



Annual Report 2012 - 2013





Weddings in the Sky, FEAST Festival, 2008 (photo Heath Britton)

Company Background

MISSION STATEMENT: *ActNow is a youth led theatre company that tailors socially conscious theatre projects. We engage with professional artists and diverse communities, using theatre to facilitate conversations around challenging, contemporary issues.*

ActNow's work has been critically acclaimed, commended in South Australian Parliament and highly praised by audiences, participants and community organisations. The company creates youth led, high quality, thought provoking, socially relevant theatre with significant community impact.

COMPANY HISTORY: ActNow is a youth led theatre company "with an immense depth and maturity" (Independent Weekly), "unique in the current Australian theatre climate" (Lowdown Youth Arts), producing "independent theatre at its finest" (Australian Stage Online).

Formed in 2007 as a street theatre ensemble led by Edwin Kemp Attrill to highlight the situation of David Hicks, ActNow's beginnings were in developing street theatre projects with young people on political issues. In 2009 the company presented its first staged work *The Revolution Starts Here*, written by two young emerging playwrights. In the same year, the company began working on a contemporary queer adaptation of *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, and in 2010 the company presented Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, later described as the 2010 Best Independent Theatre Production (The Sunday Mail). From 2008-2010 the company presented annual theatre for social change conference *RightAct*, consisting of workshops, forums and performances. In 2010, ActNow began a partnership with the Legal Services Commission of South Australia to develop *Expect Respect!* an interactive performance about the legal implications of rape and sexual assault, which was performed 68 times between 2010 and 2012.

From 2011-2012 emerging writer/director/playwright Sarah Dunn took on the role of Artistic Director with the company. In 2011 the company supported new work Alice and Peter Grow Up, and in 2012 was commissioned to develop a performance about young peoples' perception of success for the Don Dunstan Foundation. In 2012 Edwin Kemp Attrill returned to the company in the new role of Company Producer.



Granny Warfare, FEAST Festival, 2009

Company Producer Report



The last twelve months have been a huge period of change, growth and maturity for the company. In mid 2012, I worked closely with former Artistic Director Sarah Dunn, Chairperson Kristy Megaw and the Board of Management to identify the strengths of the company and establish the most effective way forward. We decided to hone the company's primary focus to work in-schools and, in partnership with NGO's, create engaging, interactive, issue based theatre. My role since then has primarily involved establishing a business model and strategic plan to achieve this.

It has been a period of experimentation which has certainly paid off.

The year of 2012 was primarily focused on restructuring the company, building organisational capacity and planning projects for 2013. ActNow has maintained a strong profile and has always had good support from the industry.

So far this year, the company has redeveloped and launched *Speak Out* - an interactive performance addressing homophobia in high schools - based on the hugely successful model of *Expect Respect*. The project has been performed several times, and the company has successfully secured a partnership with Feast Festival and funding for 30 performances in late 2013, including two weeks of regional tours.

At the start of the year, the company began a partnership with RiAus to develop a show exploring the science of ageing. With a commissioned script from local playwright Emily Steel and a very fine ensemble of actors, the company created one of it's best successes yet, *The Clock*, which ran a successful regional high school tour, but also clearly struck a chord for older audiences.

In addition, the company has re-developed long standing project *Expect Respect*, to focus on a value-based health approach. We were honoured to be invited to present the performance at the international White Ribbon Conference in Sydney in May 2013.

So far 2013 is shaping up to be our best year yet. I'm incredibly thankful for the support and guidance of the Board of Management, especially Kristy Megaw, and to Sarah Dunn, who have supported the company in my absence.

It's bloody good to be back.

- Edwin Kemp Attrill



The last 12 months have seen a significant period of change for ActNow. The company has gone through a large range of changes and developments in this period and as a result has seen dramatic changes in the breadth of opportunities for the company. The Board of Management has developed a number of key policies to provide the company with a strong foundation moving forwards. The artistic output of the company has increased this year and been at an exceptionally high standard. We have established numerous partnerships with NGO's and funding bodies, and significantly furthered our brand amongst the industry, general public and schools, most notably in regional areas. There has been a strong diversification of revenue, and a marked increase in income for the company during this period.

At our July 2012 AGM, we approved changes to the constitution to remove membership of the company, streamline the process of co-opting board members and simplify the management structure of the company to better reflect the existing situation of the company. This has proved to be significantly beneficial for the company with a stronger focus on Company 'basics' such as policies, budgeting, mix of board attributes and so forth.

In August 2012, we appointed ActNow founder and former Artistic Director, Edwin Kemp Attrill as the Company Producer on a part-time contract to develop the business model of the company. Edwin is an asset to the company and has been key to the success of the new model over the past twelve months.

