actnew theatre

Annual Report 2019

Always was, always will be First Nations Land.

ActNow Theatre is based on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people near Wauwi (Light Square) and Tarntanya Wama (Adelaide Plain/Oval) on Karrawirra Parri (River Torrens). We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today. This land was never ceded.

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Who Are We?

We are a South Australian theatre company that tailors socially conscious performance projects. We work with professional artists to engage diverse communities in conversations around challenging and contemporary issues.

Our Vision. The democratisation of storytelling.

Our Mission. ActNow Theatre creates interactive arts projects for social justice outcomes. We strive to create and champion the work of traditionally underrepresented artistic communities; embed artists in organisations outside the arts sector; present work in theatres, schools, workplaces, healthcare settings and community spaces; support career developmentfor diverse artists; contribute to methodologies of CACD and artistic social practice; and develop stories through theatre, games, screen and emergent artforms. We see our work as empowering communities through art, and our audiences as the catalyst for social change.

Our Guiding Principles. Imagination. Participation. Diversity. Openness.

In 2019 we launched a new strategic plan.

See the full plan here.



The Team

Edwin Kemp Attrill. Rhen Soggee. Yasmin Gurreeboo. **Caitlin Ellen Moore.** Chiara Gabrielli. Nelya Valamanesh. jden redden. Jane Howard. Jennifer Greer Holmes. **Alexis West**.





Our Volunteers

Meg Allison. Chela Bett. **Ruby Byass.** Matcho Intrumz Cassidy. **Rushley Ebero. Dan Xavier Fraser. Elizabeth Hay.** Aphra Walton-Humphreys. Jamila Main. Caitlin Ellen Moore. Sunit Saha. Samantha E Schaeffer. **Rachel Richards.**

Our Artists

Malika Abdul. Manuela Alkot. Lur Alghurabi. **David Arcidiacco**. Nikki Ashby. Elyas Avali. Shabana Azeez. Ali Baker. Lachlan Barnett. Emma Beech. Valerie Berry. **Ben Brooker**. **Robyn Brookes.**

Rachel Burke. **Catherine Campbell.** Matcho Cassidy. Teddy Dunn. **Erin Fowler.** Chiara Gabrielli. Jermaine Hampton. Mahira Hasanovic. **Annabel Matheson.** Lochlin Maybury. Nathan May. Kiara Milera. **Eddie Morrison**. **Tim Overton. Hew Parham.**

Brittany Plummer. Disha Raval. Linikka Richards. **Gina Rings**. Rami Saaid. Samantha Schaeffer. Amalia Sosrodiredjo. Anna Steen. Juanita Sumner. Sunny. Simone Tur. Elijah Valadian-Wilson. Nelya Valamanesh. **Kyron Weetra. Alexis West.**

Kirsty Wigg. Marlee Wilson. Ben-Hur Winter. Manal Younus. Houman Zandizadeh. **Our Board**

Chairperson Tamsin Anspach. Secretary Simon Krieg. Treasurer Cassie Magin. Member Chela Bett. Member jden redden. Member Rhen Soggee. Member Edwin Kemp Attrill. **Member Ben Brooker (Resigned** 27/11/2019). Member Hon Steph Key MP (Resigned 27/11/2019). **Chairperson Matthew Ives (Resigned** 24/7/2019). **Treasurer Jo Coventry (Resigned** 10/9/2019). Member Eliza Lovell (Resigned 3/9/2019).



Chairperson's Report

It has been an immense privilege to become Chairperson this year. During Actnow's 12th year of operations and first year of multi year funding the Board on the next chapter of leadership. Multi year funding introduced stability as we continued to strive to create with, by and for underrepresented communities towards social justice outcomes.

It's great seeing MakeSpace come to life in the ways we had envisaged in establishing ActNow's own space, with it shining through an inaugural Fringe Season, creative developments, showings and becoming the heart of the community for Soul Lounge. The warmth, welcome and outpouring of creativity speaks to ActNow's core business.

