'	\$ 60,000	NSW
Railway Street Theatre Company	Commission and Production of 'Praying to the Car Gods'	\$ 53,312	NSW
The opera Project Inc	Production of 'The Slippage'	\$ 48,000	NSW
University of Newcastle (ImaginedARTS)	Production of 'Listening to Indigenous Voices on the Coast'	\$ 13,800	NSW

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 1 June 2003**

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT– Skills Development

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Mr Ian Bone	Skills Development with Urban Myth Theatre of Youth	\$ 7,640	SA
Ms Margaret Cameron	Professional development to attend TRANSIT IV Festival in Denmark	\$ 6,000	VIC
Spaghetti Circus	20 week advanced skills development for young performers	\$ 16,320	NSW

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT – Artform Development

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
The Australian Script Centre	A national program to promote the work of Contemporary Australian Performance Writers	\$35,000	TAS
Youth Performing Arts Australia ASSITEJ International Inc	Support for 2004 activities	\$ 50,000	SA

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT – Paris Residency

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Mr Jonathon Beck	Professional development through the Paris Residency	\$ 10,000	VIC

**THEATRE BOARD
OUT OF TIME
March 2003 – September 2003**

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT – Skills Development

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Ms Elena Knox	To attend the Women and Theatre Program annual conference in NYC	\$ 2,779	NSW
Ms Anna Yen	Therese Collie and Anna Yen to attend the Asia - Pacific Festival/Conference of Women in the Arts in the Philippines	\$ 3298	QLD
Ms Caitlin Newton-Broad	Professional Development with 'Blast Theory" in the U.K	\$ 6,480	NSW

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Initiatives**

**PLAYING THE WORLD - A JOINT INITIATIVE WITH THE AUDIENCE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
March 2003 – September 2003**

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Back to Back Theatre	'Soft' to Europe	\$ 42,792	VIC
Stalker Stilt Theatre	'Four Riders' to Europe and the UK	\$ 18,000	NSW
acrobat	'acrobat' to Europe and the UK	\$ 35,000	NSW
not yet its difficult	'K' and 'SCENESOFTHEBEGINNINGFROMTHEEND' to Europe	\$ 24,250	VIC

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Initiatives**

PARTNERSHIPS

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Big hART	'kNOT AT HOME' project	\$ 22,700	TAS

DAH THEATRE INITIATIVE

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Ms Tamara Saulwick	Dah Theatre Workshops	\$ 6,000	VIC
Ms Susie Dee	Dah Theatre Workshops	\$ 6,000	VIC

REGIONAL THEATRE COMPANY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

APPLICANT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	STATE
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Professional Development for Regional Theatre Company Staff	\$3,500	QLD
Mainstreet Theatre	Professional Development for Regional Theatre Company Staff	\$5,000	SA
Riverina Theatre Company	Professional Development for Regional Theatre Company Staff	\$5,000	NSW
Riverland Youth Theatre	Professional Development for Regional Theatre Company Staff	\$2,285	SA
Southern Edge Arts	Professional Development for Regional Theatre Company Staff	\$3,700	WA

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Initiatives**

TECHNICAL DESIGN INITIATIVE

APPLICANT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	STATE
Mr Hugh Covill	Professional development in sound system design in the United States of America	\$10,000	VIC

REGIONAL THEATRE INITIATIVE

APPLICANT	PROJECT	AMOUNT	STATE
Alice Springs Youth Arts Group	To establish an ongoing youth arts company	\$15,000	NT
Hypertheatre Inc	To employ a Coordinator and promote and launch Hypertheatre	\$15,000	WA
Knock-em-Down Theatre	To commission two new plays	\$14,700	NT
Mixed Media Productions	For administrative assistance and to develop promotional material	\$15,000	TAS
Slipstream Circus	To undertake professional development and create a new production	\$9,959	TAS
Y Space	A two week creative development and the production of a website and CD Rom	\$15,000	VIC