



BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2007**



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COMPANY CREDITS

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jane McTaggart (Chair)
Genevieve Kelly (Secretary)
Brian Tucker (Treasurer)
Jo Dwyer
Linda Cupitt
Brett Howe (by special appointment in November)
Sue Rider (by special appointment in November)

STAFF

Artistic Director: Fraser Corfield
Artistic Development Coordinator: Clare McFadden (departing in April)
Andrew Cory (starting in April)
Administration and Marketing Officer : Helen Godfrey

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS:

Xanthe Beesley
Amanda Karo
Kade Sproule
Alex Bellemore
Nadine Kelly
Lucas Stibbard
Louise Brehmer
Allen Laverty
Sven Swenson
Carol Burns
Stephen Martin
Jessica Westhead
Mark Conaghan

Alex McCallum
Nkki J Witt
Fraser Corfield
Clare McFadden
Scott Witt
Andrew Cory
Sarah McLeod
Shaun Charles
Sean Dennehy
Maxine Mellor
Laine Loxlea-Danaan
Adam Drake
Brenda Monaghan
Stephen Martin
Matthew Hill
Brooke Newall
Tom Jamieson
Tegan Ollett
Adele Johnston
Kris Plummer
Shane Jones
Jennifer Price
Natasha Kapper
Christopher Sommers

PRODUCTION ARTISTS:

Greg Clarke (designer)
Kieran Swann (designer)
Tanja Beer (designer)
Guy Webster (musical director)
Adele Johnson (director)
Jennifer Price (director)

Ken Francey (production manager)
Justin Marshman (stage manager)
Steven Maxwell (video production)
Brad Jennings (video production)
Geoff Squires (lighting design)
Daniel Evans (playwright)
Shaun Charles (playwright)
Maxine Mellor (playwright)
Inez Manu-Sione (actor)
Peter Marshall (actor)
Paul Hudson (musician)
Andrew Shaw (musician)
Michael Medlycott (musician)
Fez Faanana (choreographer)

INDUSTRY MENTORS:

Libby Anstis
Luke Harriman
Chris Bowen
Zoe Scroggings
Collette Brennan
Henri van Noorenburg
Olivia Guglielmino

FUNDING BODIES & FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

Arts Queensland
Brisbane City Council
Australia Council for the Arts
Indigo Foundation



COMPANY OVERVIEW

PROJECT PARTNERS

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane Powerhouse, Queensland Theatre Company, Opera Queensland, Metro Arts, Breakthrough, Youth Arts Qld & Transit Lounge,



VISION SUMMARY

Backbone Youth Arts specialises in delivering quality youth arts experiences for children and young people aged up to 26. The company works with government, community service organisations, arts organisations and the private sector to generate projects that place our young people at the centre of creative activities and events.

Backbone does this through four key areas of activity:

1. Core workshop program
2. Community engagement initiatives
3. Major productions
4. Backbone's 2High Festival

HISTORY

Backbone Youth Arts has been implementing workshops with children and young people under various guises since 1972. Initiated by La Boite Theatre as a series of holiday workshops and youth oriented productions, the company began life under the direction of Ludmilla and Michael Doneman. This youth program assumed its own identity in 1989 when it was named La Byte Theatre and Tony Auckland was appointed Artistic Director. At this time the philosophy of the company shifted to a more traditional approach to text-based theatrical productions, aligning with the main-stage work of La Boite Theatre.

In 1992 with the appointment of Susan Richer as Artistic Director La Byte began to change once more and the company started to forge an identity as a leader in youth arts processes and philosophy. This was affirmed by the development of the 2High Festival and receipt of annual State government funding.

In late 1995 the Artistic Direction was handed to Louise Hollingworth who oversaw the establishment of Backbone Youth Arts as an incorporate association in its own right in 1996. At this time

Backbone left La Boite Theatre on Hale Street and took up residence in the current location of Metro Arts in the heart of the Brisbane CBD.