The year saw ActNow enter international waters for the first time, with research trips to Indonesia around climate change and collaborations and connections in North Asia with Very Theatre and and International Arts Markets. Closer to home we excitingly had sold out seasons in DreamBig Children's Festival. The team worked on developing new projects, delivery of existing antiracism programs and providing free workshops to underrepresented communities. ActNow thrives through partnerships with other organisations - whether that be creative partnerships, such as with Very Theatre or Decorum Group, or delivery partnerships, such as with Reconciliation SA or DreamBIG, or supporters, such as Creative Partnerships Australia. We couldn't do the work we do without you, and it's ever inspiring that we have so many like minded and socially driven partners to connect and work with.

The Board sincerely thanks Edwin Kemp Attrill, his tireless and blazing leadership and the team he has built, in their unwavering efforts throughout 2019. There have been shifting faces here too, farewelling Jane Howard's astute services and welcoming the worldly Caitlin Ellen Moore and Associate Artist Chiara Gabrielli, moving on after establishing MakeSpace as a Fringe Hub. As well as Associate Producers jden redden and Nelya Valamanesh, working to elevate the Theatre of the Global Majority program. And Alexis West for her leadership with the First Nations focused projects. All valued by both ActNow and the communities you worked with. We also want to thank the myriad of artists who work with us, and help us to make the magic happen day to day. Finally I'd like to thank all the Board members, old and new, who oversee and support ActNow to ensure it keeps on creating positive social change through the performing arts. Thank you in particular to Matthew Ives, who concluded a great two year leadership. We also farewelled our long term Treasurer, Jo Coventry, as well as members Steph Key, Eliza Lovell and Ben Brooker. This made way to welcome former Associate Producer, jden redden and Theatre of the Global Majority member Chela Bett to our ranks, a team I am proud to work alongside.

Here's to a great year; here's to furthering the democratisation of storytelling in 2020!

Tamsin Anspach

Chairperson



Artistic Director's Report

For most of human history, "art" and "community" were inseparable concepts. Some say that it wasn't until the middle of last century - less than 100 years ago - that the theatre became commodified, engaging audiences as consumers rather than patrons. Increasingly, the role of the artist has been placed on a pedestal, something to be admired from a distance for its rarity and spectacle.

We want to bring art back to the community, where it belongs. In 2019 we redeveloped our strategic plan, resulting in a new company vision: the democratisation of storytelling.

Over the past few years, the company has refocused its program to be able to support the development of artistic communities, particularly around the identities of First Nations, LGBTIQ+ and Culturally and Linguistically diverse people. In 2019 this truly came to fruition, the company has been at its most lively, bold, thoughtful and inspired position in the company's history. Where audiences are directly engaged in performances, such as our ongoing performances Generation of Change, Responding to Racism, Like Me, Like You, development of primary school performance about Climate Change, Second Nature, and tailored workshops for Womens and Childrens Hospital. We supported communities to tell their own stories, such as the 2019 development of Jumu'ah, a workshop and performance specifically about Islamaphobia, created entirely by artists from Muslim backgrounds.

In 2019 we engaged in three international exchanges, most notably with Very Theatre in Taiwan engaging with local queer community members to create a bilingual peice about virtual intimacy. We've supported workshop participants to develop their self expression, confidence and sense of identity, through our ongoing workshop programs Theatre of the Global Majority, Queer Youth Theatre and First Nations Pathway program, including employment of these participants within our company and broader arts community. These achievements come from the work of a highly functioning team - General Manager and International Producer Rhen Soggee, Associate Director Yasmin Gureeboo and Marketing & Development Coordinator Caitlin Ellen Moore. Photographer: Kris Kang Virtual Intimacy

The arts is an incredibly challenging industry, and to survive needs not just skill, dedication and resilience, but passion, emotional investment and bravery. Together with a range of amazing artists, a suite of community partners, a board of incredible area experts and many mobs of audience members and participants, we have built ActNow to be a nationally recognized Community Arts and Cultural Development Organisation to achieve its vision of democratising storytelling.

