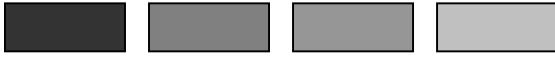




ASSESSMENT MEETING REPORT



THEATRE BOARD

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE
15 NOVEMBER 2002

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
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THE INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT IS EMBARGOED FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSION UNTIL 26 MARCH 2003

ABOUT THIS REPORT

February 2003

This report provides a context to the assessment of the applications submitted to the Theatre Board on 15 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 24 - 27 February 2003. Applications were assessed in the New Work, Presentation and Promotion, Skills and Arts Development and Fellowships categories.

ATTENDANCE

The membership of the Theatre Board at the time of the meeting 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 Conference Curator of the Australian National Playwrights' Conference and an independent theatre director.

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

Kate Fell (Qld) is a producer with the Queensland Biennial Music Festival.

Note: Wojciech Pisarek and Kim Walker were not able to attend this Assessment Meeting

In addition to the Board members, Andrea James (Vic), Artistic Co-Coordinator at Melbourne Worker's Theatre, Tony Mack, Editor of Lowdown Magazine (SA) and Peta Tait (Vic), Lecturer at La Trobe University attended the meeting as participating advisors to assist in discussions.

David Fishel of Positive Solutions attended the part of the meeting dealing with the Board's review of theatre of young people. David is conducting this review for the Board and provided an update on its progress.

Staff attending this Assessment Meeting comprised:

John Baylis	Manager
Kim Hanna	Senior Program Officer
Antonietta Morgillo	Program Officer
Terese Casu	Assistant Program Officer
Vicky Clare	Assistant Program Officer Youth
Vanessa Rodd	Administrator
Andrew Pippos	Administrative Assistant

Ben Strout, Executive Director of the Arts Development Division and Kevin Golding, Finance & Reporting Analyst, attended part of the meeting.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

This assessment meeting was the first for Kate Fell, the newly appointed Board member from Queensland, and we welcome her and look forward to her contribution over the next three years. Also helping the Board this time were three advisors: Peta Tait, Andrea James and Tony Mack.

The budget in all funding categories remains tight, though the category with the lowest success rate was **Skills and Arts Development – Individuals**. Applications were of particularly high standard, and the Board could easily have funded many more proposals if the budget had been available.

New Work continues to attract by far the most applications, but we were pleased the success rate was a little higher this year than recent rounds. This is due in part to an increasing number of proposals seeking developmental funding only and a corresponding decline in requests for production funding. This trend has now been in evidence for the last four funding rounds. The result is that requests are smaller and our funding can go further.

This round saw **Presentation and Promotion** grants offered for the last time. For the next two years at least, the Board will use these funds to develop partnerships with selected presenters to encourage national touring of highly innovative work.

In other matters: the Board last year decided to commission a nationwide review of theatre for young people in partnership with the NSW Ministry for the Arts. The review is currently underway and is being conducted by the Brisbane-based arts consultancy Positive Solutions led by its director, David Fishel. We expect the final report to be submitted by July.

Another decision that was made last year was to commission a detailed analysis of the Board's 35 triennially-funded organisations. The aims of this analysis are:

- to establish the recent operational & financial situation of the Theatre Board's triennially funded companies;
- to appraise the creative contribution of these companies to Australian culture; and
- to make recommendations to the Theatre Board (and the companies involved) on any required actions to ensure that these companies can realise their current operational and creative objectives.

The Board is also pleased announce that Youth Arts Queensland has won the tender to design and implement a national mentorship program for young theatre artists. The program has a budget of \$132,000 and its aim is to broker and support the development of mentorship relationships between young theatre artists and established theatre artists and companies across Australia. The program will be nationally advertised in the near future.

The Board will change its meeting pattern this year. Instead of scheduling a single meeting to assess all the applications that are submitted on 1 June, the Board will meet first in July 2003 to look at Key Organisations proposals, then again in September to decide on New Work and Skills & Arts Development.