PAST HIGHLIGHTS:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1996 | GIRL BOY TOY, SKATE GIRL SPACE |
| 1997 | PARAMETER PILOTS |
| 1998 | TRAIL, BLAZE, MY BIG BACKYARD |
| 1999 | TOXIC TAILSPIN, CRUNCH |
| 2000 | MANGA METROPOLIS, |
| 2001 | PULSE |
| 2002 | REALITY Y, THE RESCUE OF MONKEY MOO |
| 2003 | ALTERED STATES, IF YOU ARE UNDER 18 WE'LL BE FORCED TO CALL YOUR PARENTS |
| 2004 | 2HIGH |
| 2005 | THE RIVER THE DIRT & US, HORSING AROUND |
| 2006 | PARADISE (BRISBANE FESTIVAL), FRAGMENTS |
| 2007 | IVY SHAMBITT AND THE SOUND MACHINE, PARADISE (POWERHOUSE THEATRE), ON-LINE SOAP |



BOARD'S REPORT

Strategically 2007 has been a very significant year for Backbone Youth Arts. The company's growing momentum is invigorating both board and staff. For the third consecutive year Backbone has achieved considerable growth across all areas of activity. But growth is not the only measure of success. Growth can be meaningless or even detrimental if it is not sustainable. The most exciting achievements of 2007 were those that will have lasting benefits for the sustainability of the company.

In light of this one of the significant milestones of 2007 was the improvement in the company's financial security. Over the past three years Backbone has increased total company turnover

by 146% despite a 13% decrease in operational funding. This majority of this money has come from earned income. Between 2004 and 2007 earned income increased from \$8,984 to \$175,491. As a result, reliance on operational funding as part of Backbone's total annual income has decreased from 83% in 2004 to just 30% in 2007.

This lowering dependence on operational funding was used to negotiate an increase with State and Federal Government. As a result, Backbone successfully attained 30% increases in funding for 2008. This gives the company an optimism going into 2008 we have not experienced for many years.

In addition a significant partnership was forged in 2007 with the State Library of Queensland. The opportunity to work with the State Library has delivered benefits on a number of levels. Daily workshops in The Corner have brought Backbone into contact with over 14,000 children and parents over the past twelve months. It has also afforded the company an opportunity to hone skills in delivering activities with children in early childhood and provide many professional artists regular work in workshop facilitation. Also held at the State Library of Queensland, the commissioned development An Unexpectedly Mind-Boggling Adventure has enabled Backbone to engage

leading professional artists to create an interactive work for children and young people. The board would like to acknowledge and thank Collette Brennan and the State Library of Queensland for their support.

Indeed a number of key partnerships were formed in 2007. The Brisbane Powerhouse purchased a season of PARADISE for the Powerhouse Theatre and partnered in the presentation of the 14th annual 2High Festival. Opera Queensland entered into an agreement to partner with Backbone Youth Arts on the development and presentation of an Australian first, a new opera developed with young people. A letter of agreement was also signed between Backbone Youth Arts and Queensland Theatre

Company formalising the relationship between the companies.

These achievements were supported by increases to workshops delivered in the city, in schools and in regional Queensland. The company also made inroads into the private sector delivering activities for Westfield Chermiside Shopping Centre. It is clear there is a growing awareness and interest in Backbone Youth Arts as a leading arts service provider for children and young people. It is a momentum the board and staff will strive to continue.

Jo Dwyer
Acting Chair

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ARTISTIC DIRECTORS REPORT

2007 was my third year as Artistic Director of Backbone. In the world of youth arts that is something of a milestone. It was very exciting therefore to see the company continuing to grow and develop.

Looking at the past twelve months it is difficult to identify an area of activity that has not increased. Backbone delivered more workshops involving more children and young people than ever before. In doing this we employed more professional artists than any year previously. There were an increased number of project partners delivering enormous support, and funding agreements with State and Federal government were successful in gaining significant increases. It has been an important twelve months.

Unfortunately the year was not without loss. In April we said a sad farewell to Clare McFadden who left to pursue other opportunities after three years as the company's Artistic Development Coordinator. Clare was much loved, both as a powerful creative force and as a dear friend of staff, workshop leaders and young members of all ages. The daunting task of filling here shoes was handed to the exceptionally talented teacher, actor and clown, Andrew Cory. One of Queensland's most respected physical theatre artists, Andrew has brought a wealth of experience to the Backbone team. The talents of Clare and Andrew saw the transition take place without any loss to the company's productivity, an exceptional feat.