I would like to thank outgoing Board Members Gemma Sneddon, Catherine Story and Shaylee Leach for their hard-work and commitment to the company. I would like to thank former Artistic Director Sarah Dunn for her time in the role, and congratulate her on entering the Flinders University Directors Course.

I would also like to welcome the several new Board Members who we've appointed during 2012-2013. Each member has brought a diverse range of skills and experience to the Board of Management and have already made a huge contribution to the management of the company.

Now that ActNow has the built a strong foundation, the next period will see the company develop product, branding and increase in market strength.

- Kristy Megaw

Staff, Volunteers and Board of Management

BOARD MEMBERS:

- Kristy Megaw (Chairperson)
- Peter Grace (Executive Services Manager, Carclew Youth Arts) (since December 2012)
- Mellssa White (Drama Teacher, Brighton Secondary School) (since February 2013)
- Shaez Mortimer (Actor and Law Student) (since February 2013)
- Laura Gilbie (Graduate of Accounting) (since March 2013)
- Gemma Sneddon (until July 2012)
- Catherine Story (until March 2013)
- Shaylee Leach (until December 2012)
- Elizabeth Hay (Actor)
- Kym Begg
- Sarah Dunn (Former Artistic Director) (until July 2012)
- Edwin Kemp Attrill (Former Artistic Director) (Until August 2012)

EX OFFICIO:

Edwin Kemp Attrill (Company Producer)

OTHER:

Sophie Bruhn (Online Content Manager)



The Clock, Mount Gambier Civic Centre, 2013

The Clock (2013)

Through an Unlocking Australia's Potential science and communication grant, The Royal Institution of Australia partnered with ActNow Theatre to develop an interactive performance, *The Clock* (formerly known under working title *The Science of Ageing*).

Written by: Emily Steel, writer of 2011's *Rocket Town*, winner of the Fringe 2011 Adelaide Festival Centre inSPACE:Development Award and *Sepia*, winner of the 2012 Adelaide Fringe Tour Ready Award.

Directed by: Edwin Kemp Attrill.

Cast: Elizabeth Hay, Chrissie Page, Andrew Thomas and Rory Walker.

The Clock performed in Adelaide, Port Augusta, Mount Gambier, Victor Harbor and Goolwa between May - June 2013.

"It was an hour well spent – thoughtful, insightful, funny, sad, challenging."

- Audience Member, Mount Gambier

"A loving, entertaining (informative) and charming look at Ageing."

- Audience Member, Victor Harbor

"One of the few public offerings that allows audience members to feel good about ageing, to actually feel proud to have aged."

- Dr PJ Rose

"Each audience member was personally enriched and left the performance with more than we came in with. I'm so glad I saw it."

- Audience Member, Adelaide

The Clock was supported by the following organisations:



EMILY STEEL, WRITER

11 MAY 2013

The Clock: age takes to the stage

Download audio

Wednesday 5 June 2013 9:23AM

The Clock is an Australian play exploring ageing in surprising ways. Four

A TIME FOR AGEING

This is supposed to be one of those significant years

get everyone to do we provide q

for me –

BY PAUL WILLIAMS

Recent grants asked

WHAT'S ON IN SCIENCE

Interactive show delivers new perspective on ageing stereotype



GEORGIA KELLY-BAKKER
Email: georgia@tbw.com.au

A NEW interactive play exploring the biological and social aspects of ageing we've been exploring is really personal for

The Clock, written by writer Emily Steel, will be performed at the Corner Complex on Tuesday 10 June, 7pm, as a matinee for Year 10 students and an evening show for the general public. Presented by RiAus, Science and ActNow.

Is ageing just a number, or a state of mind?

A new piece of interactive theatre exploring the biological and social aspects of ageing.

assumptions, expectations, ambitions and fears of getting old, but we don't often think about it - at least 'us young people' don't think about it.

SCIENCE TO PEOPLE PEOPLE TO SCIENCE

EXCHANGE.



The Clock, Port Augusta High School, 2013

Speak Out (2013)

Speak Out is an interactive theatre performance tackling homophobia in high schools. *Speak Out* is presented by young professional actors and a facilitator to;

- Explore various forms of homophobia and the effect it has on all students
- Provide opportunities for young people to explore strategies to respond to homophobia
- Provide take home information for young people on issues raised in the performance and services available to Same Sex attracted young people.

Directed by: Edwin Kemp Attrill.