Edwin Kemp Attrill

Artistic Director & CEO



General Manager & International Producer's Report

As this report demonstrates, ActNow Theatre has been stretching its legs significantly in 2019. Beginning our first year of state multi-year funding, we hosted our first Fringe season as a venue, with award winning shows, began to dabble more seriously overseas attending International Arts Markets in Japan and Taiwan as well as creative developments in Taiwan and Indonesia, and were just as busy on our own shores, with creative developments across our key communities and mentoring of Associate Producers. Existing repertoire, Responding to Racism and Generation of Change, was added to by Like Me, Like You, with festival appearances, whilst we saw the successful return of regular programs like the Arts Pathway Program. Internally, we've grown in governance and infrastructure to support this too.

I'd like to deeply thank the Board for their efforts, led by Chairperson, Matthew Ives and then Tamsin Anspach, Secretary, Simon Krieg, Treasurer, Jo Coventry and then Cass Magin, and Board members, Eliza Lovell, Hon. Steph Key, Ben Brooker, Chela Bett and jden redden, for their enthusiastic and ongoing commitment, support and belief in the work ActNow Theatre does. Whilst we farewelled many longstanding members, it's been exciting to cultivate a Board that is increasingly representative of the communities we work with.

ActNow is very grateful for our community of volunteers - particularly during our first ventures as a Fringe venue. Your time, energy and commitment are hugely appreciated, as is the warmth and enrichment of your presence in the space. Thank you for being part of our journey!

We are very grateful too, for those who support us through donations - cash or in-kind. These gestures mean that our reach and activity can have a greater, deeper and ongoing impact. In 2019 we particularly thank those who donated to our Plus1 Campaign, and thank you to Creative Partnerships Australia for matching every dollar raised to double the impact. To our community of creatives - I can't say enough about how wonderful it is to work with you participants, actors, directors, designers, writers, thinkers, producers, workshop leaders - the list goes on. Your creativity, professionalism and drive is ever inspiring!

Finally, I want to thank the staff of ActNow Theatre. Your dedication and passion to our vision of democratising storytelling shines through all the work you have done in 2019!

Rhen Soggee



General Manager & International Producer



Photographer: Kris Kang Virtual Intimacy Theatre of the Global Majority

Projects in 2019

Arts Pathway Program

Arts Pathway Program is a four-day workshop series for First Nations people interested in developing careers in the arts. The program sets out to give participants a strong foundational understanding of the arts industry and knowledge of options for further training and employment.

2019 was the fourth year that the program has taken place. Led by First Nations artist Alexis West, with support from ActNow's Associate Director Yasmin Gurreeboo and artists Gina Rings and Kiara Milera, this year's program took place on the 9th - 12th of July at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Arts Institute.

Arts Pathway Program was delivered in partnership with Yunggorendi - Flinders University, Kurruru Arts and Kura Yerlo Inc, State Theatre Company South Australia and Tandanya. "Everything is more than I expected, it's just joyful, the people around, the instructors... It's everything I thought it was going to be and more... I didn't know what I was going to be getting myself into... But I am enjoying every moment." - Participant





Theatre of the Global Majority

Led by ActNow Associate Director Yasmin Gurreeboo, alongside local artists Valerie Berry and Nelya Valamanesh, Theatre of the Global Majority recognises non-white people make up the biggest population of people in the world – and the Australian arts scene needs to hold up their voices.

Theatre of the Global Majority is a free fortnightly program for people aged 18+ from non-white culturally diverse backgrounds.

Workshops led by: Manal Younus. Emma Beech. Valerie Berry. Edwin Kemp Attrill. Robyn Brookes. Anna Steen.

Tim Overton. Kirsty Wigg. Catherine Campbell. Hew Parham.





"It was above and beyond - the best you could ever imagine to achieve as a community art group!"

- Participant

Photographer: Alex Kwong Theatre of the Global Majority

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Photographer: Kate Pardey Queer Youth Theatre Workshops

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Queer Youth Theatre Workshops

Queer Youth Theatre Workshops are an opportunity for LGTBQIA+ identifying people aged 18 - 30 to work with professional artists, develop performance skills, meet like-minded people and build pathways into the arts industry.

Run by local queer professional artists, the group used this space to discover new ideas and, potentially, create a new work. 2019 saw two seasons of workshops.

17 WORKSHOPS 37 PARTICIPANTS

Workshops led by: Teddy Dunn. Chiara Gabrielli. Valerie Berry. Edwin

Kemp Attrill. Annabel Matheson. Lachlan Barnett. Ben-Hur Winter.

Jamila Main. Caitlin Ellen Moore.

Photographer: Kate Pardey Queer Youth Theatre Workshops

"The first time I came was because I loved the idea of a theatre group where you didn't have to be afraid to speak up about being queer and then I never stopped and here we are a few years later."

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- Participant

Like Me, Like You

Like Me, Like You is our first work for primary school students. Developed in partnership with Reconciliation SA, Like Me, Like You is an interactive performance introducing children in years 1-4 to the idea of diversity.

It explores all of the different people, cultures, and stories that make up Australia today - from the First Nations people who have been here for thousands of years, to the new migrants who've just arrived! After development and rehearsals in 2018, 2019 saw the show premiere at DreamBIG Festival and tour in schools across the year.

Actors: Eddie Morrison. Nathan May. Kyron Weetra. Valerie Berry.

Mahira Hasanovic. Marlee Wilson. Yasmin Gurreeboo.

18 PERFORMANCES 1,993 AUDIENCE MEMBERS

"It was quite emotional hearing the students furnish articulate and caring solutions about the issue of racism and I was reminded that a racist attitude is a learned viewpoint rather than an inherent characteristic."

KILL

- Theatre Travels

Photographer: Kate Pardey

Like Me, Like You

Generation of Change

Since 2014, Reconciliation South Australia and ActNow Theatre have been delivering Generation of Change to schools and communities across South Australia.

A full day program, Generation of Change includes our interactive theatre performance Responding to Racism which teaches audiences how to identify, respond to and prevent racism.

In 2019 ActNow Theatre visited 12 schools, 14 communities, and had 8 shows in the 2019 DreamBIG Festival. Our program reached 1,934 students and community members.



Actors: Kiara Milera. Mahira Hasanovic. Lochy Maybury. Edwin Kemp Attrill. Elijah Valadian-Wilson. Lachlan Barnett. Nathan May. Juanita Sumner. Nelya Valamanesh. David Arcidiaco. Manal Younus. Linikka Richards. Malika Abdul. Yasmin Gurreeboo.



Responding to Racism

Jumu'ah (Friday Prayers) جُمْعَة

The newest work in ActNow Theatre's repertoire, Jumu'ah is a theatre in education piece that explores the daily lives of Muslim Australians through a 25-minute performance bookended by an interactive workshop.

In 2019, Jumu'ah was taken from consultation to a script to a week-long development and rehearsal period, and then tested in 3 schools to 149 students. The final piece has been written by Lur Alghurabi, an Iraqi memoir writer, and Manal Younus, a young Muslim woman of Eritrean heritage and South Australian based writer and performer.

This work has been developed in consultation with members of the Muslim community, and with Muslim Women's Association of South Australia, Australian Refugee Association, and Multicultural Youth Australia. **Directed by: Yasmin Gurreeboo.**

Written by: Lur Alghurabi and Manal Younus.

Sound Designer: Nelya Valamanesh.

Stage Manager: Chiara Gabrielli.

Performer: Manal Younus.

Performer: Shabana Azeez.

Performer: Rami Saaid.





Virtual Intimacy

In 2019, ActNow Theatre's collaboration with Taiwenese company Very Theatre took major strides. Building on previous works by Chou Tung Yen and Edwin Kemp Attrill, Virtual Intimacy is a new collaboration exploring queer virtual intimacy.

An interactive performance that uses theatre and live film to explore the ways queer communities develop and interact online and through mobile phone apps, this work was developed in collaboration with queer communities in Australia and Taiwan.

In 2019 Virtual Intimacy held workshops in Adelaide, Melbourne and Taiwan, and had 3 work in progress showings at the National Theatre and Concert Hall Taipei.