It is difficult to single out individual achievements of 2007; I will resist the temptation to detail everything that is contained within the annual report. One partnership that does deserve special

mention however is the relationship that was forged with the State Library of Queensland (SLQ). The programs delivered with SLQ have given Backbone unprecedented exposure in Brisbane. I am very grateful to Collette Brennan and the library staff. It has been a fantastic experience; we are a stronger company as a result.

A personal highlight of 2007 was the season of Paradise that was presented in the newly renovated 500 seat Powerhouse Theatre. A truly epic undertaking, the show involved over 70 young artists, a five-piece band, a young drumming ensemble and large backstage crew overseen by a small team of industry professionals including Guy Webster, Greg Clarke, Justin Marshman and Geoff Squires. The production subsequently received two 2007 Matilda Award nominations: one for Best Musical Production and another for Guy Webster for Musical Direction. These nominations place Backbone alongside Queensland's leading professional and independent theatre companies. Most importantly, the nominations were an acknowledgment not of good youth theatre, but of good theatre, regardless of age.

Also in 2007 Backbone negotiated partnerships with some of Queensland's flagship companies. We are now proudly supported by Queensland Theatre Company and are co-producing a new work with Opera Queensland. La Boite Theatre has agreed to partner in the development of a new play during 2008 and the Brisbane Powerhouse will continue to support the 2High Festival. It is a great honour to have such distinguished friends.

The key challenge now facing Backbone Youth Arts is the management of future growth. We need to ensure that the quantity and diversity of our services does not exceed our capacity to deliver. 2008 will be a year focusing on consolidation rather than continued expansion. Backbone faces a joyous dilemma. We no longer need to struggle to generate project opportunities. Instead we now need to determine which projects and programs offer best suit our needs. I speak on behalf of all Backbone staff when I say it is a dilemma we are very much looking forward to.

Fraser Corfield
Artistic Director

IT HAS BEEN
AN IMPORTANT
TWELVE MONTHS



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PARADISE

“PARADISE IS A GREAT CREDIT TO ALL OF YOU ... A SHOW WHICH COULD STAND PROUD AMONGST THE BEST YOUTH THEATRE PRODUCTIONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD”

Andrew Ross – Artistic Director, Brisbane Powerhouse

After a successful season in the 2006 Brisbane Festival Brisbane Powerhouse agreed to purchase a season of Paradise for the 500 seat Powerhouse Theatre. Fourteen months, a completely new second act and seven additional songs later the show was back. Sporting a creative team including award winning designer Greg Clarke, musical director Guy Webster, Brisbane actor Peter Marshall, choreographer Fez Fa’anana and a team of over 75 young artists and crew, Paradise set out to challenge preconceptions of what ‘youth theatre’ can be.

The story is set on a fictitious island in the Pacific that, for reasons unknown, has remained undiscovered by the west. When the curtain goes up two tribes are engaged in battle. We soon learn that, though the tribes have always fought over territory, times are changing. The tides are getting higher, the fish are harder to catch, it seems as if the island is sinking into the sea. As the villagers continue daily life the leaders are considering increasingly drastic measures to secure the future of their people. Just as a meeting to resolve the conflict unravels into chaos an object falls from the sky. It is Richard Sunderland, billionaire adventurer and would-be trans-global balloonist. Suddenly the modern world has crash landed. Captivated by the beauty of the island Sunderland decides to establish a world class resort – a resort called Paradise.

The second act takes place a year later as the resort is about to open. There have been huge changes to the island. The young people are now exposed to role models and lifestyles that are completely at odds with their traditional

values. Suddenly a thousand years of history and learning is unable to help chart the course forward. Tribal rivalries are compounded by generational change as some embrace the wonders of the west and others seek to turn back the clock. Everyone finds the future frighteningly unclear.

Playlab Press has confirmed it will publish the script in 2008 and discussions are underway regarding a possible tour in 2009. This may not be the last you hear of this extraordinary new work.

