

'17

ANNUAL REPORT

# ActNow Theatre

SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS THEATRE

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt, is holding a smartphone up to take a photo. She is in the foreground, slightly out of focus. Behind her, a young man in a dark plaid shirt is also looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred crowd of people in a theater or concert hall, with warm, ambient lighting. The entire image is framed by a white border.

"This is the  
theatre I  
want more  
of."

AUDIENCE MEMBER  
ON ZERO FEET AWAY

# Contents

04 ABOUT ACTNOW THEATRE

05 STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-18

07 CHAIR'S REPORT

09 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

10 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

16 TEAM

17 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

18 TREASURER'S REPORT

19 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

23 CONTACT INFO

# About ActNow Theatre

ActNow Theatre was founded in 2007 by three high school friends who wanted to create a street theatre performance about Guantanamo Bay detainee David Hicks. Driven by an ambition to explore issues around injustice and oppression through theatre, this ensemble presented highly visual performances in public spaces, with a guerrilla approach to unscheduled appearances.

Since 2010, ActNow has focused on creating interactive Forum Theatre, engaging young people in schools and community groups with issues that directly impact them. The small not-for-profit performing arts organisation creates collaborative and socially conscious performances that are innovative, informed and inspiring around issues including sexism, racism and homophobia. The company works in partnerships to engage diverse communities in conversations around important contemporary issues, with a focus on cultural diversity and celebrating sexuality.

In 2017, ActNow employed an artistic director, a general manager, and two associate artists, alongside dozens of emerging and established artists on performances and projects.

2017 saw the company perform the new theatre work *Zero Feet Away*; hold workshops for queer youth, First Nations people, and dads and their kids. ActNow continued its work in schools performing *Responding to Racism* and *Speak Out* around the State.

ActNow's projects have been critically acclaimed, commended in South Australian Parliament, and highly praised by audiences, participants and community organisations alike.

# Strategic Plan 2016 – 18

## VISION

Theatre is a conduit for public discourse and a catalyst for social change.

## MISSION

ActNow Theatre creates collaborative and socially conscious performance projects. We work in partnerships to engage diverse communities in conversations around important and complex contemporary issues.

## PRINCIPLES

### Imagination

For us, creating a better world starts with imagination. We use art as a bridge between what is and what could be. Our work creates spaces for audiences, participants and artists to imagine a better world and build it.

### Participation

Empowerment starts by taking part. We believe that in theatre, as in democracy, representation isn't enough. We need direct participation in political processes and universal access to arts as part of daily life. We break down barriers to participation by creating work in schools, workplaces, and in public spaces.

Our work is participatory democracy in a theatrical form, and we want it to help make education more engaging, activism invigorating and citizenship empowering.

### Openness

We are open to learn, open to share, open to collaborate, open to conversation, and open to uncertainty. We don't know the future or hold the answers. We see our work as building the conversations that matter to people, not ending them. Culture, identity, storytelling and relationships are things to explore, share and cultivate.

## OBJECTIVES

### Audience and Business Development

Build strategies for audience engagement and partnership development with a focus on high schools and NGOs.

### Program Excellence and Impact

Demonstrate artistic excellence and cultural leadership. Create a positive legacy through our programming.

### Organisational Capacity

Strengthen the company's governance and management.



"A wonderful  
refuge from  
the world's  
nonsense"

QUEER YOUTH THEATRE  
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

# Chair's Report

This is my first year as Chairperson and I am delighted to join the Board at such an exciting time. Now its 10th year it is clear that during 2017, ActNow Theatre worked towards its vision of 'theatre as a conduit for public discourse and a catalyst for social change' by developing a powerful program of work and engaging across multiple communities. We continue to build upon a significant body of work that engages with and develops culturally diverse artists, embedding our commitment to all forms of diversity into our artistic leadership.

The Company has been led by the tireless, innovative, dynamic and fearless founder/Artistic Director Edwin Kemp Attrill. Supported by Associate Director Yasmin Gurreeboo and Associate Artist Chiara Gabrielli and others in the supporting cast, Edwin has tackled the hard and topical issues again with creative flair and sound business practice. ActNow's growing program has been consistently praised and appreciated by our partners and peers as innovative, responsive and engaging work.

Taking compelling and participatory theatre into communities has underpinned the flexible model of creativity ActNow has now uniquely developed in South Australia. The Board sincerely thanks Edwin and the team for all their hard work.

ActNow will continue with this work moving forward. ActNow Theatre is proudly part of the next generation of artists and organisations embracing new interactive forms, new business structures, and new approaches to socially engaged arts. A new home for ActNow Theatre and new partnerships and collaborations have been in the pipeline for some time and are about to be realised.