Cast and devisors: Andrew Thomas, Matilda Bailey, Matthew Gregan, Edwin Kemp Attrill (facilitator)

Research and Evaluation: Henrietta Karmel

“ActNow Theatre’s Speak Out performance open minds, is engaging & interactive, thought provoking, inclusive and powerful in getting young people thinking about how to be respectful of others and that name calling is hurtful and harassment is not okay.” - Youth Worker

“I was also impressed by my students who really tackled the big ideas and ‘stood up’ for equality. There is something very special about standing in someone else’s shoes to empathise and to change one’s perception, and perhaps our world, little by little. Forum theatre is certainly a great catalyst for this type of change. What a great job! The company are doing very important work and my students benefited greatly.” - High School Teacher

In 2012-13 ActNow presented Speak Out to Department for Education and Child Development conference Gender on the Agenda, at Unley High School, Twelve-25 Youth Enterprise Centre for Salisbury High School Students, and at Brighton Secondary College. The project has been funded through Office for Youth for 20 additional performances in 2013.

Speak Out has been supported by the following organisations:



Supported by
Government of South Australia
Office for Youth





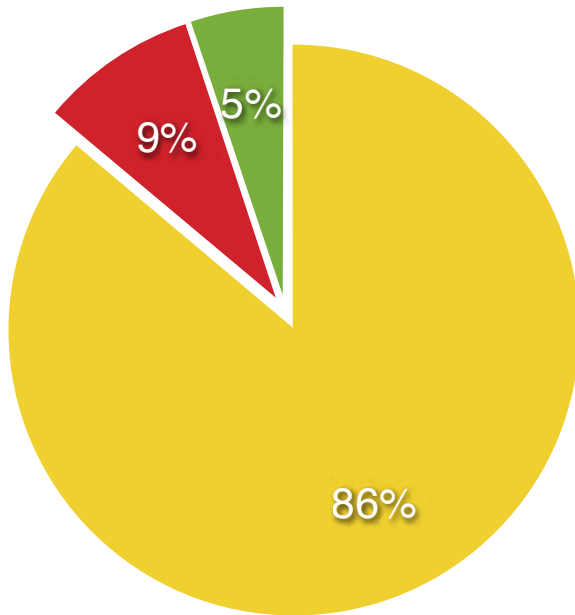
Speak Out, Department of Education and Childhood Development, 2013

Pilot Speak Out Evaluation (summary)

from two performances at Brighton High School

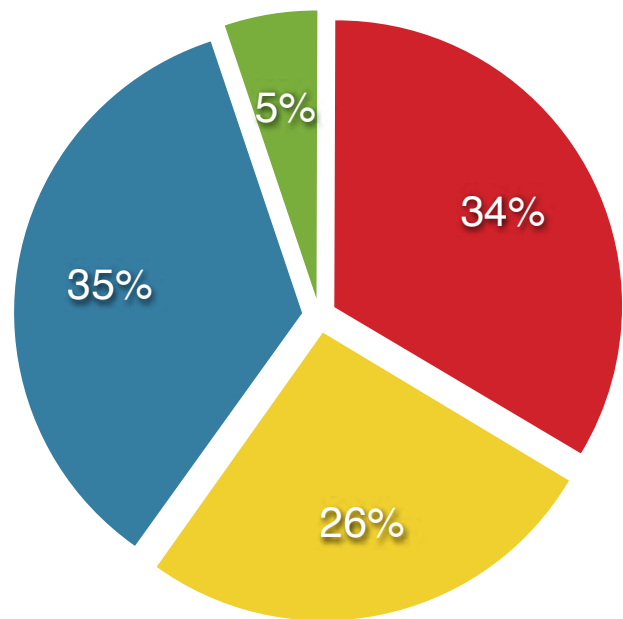
Did you enjoy Speak Out?

● yes ● no ● no response



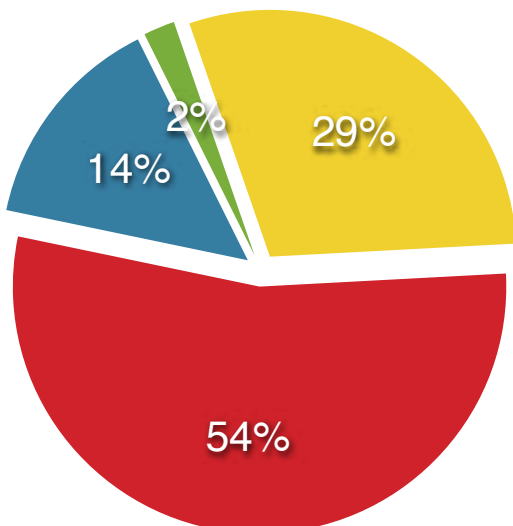
Did speak out provide you with any of the following techniques to stop homophobia?

