

2020

ASSITEJ AUSTRALIA

HOSTED BY
THEATRE NETWORK
AUSTRALIA

TNA.ORG.AU



ABOUT

Theatre Network Australia (TNA) — National Centre for ASSITEJ Australia

Theatre Network Australia (TNA) is a National Centre member of ASSITEJ International. TNA's role continues a 45+ year relationship with the global association.

TNA is the leading national industry development organisation for contemporary small to medium and independent performing arts in Australia.

We strengthen artists and arts organisations; influence cultural policy; facilitate critical debate; and advocate for a more robust, interconnected and innovative sector.

Our membership encompasses theatre, dance, circus, hybrid work, theatre for young audiences and youth arts organisations - those working with young people as the makers of performance. TNA delivers national advocacy, research and communications across each of the states/territories.

TNA's work is guided by the following key priorities:

- First Nations Leadership
- Increasing Diversity
- Fairer Arrangements for Artists
- Gender Equity
- Safe Theatres/Workplaces
- Access and Inclusion
- Healthy Ecology
- Stronger Connections

Theatre Network Australia believes in the central role that creativity plays in a society. We want a diverse and fair performing arts sector, which puts First Nations people first. We value independent artists, small to medium companies and large organisations and we want greater interconnections between them. We believe in life-long learning. We support different models of working, and we value flexibility. We want fair pay and conditions for our sector. We know that risk and experimentation are important. And we want ongoing, respectful but challenging conversations that connect us, open new ideas, and lead to a stronger sector.

ASSITEJ Australia

The Australian sector has played a leadership role in the ASSITEJ community for over 45 years and has a lot to offer in the current climate. We have hosted two World Congresses: the 9th Congress (Adelaide, 1987) and the 16th Congress (Adelaide 2008).

Our Australian representative, Sue Giles, is a Vice President of ASSITEJ, and Theatre Network Australia is the national centre member for ASSITEJ Australia, advocating for and supporting the promotion of the Australian TYA and Youth Arts sector internationally.

ASSITEJ Australia is a network of artists and companies making work by, with and for young people. It is not limited to Theatre for Young Audiences, but also encompasses those working in Youth Arts and with young people as the makers of performance.

Based in cities, towns, and sometimes very remote communities, the companies and artists making TYA work across Australia are as diverse as the communities they represent. (For example, one of our member companies is responsible for servicing 30,000 square kilometres – an area the size of some European countries!) Distances in Australia can present unique challenges, but also ensure we remain resilient and creative in the way we collaborate, imagine and present work.

Australia's isolation from global practice has a major impact on the perception others have of our work and practice, on what is possible and on our particular challenges and discoveries. On the whole, Australian practitioners take more risk than many others in the world. We have the ability to jump where others hesitate and our appetite for experimentation means that we are fearless when it comes to new form and multiple arts practice.

“Australian artists and companies are resilient and creative in the way they collaborate, imagine and present work.”

SECTOR SNAPSHOT

The Australian Theatre for Young Audiences and Youth Arts sector is a body of artists, companies and organisations driven by a passion for young people and children as audiences, participants, creators and experts.

We make work by, with and for young people — embracing a different paradigm that places children and young people at the centre of change.

For decades, our sector has consistently ‘punched above its weight’ – demonstrating vibrant and innovative approaches to creation and survival. Energy and experimentation are effortless parts of our practice. We are a pro-active, nimble, inventive and resilient sector. We understand our audiences and communities deeply and we understand and advocate for the importance of shifting the perceptions that surround young people and the arts.

Australian work is recognised and critically acclaimed internationally. This sector: tours extensively and often; represents the wider arts sector nationally and regionally; works with and for young people who have limited access to arts and culture; works with an eye for social impact and preventative action; works inclusively; is committed to excellence and rigour across creative processes and outcomes; and consistently demonstrates its value.

This booklet shows the breadth of the work created in Australia and demonstrates our perspective, unique energy and mode of working. It is designed to celebrate what this sector has achieved and to showcase where we are going. Our aim is to capture and promote Australian work so that our international colleagues may be inspired to foster relationships and collaborations with our dynamic sector.

As Australia is a wide and vast land, we have listed companies by state and territory to give a sense of what is being made where.