2017 has been a year of change and growth, and I would like to thank Belinda Berry's work as our General Manager in the past year and wish her the best for her personal artistic endeavours as she leaves the company. I would also like to thank long-serving Board Member Ella Pak Poy for her excellent contribution to the company over many years. Finally, I would like to thank the contribution made by each Board Member during the year.

Bring on 2018!



MATTHEW IVES  
CHAIRPERSON



"We haven't  
stopped  
talking about  
it."

AUDIENCE MEMBER  
ON SPEAK OUT

# Artistic Director's Report

In the last 10 years almost every aspect of society, from media, education, and politics to transportation and business, has been changed by one thing: the power of the crowd. Yet theatre for the most part remains unchanged.

We want to find a theatrical expression for the power of the crowd and dramaturgical strategies that support completely unpredictable action on stage.

When we do so, we create truly electric moments of theatre through this unpredictability, in which audience members are on the edge of their seats while watching their peers on stage.

This year has been a milestone year for the company in many ways. The year kicked off with *Zero Feet Away*, the culmination of several years work to explore virtual intimacy with queer communities.

We've seen the continuation of long-term performance projects *Responding to Racism* and *Speak Out*, continuing to have significant impact.

We were very happy to see the return of our 2016 pilot Game Makers workshops to return, this time in northern suburbs, working with dads and their kids to create real world games.

We also established for the first time long term engagements with communities of queer and First Nations people looking to engage with theatre.

The overall output of the company has significantly increased, mostly through the establishment of two Associate Artists positions and a full time General Manager role. I'm very thankful for all the board members, staff, artists and audiences this year who have contributed to making this year a success.



EDWIN KEMP ATRILL  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# Program Overview

In 2017, ActNow delivered over 50 workshops and over 50 performances, and three creative developments, over nine different projects throughout South Australia.



## RESPONDING TO RACISM

Responding to Racism is an award winning Forum Theatre performance by culturally diverse artists supporting high school students and adults to identify, prevent and respond to and raise awareness about racism through the delivery of full day schools' congresses and community forums across regional South Australia, in partnership with Reconciliation SA.

2017 followed on the work of 2016, with the continuing success of the Schools Congress – a whole day program which engaged students beyond the original performance, using music, video, and image theatre games.

As a result of the success of this project in engaging with Aboriginal artists and organisations, ActNow partnered with Tandanya and Flinders University to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) young people's access to professional pathways in the arts industry.



## SPEAK OUT

Speak Out is ActNow's repertory interactive theatre piece that addresses and discusses homophobia and homophobic language. Presented by young professional actors and a facilitator, Speak Out explores various forms of homophobia and the effect it has, while providing opportunities and a safe space to develop strategies to respond to homophobia.

During 2017, ActNow partnered with the Safe Schools Coalition to deliver a number of performances to 'Safe Schools' both locally and regionally. Two tours occurred: one in May and one in September. As these were funded and were not at a cost for the schools (except for travel fees for regional schools), we were able to reach a number of schools, students, and areas that ActNow can not usually.

Prior to the 2017 performances, we also held a creative development with a group of local actors, to add discussions of bi-phobia into the piece.



## QUEER YOUTH THEATRE

2017 saw the beginning of our Queer Youth Theatre Workshop program. This involved two series of a seven weekly workshop run by local queer professional theatre director, Sarah Dunn. These workshops provided an amazing opportunity to work with professional artists, develop performance skills, meet like minded people and build pathways into the arts industry. These workshops were highly successful and ended up creating a group of 'regulars' who attended nearly every single workshop. This built a very warm, safe community feel to the workshops.

Additionally, we also ran two Queer Theatre Workshops during the Adelaide Feast Festival. We specifically opened up the workshop to be available to anyone over the age of 18, as most queer representation and support is offered to queer youths. This was somewhat successful, we had an additional three "non-youth" participants on top of the regular group.



## ZERO FEET AWAY

Zero Feet Away was a participatory, experimental virtual intimacy, presented at Ancient World.

You are queer.  
You are straight.  
You are single.  
You are undecided.  
You are 19.  
You are 29.  
You are finding intimacy in a virtual world.

Zero Feet Away is about the virtuality and actuality of sexuality. It is about what happens in our heads, hearts and pants. It is about finding love and fulfilling lust. It is about hook-up apps and dating apps, nightclubs and bedrooms. It is about you.

The 2017 presentation of the work followed the 2014 creative development. Created by a team of queer artists, Zero Feet Away is innovative, provocative, inspiring and honest.



## GAME MAKERS

A collaboration between ActNow Theatre and Carclew, Game Makers is a fun and free workshop for kids and their dads.

Guided by theatre makers, professional writers and visual artists, Game Makers will utilise elements of both theatre (characters, narratives, imaginary settings) and sport (teamwork, strategy, competition and physical challenges) in games that are played face-to-face between people, bringing the adventures and challenges of video games into the real world.