● 3 techniques
● 2 techniques
● 1 technique
● no techniques/no response



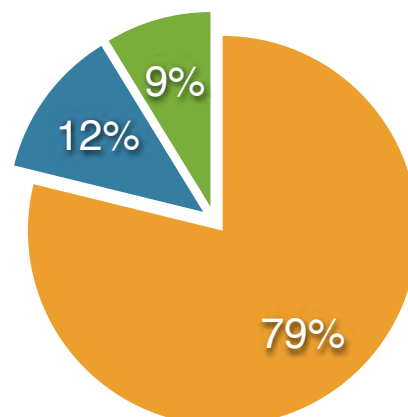
Did Speak Out make you realize you have seen homophobia in the past, but have not recognized it?

● I have seen homophobia but did not recognise it until Speak Out
● I have seen homophobia and I recognised it
● I have not seen homophobia
● No Response



Did the students who volunteered interventions provide you with useful techniques to stop homophobia?

● Yes
● No
● No Response



Forum For Consent (2013)

Following the success of *Expect Respect* (2010-2013), ActNow Theatre developed *Forum For Consent*, to focus on the healthy relationships and consent. The project was commissioned twice by University of Adelaide Student Union, and was invited to present at the International White Ribbon Conference in Sydney, May 2013.

“White Ribbon Australia welcomed the Forum for Consent at the inaugural White Ribbon International Conference 2013 - an engaging interactive performance by a group of committed performers who clearly understand the importance of preventing violence against women.” - Libby Davies, CEO White Ribbon



CO2 Estimate

All project totals Jan – June, 2013

Estimate total: 3,078kg CO2

Per audience member: 4.1kg CO2

Project Power Demand	13kg CO2
Project Travel	3,243kg CO2
Car Travel (on tour)*	868kg CO2
Air Travel (on tour)*	2,000kg CO2
Accommodation (tour)	195kg CO2
Freight	0kg CO2
Project Waste	1kg CO2

Through estimating, recording and publishing Carbon Footprint, ActNow intends to develop a business model that is both environmentally sustainable and open. Aside from the obvious need for ongoing human survival, responding to climate change has the potential to make us better, more responsible, creative and intelligent people. We are excited by this challenge.

This is a rough estimate based on basic project information. Calculations and inspiration have come from www.juliesbicycle.com

**ActNow Theatre
Profit & Loss Statement
for FY ending 30 June 2013**

	\$	\$
Income		
School Bookings		2,090.00
Non-School Bookings		31,600.00
State Government Grants		1,000.00
Miscellaneous Income		1.19
Bank Interest		76.44
Total Income		34,767.63
Expenses		
<u>Personnel Costs</u>		
Producer - Contract Costs	5,885.00	
Actors' Fees	16,120.00	
Directors' Fees	5,844.08	
Writers' Fees	<u>3,500.00</u>	31,349.08
<u>Production Expenses</u>		
Catering	208.16	
Misc Prodn Expenses	<u>147.55</u>	355.71
<u>Travel Expenses</u>		
Accommodation	856.00	
Transport	<u>1,206.58</u>	2,062.58
<u>Advertising & PR Expenses</u>		
Printing		144.00
<u>Administration Expenses</u>		
Office Rent	250.00	
Photocopying & Stationery	246.89	
Insurance	612.47	
Legal & Professional Fees	617.25	
Postage & Mailbox Costs	25.58	
Bank Interest & Charges	<u>104.88</u>	1,857.07
Total Expenses		35,768.44
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>-1,000.81</u>

**ActNow Theatre
Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2013**

	\$	\$
Assets		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Petty Cash	27.10	
Expense Account	171.73	
General Account	14,225.80	
Accounts Receivable	3,710.00	
Prepaid Expenses	<u>135.42</u>	18,270.05
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
Prodn Equip - Miscellaneous	129.89	
Office Equipment	<u>77.34</u>	<u>207.23</u>
Total Assets		18,477.28
 Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		100.00
Reimbursements Owing		93.20
Unexpended Grant Income		<u>11,605.00</u>
Total Liabilities		11,798.20
 Net Assets		 <u>6,679.08</u>
 Equity		
Current Earnings (YTD)		-1,000.81
Retained Earnings		<u>7,679.89</u>
Total Equity		<u>6,679.08</u>

Treasurer's Declaration

In the opinion of the Treasurer of ActNow Theatre, the enclosed Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet provide a true and fair view of ActNow Theatre's financial position as at 30 June 2013, and of its financial performance for the financial year ended on that date.



Laura Gilbie
Treasurer
30 August 2013

We would like to especially thank the following organisations:

Funding:



Supported by
Government of South Australia
Office for Youth



An Australian Government Initiative



Key Project Partners:

