

BACKBONE

YOUTH ARTS INC

[2008]
Annual Report



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Company Credits

Management Committee:

Sue Rider (Chair)

Annie Roylance (Secretary)

Brian Tucker (Treasurer)

Joanne Dwyer

Brett Howe

Caro Jende

Genevieve Kelly

Matt Newell

Staff:

Artistic Director

Artistic Development Coordinator

Administration and Marketing Officer

Fraser Corfield

Andrew Cory

Helen Godfrey (departed March)

Stephanie Drewett (commenced March)

Workshop Facilitators:

Alanna Hankey

Alastair Tomkins

Amanda Karo

Andrew Myles

Antonella Casella

Brooke Newall

Cassie Grace

Christopher Sommers

Emme-Che Martin

Francesca Mason

Hannah Levien

Helen Stephens

Jorde Lenoy

Joseph Mitchell

Lana Gishkariany

Leon Cain

Louise Brehmer

Lucas Stibbard

Matthew Ryan

Mitchell Humphries

Natasha Kapper

Nigel Poulton

Niki-J Witt

Noa Rotem

Sarah McLeod

Scott Witt

Sean Dennehy

Shane Jones

Sophie Mathisen

Steven Mitchell Wright

Thomas Jamieson

Timothy Jackman

Travis Dowling

Wendy Bruce

Production Artists:

Alex McCallum (Playwright)

Amanda Karo (Puppeteer)

Andrew Cory (Director)

Barbara Lowing (Actress)

Brooke Newall (Director)

Daniel Evans (Playwright)

Daynan Brazil (Production Manager)

Guy Webster (Sound Design)

Jason Glenwright (Lighting Designer)

Ken Francey (Production Manager)

Marcel Dorney (Playwright)

Matthew Ryan (Playwright)

Rachel Apelt (Visual Artist)

Sam Paxton (Set Designer)

Sean Dennehy (Actor)

Sharka Bosakova (Set Designer)

Stuart Cochrane (Production Support)

Tanja Beer (Set Design)

Vicky Devon (Costume Designer)

Industry Mentors:

Alanna Henry
Chris Bowen
Dan Koop
Henri van Noordenburg
Joe Mitchell

Ken Francey
Libby Anstis
Mick Byrne
Nathan Street

Funding Bodies & Financial Supporters:

Arts Queensland
Australia Council for the Arts
Brisbane City Council



Project Partners:

Brisbane Powerhouse
Ipswich Art Gallery
La Boite Theatre Company
Metro Arts
Opera Queensland

Queensland Theatre Company
Roundhouse Theatre
State Library of Queensland
Transit Lounge
Youth Arts Queensland



Queensland Theatre Company proudly supports Backbone Youth Arts



Company Overview

Vision summary

Backbone Youth Arts specializes 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 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 can trace its history back to 1972 when La Boite Theatre began regular workshops with children and young people in Hale Street. In 1987 Ludmilla and Michael Doneman were invited to bring the theatre's youth activities together as La Boite Youth Theatre, presenting a mix of workshops and youth-oriented main-stage productions. This youth program assumed its own identity as La Byte Theatre in 1989 when Tony Auckland was appointed Director and continued a mix of workshops and text-based theatrical productions.

In 1992 with the appointment of Susan Richer as Artistic Director La Byte began 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 1995 Louise Hollingworth took over Artistic Direction and a year later oversaw the establishment of Backbone Youth Arts as an incorporated association in its own right. At this time Backbone left La Boite Theatre on Hale Street and, following a brief stay on Petrie Terrace, took up residence in the current location of Metro Arts in the heart of the Brisbane CBD. Since this time Artistic Directors have been Lana Gishkariani (1998 -2001), Brendan Ross (2002 – 2003), Titiana Varkopoulos (2004) and Fraser Corfield (2005 – January 2009).

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 (<i>BRISBANE FESTIVAL</i>), FRAGMENTS
2007	PARADISE (<i>POWERHOUSE THEATRE</i>), IVY SHAMBITT & THE SOUND MACHINE
2008	AN UNEXPECTEDLY MIND BOGGLING ADVENTURE, THE CAFÉ, HOLIDAZE

Board's Report

For Backbone Youth Arts, 2008 was a year of optimism and confidence. State and Federal funding had increased by 30%, with the added security of triennial funding. Collaboration was in place with State Library of Queensland for a production and workshops and partnerships were in train for developmental projects with Opera Queensland and La Boite Theatre Company. Brisbane City Council and Brisbane Powerhouse confirmed arrangements to support the 15th annual 2high Festival and we continued our relationship with the private sector through Westfield Chermside Shopping Centre. The organisation reached into regional Queensland, collaborated interstate and began discussions for international cooperation. Highlights of the year included:

4 production outcomes resulting in 62 performances, attracting a total audience of 8786.

463 workshops involving 7504 participants ranging from age 3 to 26.

34 workshop facilitators, 19 production artists, 9 industry mentors.

2 developmental projects involving 20 participants.

Following excellent response to workshop and showcase, *Dirty Apple*, Backbone's youth opera project with Opera Queensland, was confirmed as a production in the Queensland Music Festival in 2009. *Dirty Apple* remains one of the most ambitious and original of any youth arts projects in Australia and we look forward to this being Backbone's major undertaking next year.

2008 ended with a triumphant 2high Festival run by 14 young coordinators, offering 38 performances as well as visual arts and other events, and attracting audiences of around 2000, a 38% increase on 2007. 2high received substantial in-kind support, including strategic visioning through Ideaworks led by Board member Matt Newell, who also conducted major strategy planning with Backbone Board and staff for the organisation as a whole.

Unfortunately, the organisation overstretched itself financially in 2008. Increased activity means increased expenditure, particularly in developmental projects, which look to the long term and rarely generate income in the short term. Earned income decreased from \$175,491 to \$107,613, while reliance on operational funding increased from 30% to 55%. We experienced unexpected withdrawal of cash sponsorship, a fall in demand for corporate services in the second half of the year and increased project costs. The resulting deficit follows three years of growth from 2004 – 2007 and comes at a time of global financial crisis. It is a timely reminder of the importance of tight financial monitoring at all times. The Board has taken steps to improve budgeting and monitoring systems and is confident, given the organisation's standing within a competitive environment, that it can recover financial stability in 2009.

Sadly, 2008 turned out to be the final year for Artistic Director Fraser Corfield, whose 4 years with Backbone have seen unprecedented growth. In particular, artistically, Fraser's insistence on setting a benchmark for the delivery of quality arts experiences has led to a remarkable development in the reputation of the company, which can now proudly partner any major arts organisation. We wish him well as he moves to head Australian Theatre for Young People. In his place we welcome Andrew Cory, who has already made valuable contributions to Backbone as Artistic Development Coordinator and whose experience and skills make him one of Australia's most exciting youth arts workers. He joins Stephanie Drewett, who has demonstrated exceptional qualities in her first year as Marketing and Administrative Officer.

Finally, my thanks to a hard-working and dedicated Board and farewell and thanks to Matt Newell for his major contribution. 2008 saw us taking serious steps to increasing our effectiveness in governance through programs such as those offered by BoardConnect, we continue this in 2009.

Sue Rider - Chair

Artistic Director's Report

It is always a fascinating experience preparing an Annual Report. Working for a small arts company it is easy to lose sight of what is being achieved from day to day. As soon as one task is completed there is another that requires urgent attention. The continued focus on the short term needs can make it hard to remain aware of the long term goals. It is only when the opportunity comes to take stock of a full year that the result of this consistent activity becomes apparent.

On the 2nd of January Backbone Youth Arts opened the first production of 2008, *An Unexpectedly Mind-Boggling Adventure*, at the State Library of Queensland. This polished little half-hour production went on to play to over 8,000 children and their families in four weeks. By the end of this first month Backbone Youth Arts had met the combined audience goal for whole of the 2008– 2011 triennial business plan. The year had been launched at an unexpectedly mind-boggling pace and it didn't slow down. Within months we were working with the National Play Festival, delivering programs for corporate sponsors, sending artists to Noosa and Mackay, taking young people to South Australia, developing new works for major events and running an ever-expanding workshop program.

There was a distinct sense of community at Backbone in 2008. It was an honour to work with such talented and motivated people. I would like to acknowledge the work of all involved in delivering the 2008 program: the exceptional work of the company's core staff supported by a highly motivated board of management and a passionate and committed team of artists and volunteers.

One of the company's most significant achievements, which will not be apparent from this Annual Report, was the development of a new strategic business case. Thanks to the in-kind support of Ideaworks and board member Matt Newell, the board and staff of Backbone conducted a full evaluation of the company's activities. The result was a clear and unified understanding of the company's position, vision, core market and path forward. While we entered the process as a solid creative team, I believe we emerged one of Queensland's most focused and unified arts companies.

For all the successes of 2008 it has to be acknowledged that the year included one failure. While the company registered one of its busiest years of activity, it also registered a significant financial loss. The late withdrawal of the 2high Festival's financial sponsor, a decline in the demand for corporate services in the second half of the year and additional project costs resulted in an operating deficit. Compared to losses incurred in the wider arts sector in recent years it was not a great deal of money, but for a company that has to struggle so hard for the smallest amounts of project funding it will be a burden that will take time to recover.

Backbone Youth Arts holds a unique place in Queensland's creative landscape. We are a small company that has proven it can partner with the biggest players. Our currency is unique and powerful ideas, coupled with best-practice processes linking young people and professional artists. Our constant struggle is for the value of that currency to be recognised – by philanthropists, by corporate sponsors, even at times by project partners. Backbone Youth Arts is one of the most exciting youth theatre companies in Australia.

2008 has proven to be my last year as Artistic Director. In December I was offered a position in Sydney too hard to refuse. On a personal level there is great pride at what has been achieved at Backbone coupled with a sense of loss for jobs not seen through to the end. Despite all, I leave with the certainty that the company is in exceptionally safe hands. It is a joy to know that Andrew Cory will be taking up the reins, supported by the exceptional Stephanie Drewett and one of the most active Boards of Management of any youth theatre company in Australia. It is a company to watch keenly in 2009 and beyond.

Fraser Corfield - Artistic Director

An Unexpectedly Mind Boggling Adventure

by Sean Dennehy, Scott Witt, Amanda Karo and Tanja Beer

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 performance was supported by hands-on activity centres for children. A number of 'creation stations' were set up in the Library precinct where children could create their own puppets and stage small performances. The creation stations enabled children to transfer the storytelling process from their experience as audiences to artists.

The result was *An Unexpectedly Mind-Boggling Adventure* - a little performance that proved to be unexpectedly mind-bogglingly successful. With families queuing for up to an hour to get into the free shows, the season played to

capacity audiences. The biggest concern with the season was managing the frustration of the parents and children that were turned away at the door at most performances because the venue was filled to capacity.

Development	June and December 2007
Season	2 – 26 January 2008
Audience	8,067
No. Performances	52
Director/Writer	Scott Witt
Designer	Tanja Beer
Actor/Puppeteer	Amanda Karo
Actor/Writer	Sean Dennehy
Sound Designer	Guy Webster
Stage Manager	Ryan Colburn
Production Management	Clare McFadden, Collette Brennan, Fraser Corfield
Funding partner	State Library of Queensland

2008 2high Festival


"2high has given me the confidence to knock on doors, take risks, explore ideas and for the first time, speak with certainty about where I have come from and what I aim to achieve"

ALANNA HANKEY

PERFORMANCE COORDINATOR 2008

Established in 1993 as a niche arts event to enliven suburban Brisbane, the 2high Festival has grown over the past 15 into South East Queensland's leading showcase of young and emerging artists. At the same time the festival has established a national reputation as a peak job-training model for emerging arts and event managers.

Significant achievements of the 2008 2high Festival included:

- The introduction of an Online Coordinator within the management team. This position resulted in the development of a range of significant web-based management and marketing tools, including a dedicated website; a substantially increased profile on social networking sites; and the implementation of on-line management tools for the management team through google docs, gmail, google groups and google calendar. These developments brought the management processes in line with best-practice at no cost to the event.
- 
- In-kind sponsorship by leading advertising company Ideaworks who conducted a strategic visioning program with the coordinators to specify target audiences and establish a curatorial framework to fulfill the vision. This in-kind support, valued at \$17,000, had a significant impact on the overall marketing and programming of the event.
 - Greater use was made of existing initiatives for celebrating artistic activity coordinated or supported by the Brisbane City Council. These included performances by bands in the Queen Street Mall and a Flashmob coordinated at the Valley Fiesta.
 - The introduction of a 2high Festival newsletter circulated regularly to stakeholders in the three months leading up to the event. With over 150 people involved in presenting the 2008 event, the newsletter was a significant internal communication and promotional tool.
 - The presentation of an artistic program that focused on *quality* rather than *quantity*. Despite receiving a record number of applications from artists representing nearly all contemporary artforms, the coordinators selected less than half the applicants. The result was a program of outstanding new work from some of Queensland's brightest emerging artists.

“Backbone supported us but in no way spoon-fed us. They encouraged us to make contacts and take every opportunity we could and that helped to build my confidence in more ways than I can say”

JACQUI NEAL
MARKETING COORDINATOR 2008

Project Manager
Festival Manager
Project Support
Production Manager (BPH)
Production Manager
Technical Manager (BPH)

Andrew Cory
Brooke Newall
Stephanie Drewett
Dan Koop
Ken Francey
Sam Sweedman

Coordinators

Rachelle Jones, Anna Migdalski, Alanna Hankey, Stephen Foster, Helen Stephens, Gen Trace, Jason Latimer, Joe Collings, Reilly Case, Imogene Shields, Jacqui Neal, Alex Litherland, Hanna Suarez.

Mentors

Dan Koop (*Producer - Brisbane Powerhouse*), Henri van Noordenburg (*Freelance photographer & curator*), Chris Bowen (*Director, Dance and Music – Arts Queensland*), Joseph Mitchell (*Youth and Education Manager, Queensland Theatre Company*), Libby Anstis (*General Manager - Queensland Theatre Company*), Ken Francey (*Production Manager QMF*), Nathan Street (*Senior Designer - APN Online*)

Sponsors & Partners

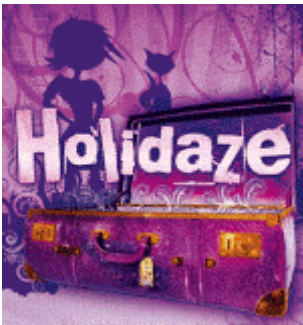
Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane City Council, Ideaworks, Posterbill, Brisbane Marketing , Our Brisbane, Scene Magazine (Media Partner - print), Volt Shop (design), 4ZZZ (Media), Dendy Cinemas, Bridgeman Downs Cellars, Eckersleys, Allan’s Music, Joshua Levi Galleries, Queensland Theatre Company, Transit Lounge, Brisbane Marketing

The Spotlight Season

The Spotlight Season is a response to the need for more refined performance outcomes for troupes that have developed within Backbone Youth Arts' workshop programs. As young participants have continued to develop their skills the quality of the work being produced has improved. This program provides an opportunity for young people to be introduced to professional processes within a very safe and supported environment.

In 2008 the season also proved a hotseat on the industry's calendar with representatives of companies including QTC, La Boite, Brisbane Powerhouse and Playlab in attendance. The 2008 season presented *Holidaze* written by Daniel Evans and directed by Brooke Newall and *The Café* devised by Backbone's Artistic Development Coordinator, Andrew Cory.

HOLIDAZE



"It helped me with my drama classes at school... it has made me more confident and less self conscious. I am not as afraid to be an individual as I was before."

13 year old cast member, Holidaze

Written in Daniel Evans' inimitable style, best described as a contemporary mystery fairytale, *Holidaze* follows the extraordinary adventures of Priscilla Peacock who goes to stay with her bizarre but fun Aunt Bessell. Incorporating a range a fantastical characters and scenarios, the play carries an audience on a who-dunnit mystery ride through the imagination.

Holidaze presented professional development opportunities for a range of emerging Queensland artists. Brooke Newall, one of Backbone's leading workshop facilitators, was able to further her skills and experience in directing. Sound designer Travis Dowling, lighting designer Jason Glenwright and stage manager Karlee Short were also able to present their skills to the industry.

Age Group	10 – 13yrs
No. Performances	4
No. Audience	202
No. Workshops	16
When	July 9 – 11, 2008
Where	Sue Benner Theatre – Metro Arts
Playwright	Daniel Evans
Director	Brooke Newall
Designer	Sharka Bosakova
Lighting Designer	Jason Glenwright
Costume Designer	Vicky Devon
Sound Designer	Travis Dowling
Stage Manager	Karlee Short
Assistant Stage Manager	Imogene Rothwell
Production Manager	Daynan Brazil
Cast	Megan Devillers, Rebecca Fullerton, Christina Gleeson, Cole Hamblett, Annabelle Kent, Grace Lines, Gabrielle Raz-Liebman, Leandro Silva-Cabezas, Belen Sorbarzo, Jack Stobart

THE CAFÉ



"Thank you for the opportunity of being involved in this project and I have learnt so much and had a great time!"

15 year old cast member, The Café.

The Café was a co-devised production using the expertise of physical theatre/clown professional Andrew Cory and a cast of 14 – 16 year old Backbone members. To produce a non-verbal comedy in 10 weeks provided a challenging performance opportunity but one that received a warm audience response. The style of this show promoted an understanding of stillness, timing and physical articulation, skills highly valued in professional performance.

Once again the industry development opportunities were evident with Travis Dowling doubling as sound designer and co-writer and Tom Stewart taking on the role of assistant director and performer.

Age Group	14 – 16yrs
No. Performances	4
No. Audience	181
No. Workshops	16
When	July 9 – 11, 2008
Where	Sue Benner Theatre – Metro Arts
Director	Andrew Cory
Assistant Director	Tom Stewart
Designer	Sharka Bosakova
Lighting Designer	Jason Glenwright
Costume Designer	Vicky Devon
Sound Designer	Travis Dowling
Stage Manager	Karlee Short
Assistant Stage Manager	Imogene Rothwell
Production Manager	Daynan Brazil
Cast	Chiara Brozler, Josh Correa, Rebecca Fullerton, Andi Gannaway, Imogen Page, Tom Stewart

Total Box Office: \$ 1,805 (includes Holidaze)

me.com

A skills exchange with Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble

me.com was a collaborative development between Backbone Youth Arts and South Australian company Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble (SYTE). The production was structured to be an exploration of privacy, personality, sexuality & hyper-identity in the 21st century. Investigating the range of issues confronting young people today relating to sexuality, identity & technology (ie, my-space, msn, u-tube, videophones, sms stalkers & bullies & so on), *me.com* brought young people from two very different regions in Australia together to collaborate in person and then via the internet.



The project involved two intensive weeks of development, the first conducted in Brisbane in the July school holidays, the second in the Adelaide Hills in the October school holidays. Artistic Directors Fraser Corfield and glen r johns facilitated the workshops, with Fraser as director and dramaturge and glen as playwright. In July the members of SYTE stayed in a youth hostel in Highgate Hill in Brisbane with workshops taking place at Metro Arts. In the October trip members from both companies stayed on a farm in the Adelaide Hills.