Created for kids aged 5 to 12 with their dads, Game Makers ran over three sessions of six weeks, in Smithfield Plains, Elizabeth, and Munno Para.

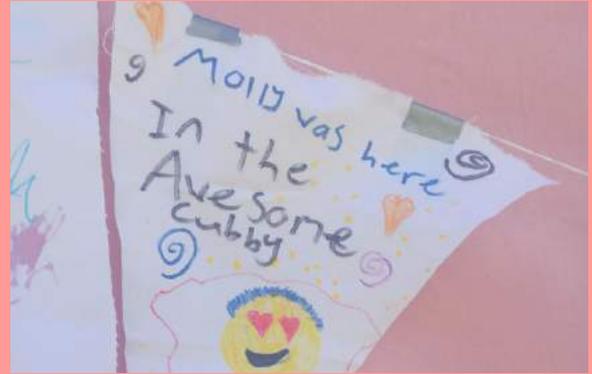


## WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL STAFF TRAINING

ActNow continued our partnership with the Women's and Children's Health Network worked to train staff in Person and Family Centred Care, using mobile phone technology developed for Zero Feet Away and consumer stories told by actors to facilitate conversations.

This project was nominated for a SA Health Award in 2016 and has been built into the hospitals' five year forward budget as an ongoing project.

In 2017, we extended our partnership as a key delivery partner on the inaugural Kids Conference, by creating an interactive workshops for year 7 students on the biosocial effect of bullying.



## KIDS WEEKEND

ActNow was a part of "a fringe haven for families, with four fun filled days of hands-on arts workshops, drop-in creative corners, spotlight performances, artisan market stalls, water play zone and food and drinks on site."

ActNow created a large scale blanket fort and ran workshops for young people to make their mark on the fort .



## PURRUNA MIYURNA

Purrana Miyurna was a summit targeting ATSI students in years 9-12 attending secondary schools and education programs within the Southern Regions of Adelaide. The objective of the summit was to provide an opportunity for students to gain information and understanding on the topic of "Healthy Relationships": what a healthy relationship looks like, feels like, and sounds like.

The summit was an interactive, hands-on workshop over two days. Topics included self-worth and respect; sexual health and positive relationships; the pressures of being a young parent; and domestic violence.

ActNow Theatre developed bespoke workshops for plenary sessions exploring culture identity, confidence and team building, and delivered an adapted version of Speak Out with entirely Aboriginal cast.



## PATHWAY PROGRAM

In 2017, we partnered with Yunggorendi Student Engagement, Flinders University Drama Centre, Adelaide College of the Arts, State Theatre Company of South Australia and Kurruru Arts and Culture Hub to provide a three day theatre workshop for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who were considering studying acting.

The workshops were led by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists to provide an insight into how participants can become professional actors or arts workers.

Over three days, participants met with a variety of key people in the industry, developed acting and auditioning skills, and learnt what is involved in studying acting.



"Today's  
experience  
has had a  
significant  
impact"

TEACHER ON  
RESPONDING TO RACISM

# Team

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

### CHAIRPERSON

Peter Grace (until August)  
Matthew Ives (from August)

### TREASURER

Jo Coventry

### BOARD

Lilla Berry  
Ben Brooker (from February)  
Matthew Ives (from August)  
Hon Steph Key MP (from June)  
Simon Kreig  
Eliza Lovell  
Ella Pak Poy (until November)  
Cassue Magin (from March)

## STAFF

### ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Edwin Kemp Attrill

### GENERAL MANAGER

Belinda Berry

### ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Chiara Gabrielli  
Yasmin Gurreeboo

## VOLUNTEERS

Zoe Bogner (Volunteer)  
Jazz Hendrie (Volunteer)  
Pen O'Brien (Work Experience student)  
Nawfal Zamri (International Intern)

## ARTISTS

David Arcidiaco  
Matilda Bailey  
Valerie Berry  
Ben Brooker  
Stanley Browning  
Sarah Dunn  
Hugo Fielke  
Matthew Gregan  
Mahira Hasanovic  
Nescha Jelk  
Karen Lovegrove  
Melissa Maidment  
Jamila Main  
Jason Marsiglia  
Annabel Matheson  
Lochy Maybury  
Kiara Milera  
Eddie Morrison  
Alexander Ramsay  
Linikka Richards  
Jack Sheppard  
Sarah-Jade Tracey  
Elijah Valadian-Wilson  
Alexis West  
Jaru West  
Manal Younus

# Sponsors and Partners



Australian Government

Australia  
Council  
for the Arts



Government of  
South Australia

ARTS SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA



Reconciliation  
South Australia Inc.

