

BEYOND TICK BOXES

A SYMPOSIUM ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE CREATIVE SECTOR IN SYDNEY



Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, 1 Powerhouse Rd, Casula Thursday 29 June • 9am - 6pm

#DiversityArtsAu @DiversityArtsAu diversityarts.org.au



Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay respect to their Elders past and present: the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Nation. We acknowledge that this land was also accessed by peoples of the Dhurawal and Dharuk Nations.

As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature.

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2001

Welcome

Welcome to Beyond Tick Boxes. And welcome to Casula Powerhouse, in the heart of Western Sydney. It is in this exceptionally diverse, powerfully creative and culturally exciting community that Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS) has found our new home. After 14 months of reflection, re-imagining and restructuring, DARTS has emerged as a revitalised company, ready to seize our role as Australia's key national organisation for cultural diversity in the arts. We have laid down ambitious plans to tackle our Job No 1: a creative sector that truly reflects the rich cultural diversity of our communities.

Diversity is a defining issue of our time. Globally, human migration, online interconnection and cultural cross-pollination are at unprecedented levels. Our stories are intersecting in new ways and we rely on the arts to help us make sense of this. Yet in Australia only 8% of professional artists come for CaLD backgrounds, despite the fact that 45% of Australians are first or second-generation migrants. Xenophobic, racist and Islamophobic discourses dominate political and cultural debate and in many cases our screens, stages, creative spaces and cultural institutions appear to be stuck in outdated structures that are failing to reflect the cultural realities of Australian audiences. DARTS is committed to changing this and through this symposium, we hope to develop a comprehensive overview of the issues, common themes and proposed strategies for change, alongside examples of best practice.

We could not have done this without our many supporters, collaborators and sponsors: Australia Council, Create NSW, Casula Powerhouse, Liverpool City Council and Fairfield City Council. Thank you to Feral Arts via Arts Front, who have flown from Queensland to support the event via live streaming. Thanks to our passionate and industrious board, staff, contractors and volunteers, in particular, Paula Abood, Gary Paramanathan, Sonia Mehrmand, Monique Perrin, Rani Haywood, Nickin Alexander, Louise Dunn, Magdalena Moreno and James Arvanitakis. I would especially like to acknowledge the hard work of Event Producer Kevin Bathman, for investing his time and energy over the past year. And to our generous speakers, artists, collaborators and attendees, thank you for sharing your insights and experience and for contributing your valuable time to creating a more inclusive creative sector.

Lena Nahlous

Executive Director, Diversity Arts Australia



About Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS)

DARTS advocates for a creative sector that reflects the true cultural diversity of Australia. We conduct research and support artists and organisations to create and collaborate. In 2016 we rebranded from our former incarnation as Kultour, relocated from Melbourne to Western Sydney, restructured and laid down ambitious and strategic plans to create arts that looks like Australia.

The Beyond Tick Boxes symposium is the final in a series of Gatherings that have been held since 2013 and have engaged over 250 artists, producers, creatives and industry representations from Darwin, Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Hobart, Canberra, Adelaide, Sydney and Perth. Beyond Tick Boxes will:

- Facilitate dialogue and reflection between artists, companies, creators, producers, organisations and institutions
- Ask questions about representation, leadership, content and programming
- Showcase exemplary work that is being undertaken in this arena
- Identify barriers to inclusion and identify strategies and pathways to address these gaps
- Highlight key issues that affect creatives in terms of inclusion
- Extend and deepen discussions through producing content and a report of key findings

Today's symposium will be documented and a report will be produced outlining the key discussions and issues identified. To complement the report, we will produce 10 mini-films and three podcasts.

Provocating Change: Diverse Screens South West Sydney Launch

As an inspiration and provocation for discussion, we will be launching four new films we commissioned from Maria Tran, Ali Mousawi, Thuy Nguyen and Roxie Vuong. The Diverse Screens project received support from the Australia Council, Liverpool City Council and Fairfield City Council.

Citizen Journalists/Writers

Citizen journalists are embedded in each session to facilitate broader sector and public discourse about the issues raised and the works shown. Our citizen journalists are Tanya Ali, Sunil Badami, Felicity Castagna, Roanna Gonsalves and Kiriaki Koubaroulis.

Online Participation

- YouTube live stream of all panel sessions (in partnership with Arts Front and Feral Arts): http://bit.ly/beyondtickboxes
- Live stream of breakout session (1.45pm to 3.15pm) offering interactive participation for anyone unable to attend: http://bit.ly/beyondtickboxes
- Twitter: @DiversityArtsAu; join the conversation with hashtag: #DiversityArtsAu
- We will be using Auslan interpreters and also ensuring the each session is closed captioned to maximise participation and inclusion.
- Post-event archive of all content: diversityarts.org.au and our Youtube channel, http://bit.ly/DiversityArtsAustralia



PROGRAM

Event Emcee: Patrick Abboud

8.45am - 9.10am Registration

9.15am - 9.45am **Welcome:** Lena Nahlous, Executive Director, Diversity Arts Australia

Magdalena Moreno (Board Member, Diversity Arts and Deputy Director International Federation of Arts Councils & Cultural Agencies (IFACCA))

Opening: The Right to Arts and Creative Diversity

Dr Tim Soutphommasane (Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission)