The project was initially intended to culminate in a script that would be presented by both companies in 2009. Unfortunately, due to pressures associated with SYTE's operational funding, the script was unable to be completed.

Age Group	13 – 17yrs
No. Participants	12
Artists	glen r johns, Fraser Corfield
Project Management	Stephanie Drewett
No. Workshops	11
Partners	Southern Youth Theatre Ensemble

National Play Festival

Backbone Youth Arts was asked to participate in the first National Play Festival conducted by Play Writing Australia. Eight new scripts from leading writers around Australia spent two weeks in development with professional actors and dramaturges before being staged as rehearsed readings in Queensland Theatre Company's Bille Brown Studio. Writers included the Chair of the Australia Council's Theatre Board Rosalba Clemente, Ross Mueller, and Brisbane's Sven Swenson. To support the process, Backbone coordinated opportunities for eight emerging professional artists to participate in the process as ASMs.

In addition, Backbone's Artistic Director Fraser Corfield was approached to curate and direct a selection of rehearsed readings celebrating 30 years of Playlab Press. The readings were presented in the Visy Theatre at the Brisbane Powerhouse.

Age Group	18 – 26yrs
No. Workshops	10
No. Participants	8 (ASMs), 6 (cast)
When	10 – 23 February
Where	Metro Arts, Visy Theatre, Bille Brown Studio
Director	Fraser Corfield (<i>Playlab Retrospective</i>)

Theatre Bootcamp – Sunshine Coast Regional Council (Noosa)

In March 2008 the Noosa Shire Council commissioned Backbone Youth Arts to develop a performance involving young people from Noosa on the coast and Kin Kin in the hinterland. The program sought to develop a single performance that would bring together two very different communities from the Shire, presented at The J Arts Centre in Noosa as part of the Get Connected Youth Festival.

Playwright Matt Ryan and director/youth arts worker Louise Brehmer traveled to the Sunshine Coast each week for twelve weeks to devise, script and rehearse the performance. The project resulted in the development of a new script titled Runaway. The piece follows two children who run away from home, spending the night in a charity bin. Each object in the bin has its own unique story to tell.



Age Group	10 – 16yrs
No. Participants	40
No. Workshops	26
No. Performances	2
Audience	336
Venues	Butter Factor, Kin Kin & The J's Arts Centre, Noosa
Artists	Matt Ryan, Louise Brehmer
Project Management	Katie Edmiston
Partners	Noosa Shire Council

Works in Development

Dirty Apple – 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. The project would be an Australian first.

In 2007 the development process was trialed in an intensive 4 day program using Backbone Youth Arts Theatre Bootcamp model. The program was an outstanding success. In October that year work began on a full-length work titled Dirty Apple. The development of Dirty Apple continued throughout 2008. The piece will be performed as a major component of the 2009 Queensland Music Festival in the Powerhouse Theatre.



Composer	Jonathan Henderson
Librettist	Shaun Charles
Director	Fraser Corfield
Education Manager	Kellie Kremmer
Repetiteur	Kylie Los
Vocal Coaching	Bernard Wheaton, Jessica O'Brian
Participants	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

Punks



On the 30th of November 1979 a battle took place in the unbalanced war between the Queensland police and the Brisbane punk scene. At the Caxton Street Hall near Petrie Terrace carloads of police indiscriminately beat and arrested teenage punks leaving a benefit dance. Why the overwhelming numbers and heavy handed tactics? Because the Brisbane punk scene, more than any other city in Australia, had a sharp political edge. It was a finger in the face of a repressive state government and their chief weapon, the highly politicised police force. It was not going to be ignored.

This important new development revisits a very different Queensland from the one young people are familiar with now. Thanks to funding from the Brisbane City Council, award winning playwright Marcel Dorney was commissioned to develop a script that could be presented as a major performance outcome in 2010.