- Dates:** June – September 2007
- Season:** 19 – 22 September 2007
- Venue:** Powerhouse Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse
- Rehearsals:** JWCOCA, The Old Museum, Visible Ink,
- Ages:** 14 +
- Audience:** 1,048
- Director:** Fraser Corfield
- Musical Director:** Guy Webster
- Choreographer:** Fez Fa’anana
- Set Design:** Greg Clarke
- Lighting Design:** Geoff Squires
- Lighting Assistants:** Corinne Fish, Wesley Bluff, Kat Kahn, Joaben Thompson
- Costume Design:** Lebekka Anniseto & Nataly Lee
- Costume Construction:** Isobel Hutton, Lebekka Anniseto,
- Stage Manager:** Justin Marshman
- Assistant Stage Managers:** Jennifer Lu, Clare Lindop and Rachel Gleeson
- Assistant Director:** Anthea Lock
- Production Manager:** Helen Godfrey
- Paradise Band:** Paul Hudson, Andrew

Shaw, Micheal Medlycott, Jose Vides,
Percussionists: Richard Salu, Pacea Viti, Ness, Johnathan Mene, Isaiah Leumaga, Philip Waretini and Joshua Nimeti

Paradise Company
Paw: Uli Latukefu
Fatai: Inez-Manu Sione
Siloane: Bruce Manu-Sione
Mina: Melody Phillips
Neela: Nina Manu-Sione
Tatee: Jagga Renagi
Manase: James Grace
Richard Sunderland: Peter Marshall
Milan: Claire Walters
Ngatu: Lance Masina
Hiné: Karla Krammer
Benna: Leeka Lowndes
Tamita: Justin ‘Ofa

Chorus: Aia Faaleava, Ana Veamatahau, Andrew George, Ben Iosefa, Cassandra Wilsher, Charleen Marsters, Christina Hwong, CJ Faaleava, Dino Ahmetovic, Eden Walsham, Etura Tou, Genevieve Butler, Jennifer Roberts, Johnny Legobye, Johnny Legobye, Letishia Parter, Louis Nomotu, Luke Dockray, Mena Ioane, Rebecca Ashton, Samantha De Oliveira, Sean Fata, Shannon Lue, Stephanie Woo, Tevita Piutau, Vita Ngauamo, Will Fua, Philip Waretini, Joshua Nimeti, Richard Salu, Sam Nomotu, Danielle Viti, Jami-Lee Upkett

Project partners
Breakthrough Church, Brisbane Powerhouse, State Library of Queensland, Queensland Arts Council, Empire Theatre, La Boite Theatre Company, Markwell Presents, Metro Arts, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Theatre Company, Visible Ink

2HIGH FESTIVAL

"THIS EXPERIENCE HAS LET ME TAKES GIANT STEPS IN BRISBANE, INTO EXACTLY THE AREA I WANTED AND DREAMED TO BE"

2007 2High Coordinator

The 2007 2high Festival was a festival of 'firsts'. It was the first time the festival opened up coordinator roles to young men as well as young women, it was the first time the festival was hosted by Brisbane Powerhouse, it was the first time that the program had a curatorial policy, the first 2high Family Picnic event, and it was the first for the creation of a new coordinator position – Festival Manager.

In each case the 2007 2high Festival was a resounding success. Feedback from artists, audiences and coordinators reflect an outstanding outcome. The festival remains one of the most valuable professional development experiences in Queensland, both for young people interested in event management and as a showcase for local artists. It is a significant forum for artists to experiment and produce work looking to the future of arts practice and practitioners in South East Queensland. Brisbane Powerhouse who wish to continue the relationship in 2008.

The 2007 2high Festival continued empowering young adults in arts management and offering a quality outcome harnessing the passion and imagination of the young people who created it.

"2HIGH FESTIVAL WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE FOR WHICH I AM SO GRATEFUL! I HAVE GAINED A LOT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SOME AMAZING FRIENDS. BEST EXPERIENCE TO DATE!"

2007 2High Coordinator

No. performances: 38

No. visual artworks: 19

No. workshops: 3

No participating artists: 110

No. audience: 3,680

Ticket price: N/A

Development: May – November 2007

Festival dates: 16 and 17 November

Key Partners: Brisbane Powerhouse, Indigo, Brisbane City Council

Funding Bodies: Brisbane City Council, Australia Council, Arts Queensland

Sponsors: Dendy Cinemas, Sirromet Wines, Napoleon Perdis

Supporters: Scene Magazine, Grasshopper Jumping Castles, Mombasa, Starving Kids Records, Posterbill, YAQ, Metro Arts, Queensland Theatre Company

Project Manager: Andrew Cory

Festival Manager: Tara Hobbs

Project Supervisor: Fraser Corfield

Project Support: Helen Godfrey

Production Manager (BPH): Luke Harriman

Production Manager: Ken Francey

Technical Manager (BPH): Sam Sweedman

Coordinators: Megan Jensen & David Zwolenski (exhibitions), Liam Griffin and Nicole Horan (Music), Amy Ingram and Brook Newell (Performance), Jade Reardon and Jess Westhead (community relations), Amy Robinson and Anna Griffiths (Publicity & Marketing), Jennifer Lu (Stage Management), Cassie Burge (Production), Roxanne Lorenz (Logistics).

Mentors: Henri van Noordenburg, Chris Bowen (Director, Dance and Music – Arts Queensland), Allana Sheard, Collette Brennan (Creative Director, The Edge – State Library of Queensland), Libby Anstis (General Manager – Queensland Theatre Company), Ken Francey, Olivia Guglielmino (Publicity Manager – Brisbane Powerhouse), Zoe Scroggings (Artistic Director – Contact)

Guest speakers (Launch): Andrew Ross (Artistic Director, Brisbane Powerhouse), Cr David Hinchliffe (Deputy Lord Mayor of Brisbane), Lawrence Truce (Executive Chairman, Indigo Group), Lana Gishkariany (former Artistic Director, Backbone Youth Arts and 2high Coordinator)



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ON-LINE SOAP

EPISODE 3

"IT WAS SO COOL. BRAD AND STEVEN ARE AWESOME AND EXCELLENT DIRECTORS AND THE ACTORS WERE GOOD AT THE CHARACTERS."

Participant – On-Line Soap

Online Soap is a national initiative of Powerhouse Youth Theatre (PYT) in Sydney. The project taps into young people's universal fascination with soap operas, challenging participants aged between 13 and 18 to create a twelve minute episode of their own. Each episode is created by a different youth theatre company around Australia. At the same time the project aims to promote inter-state communication and collaboration through on-line discussions and forums between participants.

Backbone Youth Arts was responsible for the third episode in the series, following on from PYT and Canberra Youth Theatre. To deliver the project Backbone partnered with Steven Maxwell and Brad Jennings of Markwell Presents. The episode was devised, scripted and performed by participants.

Markwell Presents managed the filming and editing of the piece. Because the script required two adult characters, professional actors Nigel Poulton and Hannah Levien donated their time to participate in the project and mentor the young participants.

All episodes created for On-line Soap are hosted on PYT's website. The project was supported by Ausdance Queensland who provided workshop and rehearsal space.

Facilitators: Brad Jennings & Steven Maxwell

Dates: August – October 2007

Ages: 13 - 17

Participants: Dom Carmody, Andrea Carne, Melanie Clements, Claire Moore-

Carter, Charlotte Lynch, Franciska Schmoll, Sam Whatley, Alyce Zarins

Actor mentors: Nigel Poulton, Hannah Levien,

Sound: Nicholas Marchesi

Music: Emma-Louise Lobb & The Magic Numbers

Costume & Makeup: Isobel Hutton

Rehearsal venue: Bell Tower, Ausdance Queensland

Partners: Markwell Presents, Ausdance Queensland, PYT

Funding bodies: N/A

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IVY SHAMBITT AND THE SOUND MACHINE

BY DANIEL EVANS

She was a small and sickly girl – he face was quite a fright For you see she had no eyes (not one!), and therefore, no sight. Her parents didn't see her for her odd imperfection Rather, in their eyes, she was the object of their affection."

Ivy Shambitt and the Sound Machine provided a major performance outcome for some of Backbone Youth Art's most important members, the 9 to 12 year olds. Presented in a school holiday season the production allowed some of the company's youngest members the opportunity to perform a new work, supported by industry professionals, in a theatre in the heart of Brisbane.