Ian McRae
Chair

OUTCOMES

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
NEW WORK: COMMISSION DEVELOPMENT	74	16	21%	\$1,506,949	\$314,320
NEW WORK: PRODUCTION	63	13	20%	\$2,090,701	\$439,130
PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION	21	4	5%	\$405,417	\$56,319
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - INDIVIDUALS	24	3	12%	\$204,487	\$26,371
SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT - ORGANISATIONS	11	2	18%	\$236,154	\$37,500
FELLOWSHIPS	11	3	27%	\$880,000	\$240,000*
TOTAL	204	41	20%	\$5,323,708	\$1,113,640

* Includes total amount for three 2 year Fellowship grants.

PROGRAM TITLE	APPLICATIONS (Number)		SUCCESS %	APPLICATIONS (Amounts - \$)	
	RECEIVED	APPROVED		REQUESTED	APPROVED
Out of Time since September Meeting	3	2	67%	\$21,123	\$8,492
Playing the World since September meeting	7	4	57%	\$127,381	\$59,881
TOTAL	10	6	60%	\$148,504	\$68,373

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.

FEEDBACK

- Where a creative development has taken place for a New Work – Production application, applicants are encouraged to include material demonstrating the success of this stage of development.
- Applicants are encouraged to investigate current recommended rates of pay for composers. There were instances where such fees were well below industry standards.
- Successful Fellowship applications do not only demonstrate an acknowledgement of past achievements of the individual but equally show a clearly articulated program detailing how it will be beneficial to the artist's future development.
- Support letters assist the Board in their deliberations but applicants are encouraged to be selective in their use.
- 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.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

CURRENT INITIATIVES

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

Technical Design

The Technical Design Initiative is aimed at assisting professional theatre technicians to expand their skills and knowledge. The Theatre Board has invited a broad number of arts organisations to nominate a technician to undertake a period of self nominated professional development. Nominated applicants are invited to propose a three-month professional development program (national or international) to meet their perceived training needs. The closing date is 11 April 2003. Contact Terese Casu on 02 9215 9117 or email: t.casu@ozco.gov.au

FUTURE INITIATIVES

Time Place Space2

The Theatre Board has contributed to the New Media Arts Board cross-artform interdisciplinary workshop program in September 2003, titled *Time-Place-Space2*.

Time-Place-Space2 will be a two-week intensive training forum for Australian artists engaged in performance practice and interested in hybridity as a methodology for making work. The workshop will occur between 21/9/03 – 5/10/03 in Wagga Wagga.

For further information contact the Project Manager Julieanne Campbell on 02 9698 7235 or email: tps@performancespace.com.au

Mentorship Initiative

The Theatre Board is this year providing a national mentorship program for young theatre artists. It will be managed by Youth Arts Qld and will broker and support the development of mentorship relationships between young theatre artists and established theatre artists and companies across Australia.

By implementing this mentorship program the Theatre Board looks to provide young artists with structured professional development opportunities that draw upon the wealth of knowledge and skills of established Australian artists.

The Federal Government's Young and Emerging Artists Initiative will support these mentorships.

Ten mentorships will be available. For further information contact Collette Brennan at Youth Arts Qld on (07) 3252 5115 or email: eo@yaq.org.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 2002**

NEW WORK- Creative Development Only

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Barry, Catherine (Cazerine)	'Restless' - creative development	\$ 22,756	VIC
Darwin Theatre Company Inc.	'Tin Hotel' - creative development	\$ 25,528	NT
Davies, Eleanor	'Servo' - creative development	\$ 20,000	WA
Evans, Christine	A new work based on the last hanging in America - creative development	\$ 4,400	O/S
Heywood, Nikki	'Beauty and the Brute' - creative development	\$ 37,663	NSW
Hope, Nicholas	A monologue for performance - creative development	\$ 12,100	NSW
Idiosync	'Remote Control' - creative development	\$ 6,656	VIC
Mastrantone, Lucia	'The Wish Fish' - creative development	\$ 29,815	NSW
Megarrity, David	'Next Door' - creative development	\$ 9,152	QLD
Moore, Mary	'The Twin Project' - creative development	\$ 12,213	SA
Museum of Modern Oddities	'Field of Dreams' - creative development	\$ 6,250	VIC
Pollard, Deborah	'Thin Walls' - creative development	\$ 5,294	NSW

Popov, Bagryana	'Subclass 26A' - creative development	\$ 28,605	VIC
Riggerous	Site specific aerial based performance- creative development	\$ 35,100	NSW
Rough Diamonds	'Pear Shaped' - creative development	\$ 28,988	NSW
The Happy Sideshow	'The Dark Carnival' - creative development	\$ 29,800	QLD

THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
 Closing Date: 15 November 2002

NEW WORK- Development and/or Production Stages

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
A Nose of Her Own	'The Baggage Carousel' – creative development and production	\$ 33,400	NSW
Anderson, Judith	'Ghaos Alliance' – creative development and production	\$ 20,000	VIC
Australian Children's Performing Arts Company (t/a Windmill Performing Arts)	'The Snow Queen' – commission, creative development and production	\$ 45,000	SA
Chamber Made Opera Inc	'Phobia' – creative development and production	\$ 35,800	VIC
God be in my Mouth	'The Glass Garden' – creative development and production	\$ 20,000	VIC
Northern Rivers Performing Arts Inc, NORPA	'The Flood' – creative development and production	\$ 15,750	NSW
Ranters Theatre Inc	'The Wall' – creative development and production	\$ 58,000	VIC
Theatre Kantanka Inc	'Crime Site' – professional artists' fees creative development and production	\$ 40,480	NSW
Theatre of Image Ltd	'The Arabian Nights' – commission, creative development and production	\$ 50,000	NSW
version 1.0	'CMI' – creative development and production	\$ 55,800	NSW
Workers Cultural Action Committee Inc	'Eating Ice-Cream With Your Eyes Closed' – creative development and production	\$ 22,100	NSW
Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre Aboriginal Corporation	A new work based on the life of Ningali Lawford – commission and creative development	\$ 20,000	WA
Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre	'Wicked Bodies' – creative development and production	\$ 22,800	QLD

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2002**

PRESENTATION AND PROMOTION

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Barking Gecko Theatre Company Ltd	'The Rodeo Kid' – tour to Northern Territory	\$12,644	WA
Department of Education Qld (t/a Kite Theatre)	'Binnies Back Yard' – tour to Queensland and Northern Territory	\$14,800	QLD
Kemp, Jenny	To create a website 'Vertical Time Performance Projects'	\$4,675	VIC
Tiny Top	'Tiny Top' – Presentation at the Big West Festival, Victoria	\$24,200	QLD

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2002**

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT- Individuals

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Shelper, Brendan	Professional development in physical theatre in Canada and France	\$9,100	VIC
Tate, Jennie	Professional development to develop digital imaging skills at Metro Arts, Sydney	\$7,371	NSW
Wilson, Jessica	Professional development in puppetry in the USA	\$9,900	TAS

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2002**

SKILLS AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT- Organisations

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Magdalena Australia	Workshop and forums to develop skills and networks for women theatre partitioners at Magdalena Festival – Brisbane April 2003	\$15,000	QLD
National Circus and Physical Theatre Association	To employ an Executive Officer to facilitate development of the Association	\$22,500	QLD

**THEATRE BOARD
APPROVED GRANTS LIST
Closing Date: 15 November 2002**

FELLOWSHIPS

Recipient	Project Description	AMOUNT	STATE
Akerholt, May-Britt	2002 –2004 Fellowship	\$80,000*	NSW
Jackson, Donna	2002 –2004 Fellowship	\$80,000*	VIC
Kelly, Gail	2002 –2004 Fellowship	\$80,000*	NSW

* Includes total amount for three 2 year Fellowship grant

**THEATRE BOARD
OUT OF TIME
September 2002 – February 2003**

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Keene, Daniel	Professional development - to attend productions and readings of his work in France.	\$ 5,194	VIC
Yen, Anna	Professional development for Anna Yen and Therese Collie to attend the Asia Pacific Conference in Manilla, Philippines.	\$3,298	QLD

THEATRE BOARD
PLAYING THE WORLD
A JOINT INITIATIVE WITH THE AUDIENCE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
September 2002 – February 2003

RECIPIENT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATE
Flying Fruit Fly Circus	Tour of 'The Gift' to Canada	\$24,896	NSW
Patch Theatre	Tour of 'The Boy and The Bamboo Flute' to Singapore	\$12,500	SA
Bambuco	Tour of Bambuco to Europe	\$20,000	VIC
Vanessa O'Neill	Tour of 'Happy with Half Your Life' to the UK	\$2,485	VIC