Playwright	Marcel Dorney
Directors	Andrew Cory
Dramaturge	Fraser Corfield
When	March – December 2008
Age group	18 - 26
No. Participants	8
No. Workshops	5
Workshop Venue	Metro Arts

Workshops

State Library of Queensland

In 2008 Backbone Youth Arts was again contracted to facilitate two hours of workshops for children under 8 between 10:30am and 12:30pm in The Corner every day through until the end of March. In addition the company worked with State Library of Queensland to deliver the Young Writers' Day Camp in June/July.



No. Workshops	65 (The Corner), 10 (other)
No. Participants	2,990 (approx' - The Corner), 151 (other)
Facilitators	Louise Brehmer, Wendy Bruce, Andrew Cory, Mitchell Humphries, Timothy Jackman, Thomas Jamieson, Natasha Kapper, Amanda Karo, Jorde Lenoy, Brooke Newall, Christopher Sommers, Lucas Stibbard, Hannah Levien.

Westfield Chermside

Backbone Youth Arts was approached to facilitate a range of activities for Australia's largest shopping centre, Westfield Chermside. The activities were designed to provide an opportunity for children aged under 12 to engage in a range of creative endeavors including craft, performance and storytelling.

Age Group	3 - 12
No. Workshops	70 (one hour per workshop)
No. Participants	1,463
When	April 7 – 13 & July 7 - 13
Where	Westfield Chermside
Facilitators	Emma Che Martin, Amanda Karo, Tim Jackman, Sophie Mathieson, Louise Brehmer.

The Kindness Project – Out of the Box Festival

Backbone Youth Arts was approach to partner with the Out of the Box Festival and community organisation Karuna to implement a workshop program exploring responses to the notion of 'kindness'. Lucas Stibbard, Frankie Savige and Rachel Apelt worked with children aged between three and eight years to create drawings and stories about kindness which were scanned into a computer. The aim was to build a catalogue of images that could be used in a book raising awareness of palliative care services of Karuna. Each day the material was emailed to Sydney so the pictures could be seen by his holiness the Dali Lama, the patron of Karuna.



Age Group	3 - 8yrs
No. Workshops	20
No. Participants	174
Venues	Lyric Foyer, Queensland Performing Arts Centre
Artists	Lucas Stibbard, Frankie Savige, Rachel Apelt
Project Management	Fraser Corfield
Partners	Karuna, Out of the Box Festival, QPAC

Schools

Each year Backbone facilitates a range of workshops for high schools across Brisbane. 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	15
No. Workshops	44
No. Participants	792
Facilitators	Louise Brehmer, Antonella Casella, Fraser Corfield, Andrew Cory, Shane Jones, Emma-Che Martin, Francesca Mason, Steven Mitchell Wright, Nigel Poulton, Noa Rotem, Matthew Ryan, Christopher Sommers, Lucas Stibbard, Alastair Tomkins, Scott Witt, Niki-J Witt.

Holiday and 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, characterization, focus, vocal expression and ensemble. These skills are then applied to developing a short performance. The ongoing workshop and holiday workshop programs provide young people with the tools and confidence to stage their own ideas.

No. Workshops	170
No. Participants	1833
Facilitators	Brooke Newall, Andrew Cory, Nigel Poulton, Fraser Corfield, Francesca Savige, Lucas Stibbard, Thomas Jamieson, Christopher Sommers, Helen Stephens, Andrew Myles, Lana Gishkariany.
Partners/supporters	Metro Arts, Ipswich Art Gallery, Roundhouse Theatre, La Boite Theatre Company (end of semester showcase venue).