Women's & Children's Health Network

Driven to create a health service that is responsive to patient, carer and consumer needs across the lifespan, this project aims to plan, deliver and evaluate as a proof of concept. The result is an interactive training to 150 staff and community members across the Network - enabling them to partner effectively with consumers.

2019 saw the running of 2 workshops with 80 participants.

Second Nature

In partnership with Decorum Group, an environmental consultancy based in Adelaide, ActNow Theatre is developing an interactive work about climate change for primary school-aged children. The work will be developed and performed by Australian and Indonesian artists in schools and other performance contexts in both countries.

In 2019, Ben Brooker took a research and development trip to Indonesia. Following that, the artists attached to the project had a one week development both in ActNow Theatre's venue MakeSpace and outside in the environment. The development focused around ritual and the body and the connection with have with nature.

In the future, the work will engage with diverse communities, and explore the differences and similarities in the Indonesian and Australian experiences of climate change and investigate climate change as a 'glocal' phenomenon.

Creative Team: Ben Brooker. Amalia Sosrodiredjo. Teddy Dunn. Erin Fowler. Rachel Burke. Mira Sulistiyanto.

Photographer: Caitlin E Moore

Second Nature

Artist Voices

South Australia is home to some incredibly diverse and talented artists. Artist Voices was a work developed in 2018 with Manal Younus, giving a chance for five poets to share some of their stories in their own voices.

The stories, released over five videos in 2019, spoke of moving to Australia from Kenya, the ongoing effects of the Cambodian Genocide, the search for a homeland, and the fight for the world we want to live in.

Artist Voices reached 12.6k viewers and is still available to watch on YouTube. <u>Watch Artist Voices here.</u>

Artists: Manal Younus. Elyas Avali. Disha Raval. Manuela Akot. Sunny. Black Box Films. ---

A Poem For My Funeral - Manuela Artist Voices



Soul Lounge

Inspired by other non-white culturally diverse artistic community events, Soul Lounge emphasises escalating the development of artists of diverse backgrounds, whether they are bilingual, minorities, or uprooted migrant children who exchange their confusion and calamity into cadence and rhythm.

Happening once a month, MakeSpace continues to be a home for this event.

7 EVENTS 200 AUDIENCE MEMBERS

MakeSpace



First opening in 2018, MakeSpace has continued to be a space for making: making theatre, making poetry, and making your voice heard.

In 2019, MakeSpace was a home for 15 works, including works such as Ben Brooker's Below The Line, Jamila Main's Butterfly Kicks, Back Porch Theatre's Moof's Adventures and Rebecca Meston's Drive.

We were also a venue for the 2019 Adelaide Fringe Festival. Throughout the festival we ran a full season with Show Off!, a open mic off-Fringe night, Chameleon, FRANK. Theatre and Britt Plummer's premiere solo work, A Capella Around The World, from Canadian company FreePlay, Illuminated, from independent theatre and film company Moontan Productions, and Archetype, a local show mixing poetry and physical theatre.



Treasurer's Report

Our 2019 financial year has seen ActNow Theatre mature financially and lay strong foundations for the next phase of the organisation.

The management and development team continue to increase awareness of the company, with philanthropic support of the organisation growing year on year. ActNow continues to attract above average levels of support from government agencies and private foundations, thanks to the dedication of staff, artists and audiences.

An internal systems review saw the commencement of many improvements across the organisation. Cloud-based accounting and other software allows for greater accountability and transparency, and ease of access for all users, as more roles become flexible and the team travels for workshops, performance and development.

The introduction of multi-year funding to the company promises the delivery of exceptional programs in the future. With the availability of healthy cashflow and additional resourcing ActNow looks at growing and updating their repertoire in accordance with demand. We look forward to entering the next stage of our growth plan as we enter 2020 and beyond.