The production also provided a professional development opportunity for a range of emerging artists. Talented young playwright Daniel Evans was given a small commission to develop the work. Sound designer Nathan Stoneham, stage manager Clare Lindop and costume

designer Isobel Hutton were each given the opportunity to showcase their skills, and Queensland Theatre Company's young designer in residence Kieran Swann was loaned to the project. Adele Johnston, one of Backbone's leading workshop facilitators was able to further her skills in directing working along side the company's artistic director.

The play is set in the fantasy town of Apronwood - a town of tea parties, summer solstice dances and bake-offs. When young outcast, Pippa Van Hoozer is rescued from the town bullies by Ivy, magical things begin to happen...beneath the pastel shades, there is something much darker at work! This delicious little modern fairytale was loved by audiences of all ages.

Dates: April – July 2007

Season: 4 – 6 April 2007

Venue: Sue Benner Theatre, Metro Arts

Rehearsals: Metro Arts

Ages: 9 – 12

Audience: 284

Playwright: Daniel Evans

Directors: Adele Johnston & Fraser Corfield

Designer: Kieran Swann

Costume Designer: Isobel Hutton

Sound Design: Nathan Stoneham

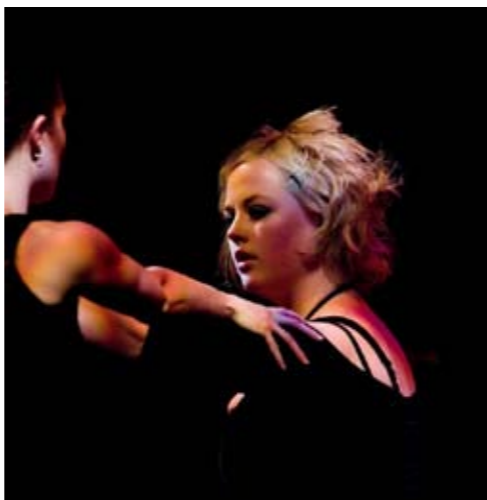
Lighting Designer: Geoff Squires

Stage Manager: Clare Lindop

Cast: Honor Webster-Mannison, Harriet Minto-Day, Belen Sobarzo, Leandro Silva-Cabezas, Amy Nelson, Grace Lines, Remi Roehrs, Luciana Vorkas, Kate Gillespie, Mikalea Lawrence, Aidan Perkins

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I.D.-URBAN IGNITION DANCE THEATRE



I am looking into a mirror and who do I see...? ... who I am? Who I want to be?

In 2007 youth dance company Urban Ignition amalgamated with Backbone Youth Arts. Rising administrative costs were creating a strain on Urban Ignition's resources. Synergies in the companies' philosophical approach to working with young people meant that Urban Ignition could operate within Backbone Youth Arts' annual program. In July Backbone youth Arts proudly presented Urban Ignition's new work, I.D.

I.D explores of what is means to be yourself... what factors influence who we are, how we see ourselves, navigating our journey to self acceptance... From the classroom to the school yard and the mediums that surround us, the fast paced lives of young people are in constant flow and working out where we

stand amongst it – a challenge.

Dates: April – July 2007

Season: 4 – 6 April 2007

Venue: Sue Benner Theatre, Metro Arts

Rehearsals: Metro Arts

Ages: 9 – 12

Audience: 132

Director: Jennifer Price

Facilitators: Alex Belemore, Tegan Ollett and Xanthe Beasley

Cast: Jade Adonna-Battello, Alex Belemore, Martin Brown, Danni Garcia-Leys, Todd Heidke, Seam Leahy, Hailey McKay, Jazz Mill-O'Kane, Tegan Ollett and Lindsey Rookwood.



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WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

BENEATH THE FIRE – A YOUTH OPERA

On the 2nd of February 2006 Backbone Youth Arts forwarded Chris Mangin, Artistic Director of Opera Queensland, a proposal for a new type of project development. The aim was to apply the youth arts process of collaborative development to create an opera that could be performed by and for young people. Over twelve months the project aimed to generate a draft opera that was relevant to young people aged between fifteen and twenty one. The project would be an Australian first.