Audited Financial Reports

BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008

BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	11,851.10	52,517.13
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		11,851.10	52,517.13
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant & Equipment	3	4,417.60	5,522.00
TOTAL ASSETS		16,268.70	58,039.13
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors		25,970.59	17,838.78
Grants Received and Unexpended	4	8,108.00	24,000.00
Provisions for Annual Leave		3,384.59	3,807.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES		37,463.18	45,645.78
NET ASSETS		<u>-21,194.48</u>	<u>12,393.35</u>
MEMBER FUNDS			
Accumulated Surplus at the beginning of the financial year		12,393.35	10,750.54
Net surplus/(defecit) for the year		<u>-33,587.83</u>	<u>1,642.81</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>-21,194.48</u>	<u>12,393.35</u>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Arts Queensland	102,000.00	99,637.00
Australia Council	48,000.00	38,000.00
Brisbane City Council	11,892.00	10,000.00
State Library (Queensland)	11,000.00	58,150.00
DFACS	0.00	200.82
Workshop Fees	86,102.67	91,201.79
Performance Fees	10,511.82	26,140.00
Sponsorship	0.00	34,348.64
Donations	0.00	550.00
Memberships	218.16	0.00
Sundry Income	1,057.78	1,263.83
Interest Received	-414.97	401.54
Total Income	271,197.40	359,893.62
EXPENSES		
Advertising & Promotion	7,911.83	9,330.53
Audit Fee	1,950.00	2,100.00
Audit Adjustments	0.00	2,396.36
Bad Debts	95.00	0.00
Bank Charges	861.00	764.49
Contractors	120.00	0.00
Computer Support	0.00	589.09
Depreciation	1,104.40	3,153.00
Insurance	5,760.33	8,376.97
Legal Expenses	700.83	0.00
Parking & Taxis	371.61	324.27
Postage, Printing & Stationery	3,813.23	3,981.30
Professional Development	936.18	0.00
Project Expenses	67,193.91	136,170.83
Rent & Running Costs	6,281.67	5,874.66
Subscriptions & Publications	337.73	366.83
Sundry Expenses	772.85	516.78
Superannuation	14,862.59	13,741.87
Telephone and Internet	4,141.10	3,443.33
Wages	186,778.46	166,333.14
Workers Compensation	792.51	787.36
Total Expenses	304,785.23	358,250.81
Net Surplus/(Defecit) for the year	-33,587.83	1,642.81

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008

I. 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 1030:	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 figures reported for the 2007 financial year.

BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
2. CASH		
Cash on Hand	26.05	590.44
Cash at Bank	-4,217.12	36,294.93
Term Deposit	13,673.21	13,263.02
Bank of Queensland	2,368.96	2,368.74
	<u>\$11,851.10</u>	<u>\$52,517.13</u>
 3. PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Plant & Equipment - At Cost	25,872.05	25,872.05
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	21,454.45	20,350.05
	<u>\$4,417.60</u>	<u>\$5,522.00</u>
 4. GRANTS RECEIVED & UNEXPENDED		
Australia Council	0.00	24,000.00
Brisbane City Council	8,108.00	0.00
	<u>\$8,108.00</u>	<u>\$24,000.00</u>
 5. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION		

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

BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE


The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on the attached pages:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Backbone Youth Arts Association Incorporated as at 31 December 2008 and its performance for the year ended at that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Backbone Youth Arts Association Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:


Artistic Director **CHAIR**


Treasurer

Dated this 20 day of April 2009.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

Scope

I have audited the attached Financial Report, being a special purpose Financial Report, comprising the statement by members of the committee, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements of Backbone Youth Arts Association Incorporated for the year ending 31 December 2008.

The committee of the association is responsible for the Financial Report and have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the Financial Statements which form part of the Financial Report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the Financial Report. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The Financial Report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld). I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the Financial Report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit Approach

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Financial Report, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion, whether, in all material respects, the Financial Report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's financial position and performance. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

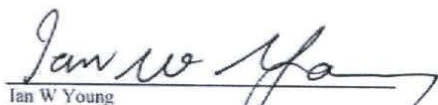
**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
BACKBONE YOUTH ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

Qualification

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practicable for the Backbone Youth Arts Association Incorporated to maintain an effective system of internal control over income until its initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, my audit in relation to income was limited to amounts recorded.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the Financial Report of the Backbone Youth Arts Association Incorporated is in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position of the association at 31 December 2008 and the result of its operations for the year then ended.


Ian W Young

Dated at Brisbane this 20th day of April 2009.