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CANBERRA YOUTH / THEATRE

CANBERRA YOUTH THEATRE

Based in Australia's capital, we provide opportunities for young artists (7-25 yrs) to share their voice and develop their creative skills through workshops, performances and artistic collaboration.

Anais Maro
business@cytc.net
cytc.net

 canberrayouththeatre



WAREHOUSE CIRCUS

We are a safe space for all people to make friends and learn acrobatics, aerial, manipulations and more.

Aleshia Johnson
admin@warehousecircus.org.au
warehousecircus.org.au

 warehousecircus

NEW SOUTH WALES



ATYP

We are Australia's national youth theatre company, producing award-winning work with young people which tours nationally and internationally.

Fraser Corfield
ad@atyp.com.au
atyp.com.au

 atyp_theatre



JOPUKA PRODUCTIONS

We are the Central Coast of NSW' youth-arts theatre company for independent performing arts training and development of emerging artists aged 12-30 years.

Joshua Maxwell
joshua@jopukaproductions.com.au
jopukaproductions.com.au

 jopukaproductionsinc



MATRIARK THEATRE

We devise new theatrical works for families, blending whimsical puppetry and glorious visuals together with folk tales and physical theatre.

Scott Parker
scott@matriarktheatre.com
matriarktheatre.com

 matriarktheatre



MONKEY BAA THEATRE COMPANY

We create theatre for young people that tours across Australia and internationally. We tell stories that challenge and inspire, embrace social and cultural connectivity, and celebrate Australia's rich cultural heritage.

Eva di Cesare
eva@monkeybaa.com.au
monkeybaa.com.au

 monkeybaatheatreco

OUTBACK THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

OUTBACK THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We make large-scale, collaborative projects with young people (and their wider communities) in South West NSW. These small, rural communities are spread out across vast plains of bush and agriculture, with limited services and little or no arts infrastructure.

Sarah Parsons
admin@outbacktheatre.com
outbacktheatre.com

 outbacktheatre



SPAGHETTI CIRCUS

We are a youth performing arts company and circus school. Based in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, we have our own Big Top tent and produce Australia's National Mullumbimby Circus Festival.

Alice Cadwell
spaghettagm@gmail.com
spaghettagm.com

 spaghettagm



RIVERSIDE: NATIONAL THEATRE OF PARRAMATTA

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta based in Sydney's geographical heart creates new Australian work for young people, from Shaun Tan's Red Tree through to adaptations of Shakespeare. Our work is made to tour and we are interested in partnerships and ways of working that reflect the rich mix of cultures in our community. NToFP focusses on work for ages 7 and up.

 @ntofp



THE HOUSE THAT DAN BUILT

The House makes vocal art. We are an internationally recognised, multidisciplinary performance collective based in Sydney. We work in cross-generational rehearsal rooms with a core ensemble of teenage women and run workshops all over Australia.

Danielle O'Keefe
Danielle@thehousethatDanbuilt.com
TheHouseThatDanBuilt.com

 thehousethatdanbuilt



SHOPFRONT ARTS CO-OP

Our cross-art form organisation is led co-operatively by and dedicated to the artistry of Young People. Based in Sydney, we support Young People to create Performance, Visual and Digital Art.

Daniel Potter
ceo@shopfront.org.au
shopfront.org.au

 shopfront_arts



ZEAL THEATRE

We are an internationally touring theatre company dedicated to producing original plays which explore complex social issues for a predominantly teenage and young adult audience. (Winner of ASSITEJ International President's Prize, 2005).

Stefo Nantsou
zealtheatre@gmail.com
zealtheatre.com.au

QUEENSLAND



BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS

A youth arts organisation based in East Brisbane, we support curious, untamed, and experimental thinkers to challenge ideas and express themselves through many creative art forms.

Katherine Quigley
kath@backbone.org.au
backbone.org.au

 [backboneyoutharts](#)



FLIPSIDE CIRCUS

We provide circus classes and training; performances by, for, and with young people; community and social circus programs; and support for Queensland's circus artists and independent companies.