Safe  
Schools  
Coalition

AUS



feast



Flinders  
UNIVERSITY

kurruru  
YOUTH PERFORMING ARTS

ABF  
ABORIGINAL BENEFITS FOUNDATION Limited

Adelaide  
College  
of the Arts

CARCLEW

SHINE SA

# Treasurer's Report

The 2017 financial year for ActNow Theatre was a successful and stabilising year for the company.

After a couple of years of just breaking even, we saw a marked increase in profits which will help us to build our reserves with the aim of 20% of turnover being held to ensure continued solvency and to assist when unexpected expenses or opportunities arise.

I must congratulate Edwin Kemp Attrill on his budgeting skills, which have continued to build, and his ability to stick to the budgets he has set himself which has meant ActNow Theatre has remained viable and profitable in an increasingly difficult climate for funded arts organisations.

Now that the company has a full-time general manager, our hope is that additional funding streams and fundraising opportunities can be accessed and acted upon.

There is an increasing demand on the work that ActNow Theatre provides and our current company structure is at maximum capacity. With the addition of a new venue to fund and maintain, 2018 must build on the resources that we have managed to accumulate to ensure the healthy growth of this exciting and necessary theatre company.



JO COVENTRY  
TREASURER

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

### Statement of Profit or Loss For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Provision of services		102,704	90,827
Interest received		1,245	1,110
Donations		3,655	-
Sponsorships and Philanthropic		5,000	-
Other income		198,981	56,948
		<u>311,585</u>	<u>148,885</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Accounting and bookkeeping fees		9,135	3,150
Depreciation and amortisation expense		1,974	1,757
Auditors remuneration		3,480	-
Bank charges		142	142
Other expenses		162,371	66,214
Performance production expenses		97,359	83,258
		<u>274,461</u>	<u>154,521</u>
Profit after income tax		<u>37,124</u>	<u>(5,636)</u>
Retained profit at the beginning of the financial year		5,633	11,269
<b>Retained profits at the end of the financial year</b>		<u><u>42,757</u></u>	<u><u>5,633</u></u>

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2017

### Profit and Loss Account

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Fees	102,704	90,827
Grants	196,493	55,513
Other income	2,488	1,434
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>301,685</b>	<b>147,774</b>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>		
Accounting and bookkeeping fees	9,135	3,150
Administration and management fees	1,507	1,450
Advertising	1,498	525
Auditors remuneration - parent entity	3,480	-
Cost of sales	-	213
Bank charges	142	142
Catering expenses	3,438	2,622
Computer expenses	2,313	1,702
Consulting and professional fees	707	204
Depreciation	1,974	1,757
Equipment < \$1,000	-	4,275
Insurance	2,493	1,783
Permits, licenses and fees	158	-
Postage	519	237
Printing and stationery	4,090	2,052
Rent expense	4,091	1,920
Salaries	119,026	40,963
Staff training	1,347	53
Subscriptions	521	667
Sundry expenses	45	90
Superannuation contributions	12,673	4,219
Telephone and fax	1,191	628
Travel - domestic	4,120	2,351
Workers compensation insurance	427	144
Website expenses	384	117
Performance production expenses	97,359	83,258
Other operating expenses	1,823	-
	<b>274,461</b>	<b>154,522</b>
Interest income	1,245	1,110
Donations	3,655	-
Sponsorships and Philanthropic	5,000	-
<b>Net revenue/(deficit)</b>	<b>37,124</b>	<b>(5,638)</b>

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT

### Assets and liabilities statement 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	247,484	48,376
Trade and other receivables	5	1,032	880
Current tax receivable		-	419
Prepayments		-	702
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>248,516</b>	<b>50,377</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Plant and equipment		1,860	3,834
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,860</b>	<b>3,834</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>250,376</b>	<b>54,211</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	7	18,095	6,861
Current tax liabilities		19,653	-
Other liabilities	8	169,870	41,718
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>207,618</b>	<b>48,579</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>207,618</b>	<b>48,579</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>42,758</b>	<b>5,632</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained profits		42,757	5,632
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUND</b>		<b>42,757</b>	<b>5,632</b>

A photograph of a man and two children jumping joyfully in front of a screen. The man is in the center, wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans, with his arms raised and a wide smile. To his left, a young girl is jumping with her mouth open in a shout. To his right, a young boy is also jumping, wearing a blue and grey long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The entire image is framed by a white border.

"There is so much more to having fun other than doing it in front of a screen!"

GAME MAKERS PARTICIPANT

# CONTACT INFO

## POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 6539  
Halifax Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

## OFFICE AND REHEARSAL SPACE

Station Arcade  
Level 2, 52 Hindley St  
Adelaide SA 5000

## ONLINE

[info@actnowtheatre.org.au](mailto:info@actnowtheatre.org.au)  
[www.actnowtheatre.org.au](http://www.actnowtheatre.org.au)

**actnow  
theatre**