Though Opera Queensland recognised the potential significance of the project, funding bodies were less forthcoming. In frustration, Opera Queensland and Backbone Youth Arts trialed a shortened, self-funded version of the process. Using Backbone Youth Arts intensive Theatre Bootcamp model, a group of young singers worked with a team of industry professionals to devise, write, rehearse and stage a new work in four days. The twenty minute work created was Beneath The Fire.

When an excerpt from Beneath The Fire was performed again at the Opera Queensland sponsors dinner a month later, half the required funds for the full development were pledged within an hour. As a result a new, full development was commenced in October looking for a production outcome in 2009.

Composer: Jonathan Henderson

Librettist: Shaun Charles

Director: Fraser Corfield

Education Manager: Kellie Kremmer

Repetiteur: Kylie Los

Vocal Coaching: Bernard Wheaton & Kylie Bailey

Participants: Sirkara Ringdahl, Katherine O' Halloran, Imogen Page, Daniel Shine, Chantel O'Brien, Kelsey Giarola, Alana Kline, Julia Colwill, Chris Chamberlin, Nathan Topping, Andrew Justo, Valentine Dubois, Amber Evans

AN UNEXPECTEDLY MIND-BOGGLING ADVENTURE

In June 2007 Backbone Youth Arts was commissioned by the State Library of Queensland to create a puppetry and physical theatre performance suitable for children aged up to 12 years. The performance would be part of an experiential learning program for children conducted by the Queensland Library in the Christmas holiday period of 2007/08 exploring the theme "Paradise".

The PARADISE performance is supported by hands-on activities for children. A number of 'creation stations' are to be set up in the Library precinct where children will be able to create their own puppets and stage small performances. The creation stations will enable children to integrate the storytelling process from consumers to

creators.

The result was **An Unexpectedly Mind-Boggling Adventure**. With the performance season opening on the 2nd of January 2008 the full project description will be included in the 2008 Annual Report. Needless to say it was extremely successful.

Development: June & December 2007

Season: 2 – 26 January 2008

Director: Scott Witt

Designer: Tanja Beer

Puppeteer: Amanda Karo

Actor: Sean Dennehy

Sound Designer: Guy Webster

Stage Manager: Ryan Colburn

Production Mgmt: Clare McFadden, Collette Brennan, Fraser Corfield

Funding partner: State Library of Queensland

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WORKSHOPS

STATE LIBRARY

Throughout 2007 Backbone Youth Arts was contracted to facilitate two hours of workshops for children under 8 between 10:30am and 12:30pm in The Corner every day of the year. This extraordinary opportunity enabled Backbone Youth Arts to hone skills in engaging young children in activities that activate the imagination, encourage creative play and celebrate artistic expression.

No. of workshops: 361 (The Corner), 16 (other)

No. of participants: 14,000 (approx' - The Corner), 151 (other)

Facilitators: Clare McFadden, Andrew Cory, Chris Sommers, Natasha Kapper, Sean Dennehy, Tom Jamieson, Amanda Karo, Allen Laverty, Nadine Kelly, Alex McCallum, Frankie Savige, Lucas Stibbard, Sven Swenson, Candice Story,

SCHOOLS

2007 saw substantial growth in Backbone's in-school workshop program. Responding to requests from schools throughout South East Queensland workshops were delivered in a range of theatrical disciplines including Directing, Physical Theatre, Clowning, Shakespeare, Creative Writing, Drama Games, Ritual Theatre, Mask and Commedia.

No. Schools: 19

No. Workshops: 40

No. Participants: 734

Facilitators: Scott Witt, Shane Jones, Andrew Cory, Fraser Corfield, Lucas Stibbard, Shaun Charles, Allen Laverty, Laine Loxlea-Danaan, Stephen Martin, Adam Drake, Matt Hill

ONGOING WORKSHOPS

Backbone's weekly workshop program aims to introduce young people to the principles of performance. The workshops look to develop performance skills including projection, characterisation, focus, vocal expression and ensemble. These skills are then applied to developing a short performance. The ongoing workshop programs provide young people with the tools and confidence to articulate and stage their own ideas.