Cassie Magin

PROFIT & LOSS	NOTE	2019 \$	2018 \$	PROFIT & LOSS CNTD. NO	DTE	2019	2018
REVENUE		Ψ	φ			\$	\$
Donations		9,688	11,398	Other Operating Expenses		23,676	2,218
Interest Income		1,6751,579271,911135,387153,713241,687		Performance Production Expense	126,485	111,828	
Fees				Postage	316	287	
Grants				Printing & Stationery	4,498	2,781	
Other Income	ncome		933	Rent	33,177	24,075	
		436,987	390,984	Salaries		203,855	170,982
EXPENSES		,		Staff Training & Welfare		895	6,923
Accountancy Fees		3,718	5,749	Subscriptions		2,884	1,790
Administration Costs		5,325	9,729	Sundry Expenses	Sundry Expenses		909
Advertising		4,343	1,688	Superannuation Contributions Telephone Travelling Expenses Website Expenses Workcover RTWSA		27,118	16,149
5		4,343				2,020	807
Auditors Fee		-	3,480			29,778	7,751
Bank Charges		364	739			1,005	469
Catering Expenses		12,152	2,214			433	658
Computer Expenses		1,154	1,189			497,693	383,698
Consultancy Fees		3,025	2,585	OTHER INCOME			
Depreciation		1,057	1,782	Foreign Currency Exchanges		(212)	_
Fees & Permits		563	1,196				
Fines		92	-	NET PROFIT (LOSS)		(212)	-
Insurance		5,741	3,379			(60,919)	7,286
Low Value Assets Written Off		2,505	2,341				

BALANCE SHEET CURRENT ASSETS	NOTE	2019 \$	2018 \$				
Petty Cash Imprest		113	-				
Westpac Community Solutions		306,471	14,426				
BAS and Super Holding Account		18,344	61,231				
Westpac Public Fund		5,186	-				
General Account		1	-				
Westpac Term Deposit		11,231	-				
Term Deposit #1U Le Guin		5,000	-				
Expense Ac (Debit 0774 & 0395)		1,899	-				
Loan & Go Purchase Card		16	-				
Accounts Receivable		88,876	105,371				
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		427,125	181,027				
NON-CURRENT ASSETS							
Property, plant and equipment	3	7,630	8,687				
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		7,630	8,687				
TOTAL ASSETS		444,755	189,714				
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Payroll Liabilities		24,350	27,591				
Trade Creditors		3,220	43,657				
Provision for GST		39,678	9,121				
Grants In Advance		388,383	56,001				
Income Recieved in Advance		-	3,300				
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		455,630	139,670				
TOTAL LIABILITIES	455,630	139,670					
NET (LIABILITIES) ASSETS		(10,875)	50,044				
MEMBERS' FUNDS							
Retained earnings		(10,875)	50,044				
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	(10,875)	50,044					



Photographer: Alex Kwong Theatre of the Global Majority

Our Supporters

We can't do the work that we do without your support.

Thank you.

CHAMPIONS. Stephanie Key. Peter Grace. Simon Krieg.

FRIENDS. Cassie Magin. Jo Coventry. Wendy Malycha. Annika Stennert. Jo Kemp. Kay Jamieson. Jane Gronow. Shane Snellgrove. Matthew lves. Samantha Schaeffer. Francoise Piron. Paul Mayers.

SUPPORTERS. Eddie Morrison. Nelya Valamanesh. Yasmin Gurreeboo. Hooi Ping Flynn. Christopher Corin. Jason Marsiglia. Alice Marsh. Tamsin Anspach. Eliza Lovell. Alysha Herrmann. Jennifer Innes. Ben Brooker. Margie Fischer. **Elena Carapetis.** Sarah Cornelius. **Rebecca Meston.** Terri Dichiera.

Rachel Burke. Christina Page. Ursula Menz. PJ Rose. Chiara Gabrielli. Maria van de Bos. Elyas Alavi. Belinda Marsden. Meg Allsion. Mark Tripodi. Sarah Watson. Damien Riggs. Helen Maysey. Luke Penman. **Erica Enriquez-Clementre.** Mai Ly Irvine.

Photographer: Alex Kwong Theatre of the Global Majority

Our Sponsors & Partners





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Photographer: Kris Kang Virtual Intimacy

Designed by Caitlin Ellen Moore

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