Robert Kronk
robert@flipsidecircus.org.au
flipsidecircus.org.au

 [flipsidecircus](#)



LARRIKIN PUPPETS

Trained by Jim Henson puppeteers in the USA, we create colourful and exciting puppet shows for festivals, shopping centres, libraries and more, plus puppetry workshops for schools, theatre companies and film/TV productions.

Brett Hansen
brett@larrikinpuppets.com.au
larrikinpuppets.com.au

 [larrikinpuppets](#)



THE YOUNG COMPANY THEATRE

We bring together the theatrical and the educational through immersive pieces of theatre for children and young people aged 5yrs - 18yrs in Far North Queensland.

Leigh Boswell
ceo@theyoungcompany.com.au
theyoungcompany.com.au

 [youngcompcairns](#)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



ACT NOW THEATRE

We tailor socially conscious performance projects and work with professional artists to engage diverse communities around challenging, contemporary issues.

Rhen Soggee
rhen@actnowtheatre.org.au
actnowtheatre.org.au

 [actnowtheatre](#)



CARCLEW

We are a multi-art form and cultural organisation providing young people with opportunities to try different art forms, support emerging artists and advocate for youth arts practice.

Tricia Walton
twalton@carclew.org.au
carclew.com.au

 [carclew](#)



PATCH THEATRE COMPANY

We make design-rich theatrical experiences for 4-8 year olds, with a focus on exploring some of the world's inexplicable questions from a child's point of view.

Teena Munn
teena@patchtheatre.org.au
patchtheatre.org.au

patch_theatre



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CIRCUS CENTRE – HOME OF CIRKIDZ INC

We are the hub of contemporary circus arts in South Australia offering a state of the art space for exploration and storytelling through physical theatre. We have a 70 strong youth performance troupe and engage over 400 children under 12 through weekly circus lessons.

Nick Skibinski
general.manager@cirkidz.org.au
cirkidz.org.au

cirkidz

SLINGSBY

- Journey In Wonder -

SLINGSBY

We create original theatre for people aged eight years and up, including adults. We are an Adelaide based company that tours nationally and internationally.

Andy Packer
info@slingsby.net.au
slingsby.net.au

slingsbytheatre



THE PAPERBOATS

An international partnership platform for theatre-makers and producers who are co-devising and presenting theatre for early childhood audiences in processes underpinned by 7 creative principles.

Dave Brown
dave@thepaperboats.com
thepaperboats.com

thepaperboats



WINDMILL THEATRE

A national company based in Adelaide, we have a global reputation as a leading producer of theatrical work for children, teenagers and families. We tour extensively around the country and present our works across the world.

Kaye Weeks
Kaye.weeks@windmill.org.au
windmill.org.au

windmilltheatreco

NORTHERN TERRITORY



CORRUGATED IRON YOUTH ARTS

We are a multi artform organisation working with children and young people across the Northern Territory. We provide training and present works with a focus on theatre, circus and performance.

Jane Tonkin
jane@corrugatediron.org.au
corrugatediron.org.au

corrugatedironyoutharts

TASMANIA



BLUE COW THEATRE

We develop, produce and tour new Tasmanian work, as well as existing Australian and international works, and run development programs for youth and mature playwrights.

Lucinda Toynbee Wilson
lucinda@bluecowtheatre.com
bluecowtheatre.com

 bluecowtheatreco



TERRAPIN PUPPET THEATRE

We create worlds of adventure and beauty. Our in-theatre productions transport children and families to incredible places and our interactive installations use simple technologies that allow audiences of all ages to transform public spaces.

Belinda Kelly
belinda@terrapin.org.au
terrapin.org.au

 terrapin_puppet_theatre

VICTORIA



ARENA THEATRE COMPANY

Based in the regional city of Bendigo, we create theatre and immersive performance projects with and for young people.

Sharon Custers
sharon@arenatheatre.com.au
arenatheatre.com.au

 arenatheatreco



ASKING FOR TROUBLE

We are a multi-award winning company using circus, physical theatre and clown to make theatre that challenges audiences to be brave, generous and to play!

Christy Flaws
info@askingfortrouble.com.au
askingfortrouble.com.au

 asking_for_trouble



HOUSE OF MUCHNESS

We are a Melbourne-based centre for creativity for young people aged 5 - 17yrs. Our workshops and projects reveal the contemporary condition of young people and their complex relationship with the world.