No. Workshops: 234

No. Participants: 2171

Facilitators: Brooke Newall, Thomas Jamieson, Francesca Savige, Clare McFadden, Christopher Sommers, Jennifer Price, Adele Johnston, Sally McKenzie, Mark Conaghan, Sean Dennehy

SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year Backbone is asked to tailor a range of workshops for particular events. These can be for community groups, corporate partners or industry colleagues. Activities are designed to address specific needs and age groups. Backbone is refining skills in finding innovative ways to engage specific community groups in activities that celebrate imagination, innovation and performance.

No. Workshops: 38

No. Participants: 469

Facilitators: Clare McFadden, Adele Johnston, Sean Dennehy, Hayden Spencer, Fraser Corfield, Maxine Mellor, Lucas Stibbard, Kris Plummer, Hannah Levien, Carol Burns, Robert Grayson

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - for the year ending 31 December 2007

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - as at 31 December 2007

	NOTE	2007	2006
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	52,517.13	30,411.31
Sundry Debtors & Prepayments		0.00	6,902.27
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		52,517.13	50,666.93
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant & Equipment	3	5,522.00	8,675.00
TOTAL ASSETS		58,039.13	45,988.58
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		17,838.78	12,265.00
Grants Received & Unexpended	4	24,000.00	19,000.00
Provisions for Annual Leave		3,807.00	3,973.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES		45,645.78	35,238.04
NET ASSETS		12,393.35	10,750.54
MEMBERS FUNDS			
Accumulated Surplus at the beginning of the financial year		10,750.54	13,501.62
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,642.81	2,751.08
TOTAL EQUITY		12,393.35	10,750.54

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - for the year ending 31 December 2007

	2007	2006
INCOME		
Arts Queensland	99,637.00	115,800.00
Australia Council	38,000.00	39,024.00
Brisbane City Council	10,000.00	13,000.00
State Library (Queensland)	58,150.00	0.00
DFACS	200.82	0.00
Gambling Community Benefit Fund	0.00	16,521.00
Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund	0.00	7,046.00
Workshop Fees	91,201.79	55,717.97
Performance Fees	26,140.00	4,593.45
Sponsorship	34,348.64	25,225.00
Donations	550.00	10,465.00
Sundry Income	1,263.83	125.00
Interest Received	401.54	391.43
Total Income	359,893.62	287,908.85
EXPENSES		
Accountancy & Audit Fees	2,100.00	2,100.00
Advertising & Promotion	9,330.53	3,785.64
Audit Adjustments	2,396.36	0.00
Bank Charges	764.49	1,056.88
Depreciation	3,153.00	3,403.00
Insurance	8,376.97	8,380.67
Computer Support	589.09	833.09
Parking & Taxis	324.27	598.10
Postage, Printing & Stationery	3,981.30	3,447.15
Professional Development	0.00	194.54
Project Expenses	136,170.83	120,125.71
Rent & Venue Hire	5,874.66	8,003.20
Subscriptions & Publications	366.83	325.00
Sundry Expenses	516.78	667.07
Superannuation	13,741.87	9,689.55
Telephone	3,443.33	3,185.62
Wages	166,333.14	123,933.26
Workers Compensation	787.36	931.45
Total Expenses	358,250.81	290,659.93
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,642.81	(2,751.08)

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - for the year ending 31 December 2007

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the Associations Incorporated Act (Qld). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031: Materiality

AASB 110: Events After the Balance Sheet Date

No other Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The report is also prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets

(a) Comparative Figures – where necessary, have been reclassified in order to comply with the presentation adopted in the figures reported for the 2006 financial year.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - for the year ending 31 December 2007

2. CASH

	2007	2006
Cash on Hand	590.44	493.44
Cash at Bank	36,294.93	5,234.34
Term Deposit	13,263.02	12,865.13
Bank of Queensland	2,368.74	11,818.40
	\$52,517.13	\$30,411.31

3. PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Plant & Equipment – At Cost	25,872.05	25,872.05
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	20,350.05	17,197.05
	\$5,522.00	\$ 8,675.00

4. GRANTS RECEIVED & UNEXPENDED

Australia Council	24000.00	19,000.00
	\$24000.00	\$19,000.00

5. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

Apart from the remuneration disclosed the auditors received no other benefits.



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