Alex Walker
info@houseofmuchness.com
houseofmuchness.com

 houseofmuchness



THE LISTIES

Gratuitous, ridiculous, hilarious, and possibly hazardous, we are Australia's maestros of kids' comedy. We make inventive, original, and highly tourable shows for families and young people.

Richard Higgins and Matt Kelly
hello@thelisties.com
thelisties.com


 thelisties



OUTER URBAN PROJECTS

We create new forms of contemporary performance imagined from the life experiences of culturally diverse emerging artists from the outer northern suburbs of Melbourne.

David Ralph
david@outerurbanprojects.org
outerurbanprojects.org

 outerurban

ST MARTINS YOUTH ARTS CENTRE

ST MARTINS YOUTH ART CENTRE

We produce bold and disruptive theatre made with children and teenagers for adult audiences. We also run inclusive performance workshop programs for children aged 5–18.

Kerry O'Sullivan
Kerry@stmartinsyouth.com.au
stmartinsyouth.com.au

 stmartinsyac

polyglot

Theatre is child's play

POLYGOT THEATRE

We create interactive and participatory theatre for children aged 0–12 and their families. We take over public spaces, create transformational worlds and tour our work around the world.

Viv Rosman
viv@polyglot.org.au
polyglot.org.au

 polyglottheatre

SIGNAL ARTPLAY

SIGNAL ARTPLAY

Artplay brings together artists and children (babies – 12yrs) for innovative arts experiences. Signal is a creative studio supporting young people (13 – 25yrs) to explore, develop and present their own work.

Steph Urruty
stephane.urruty@melbourne.vic.gov.au
melbourne.vic.gov.au/artplay
melbourne.vic.gov.au/signal

 artplaykids

 signalarts



WESTSIDE CIRCUS

Based in Melbourne, we produce and run circus, youth arts and inclusive education programs for young people aged 3–25.

Jeremy Davies
ceo@westsidecircus.org.au
westsidecircus.org.au

 /westsidecircus

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

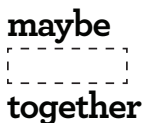


BARKING GECKO

Based in Perth, we make exquisite, timeless and award winning theatre for children and families aged 5 and up.

Helen Hristofski
helen.hristofski@barkinggecko.com.au
barkinggecko.com.au

 barkinggeckotheatre



MAYBE () TOGETHER

We create participatory installation theatre and art for children that share their voices, opinions and ideas with unsuspecting adults.

Alex Desebrock
alex@maybetgether.com.au
maybetgether.com.au

 maybe.together



RIPTIDE YOUTH PERFORMANCE COMPANY

We aim to grow and empower young people through the process of making and presenting original contemporary performance works.

Katt Osborne
kathryn.osborne@manpac.com.au
manpac.com.au

 riptidemandurah



SENSORIUM THEATRE

We make magical multi-sensory, immersive theatre for intimate audiences of young people with disabilities.

Michelle Hovane
michelle@sensoriumtheatre.com
sensoriumtheatre.com.au

 /sensoriumtheatre

ASSITEJ Australia – Independent Artists

Many independent Australian artists — those not permanently attached to a company — create, write, research and present ground-breaking work by, with and for young people. Our artists tour extensively; make inclusive work; and represent the sector on the international stage. Visit the link below for an overview of Australia's independent TYA and Youth Arts sector:

tna.org.au/assitej-australia-independent-artists

CONTACT US

ASSITEJ Australia – National Centre

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of ASSITEJ International

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Nicole Beyer

Executive Director, Theatre Network Australia

nicole@tna.org.au

Sue Giles

Vice President of ASSITEJ International

Sue Giles is the Australian representative and Vice President of ASSITEJ International. She is also Artistic Director and co-CEO of Melbourne's Polyglot Theatre. Sue is a passionate advocate for Theatre for Young Audiences in Australia and internationally. She is also a mentor to artists around the world.

suegiles53@gmail.com

On behalf of ASSITEJ Australia, Theatre Network Australia (TNA) acknowledges the traditional custodians of the unceded lands on which we all meet, gather, and work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

THEATRE NETWORK AUSTRALIA –
HOME OF ASSITEJ AUSTRALIA

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