9.45am - 10.45am What we can Learn from the Diversity of First Nations Peoples

Screening of video interview with Blak Douglas

Lily Shearer (Panel Chair; Co-Artistic Director, Moogahlin Performing Arts), Colin Kinchela (Member, Cope Street Collective & First Nations Producer, ICE)

Ali Murphy-Oates (Company Manager, Moogahlin; Board Director,

Blak Dance and Theatre Network NSW)

10.45am - 11.00am Morning Tea

11.00am - 12.00pm Are We There Yet? The State of Play: Cultural Diversity

in Sydney's Creative Sector

Screening of video interview with Aruna Gandhi

Dr Paula Abood (Panel Chair & Provocateur)

Dr Michael Mohammed Ahmad (Writer; Director, Sweatshop)

Grainne Brunsdon (Head of Strategy and Industry Development, Create NSW)
Tiffany Lee-Shoy (Manager Cultural Development, Social and Cultural Development

Division, Fairfield City Council)

Lisa Walsh (Director, Research and Knowledge Management,

Australia Council for the Arts)

12.00pm-1.00pm Launch of Diverse Screens South West Sydney and Q&A with the Filmmakers

Welcome by Craig Donarski, Acting Director, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. Emcee: Pearl Tan. Four edgy and provocative short films by Maria Tran,

Ali Mousawi, Roxie Vuong and Thuy Nguyen

1.00pm -1.45pm Lunch



1.45pm - 3.15pm **11 x Break-out Sessions:**

Facilitators

Dr Paula Abood (Writer, Producer, Director & Community Cultural Worker)
Paschal Daantos Berry (Program Coordinator, Blacktown Arts Centre)

Rosie Dennis (Artistic Director, Urban Theatre Projects)

Sopa Enari (Writer and Playwright)

Tiffany Lee-Shoy (Manager Cultural Development, Fairfield City Council)

Patrick McIntyre (Executive Director, Sydney Theatre Company)
Magdalena Moreno (Deputy Director, IFACCA and DARTS Board)

Bali Padda (Creative Consultant)

S. Shakthidharan (Artistic Director, CuriousWorks)

Pearl Tan (Pearly Productions) Imogen Yang (Insightful)

3.15pm - 3.30pm Afternoon Tea

3.30pm - 4.30pm Innovating for Change: Social Impact, Innovation and Diversity

Annette Shun-Wah (Panel Chair; Executive Producer,

Contemporary Asian Australian Performance)

Paschal Daantos Berry (Program Coordinator, Blacktown Arts Centre)

Julieanne Campbell (General Manager, Urban Theatre Projects and Co-convenor,

Western Sydney Arts and Cultural Lobby)

Gill Nicol (Director, Audience Engagement, Museum of Contemporary Art)

Neil Peplow (CEO, AFTRS)

4.30pm -5.00pm Reflections on the symposium

Citizen journalists, Sunil Badami and Roanna Gonsalves and researcher,

Jackie Bailey report back on the proceedings of the day

Acknowledgments: Lena Nahlous

5.00pm - 5.30pm Australia Council for the Arts presents the prestigious Kirk Robson Award

to Ali Kadhim for Community Arts & Cultural Development

Screening of video interview with Ali Kadhim

Award winner, Ali Kadhim (Parkour specialist, filmmaker, stunt performer

And founder of Team 9Lives)

Presented by Jeremy Smith (Arts Practice Director — Community, Emerging and Experimental Arts, Australia Council for the Arts)

5.30pm - 6.00pm **Drinks**





Patrick Abboud
Director, Producer and Presenter
@PatrickAbboud

Patrick is a Walkley-nominated storyteller and documentarian. He gave birth to The Feed pitching the initial concept for the show. Pat has lived and worked across Australia, the Middle East and Europe over the past 10 years reporting on everything from corruption to cosplay, politics to pop culture. Pat also moonlights as a video journalist on SBS Dateline. Often travelling alone on assignment he is a fearless and accomplished director, shooter, producer, presenter. With a keen interest in all things LGBTQI Pat co-hosts and directs content for the SBS Mardi Gras broadcast and writes a column for the national gay news network.



Dr Paula AboodWriter, Creative Producer, Director and Community Cultural Worker

Paula is a CACD practitioner, writer and educator. She has worked with diverse communities in capacity building projects for 28 years. She teaches community and cultural development at Ultimo TAFE. Her work includes Writer/Director of *The Cartographer's Curse* (2016), *Parenting Stories* (2010), *Hurriya and her Sisters* (2009), *The Book of African Australian Stories* (2006), *Poetry on Rooftops* (2006), *The Book of the Living* (2006) and *Bread and Other Stories* (2002). Paula was the 2013 recipient of the Australia Council's Ros Bower Award for lifetime achievement in community cultural development practice. Paula was also a directorate for National Theatre of Parramatta from 2015 to 2016. Paula works on creative projects with small and emerging community groups and community organisations.



Dr Michael Mohammed Ahmad *Director Sweatshop @sweatshopws*

Michael Mohammed is the founder and director of Sweatshop: Western Sydney Literacy Movement and award-winning author of *The Tribe*. His upcoming novel is *The Lebs*, and will be released by Hachette in 2018. Mohammed completed his PhD at Western Sydney University in 2017.





Tania Ali Writer PERIL Magazine @PerilMag

Tanya is a Pakistani-Australian writer who makes music and dabbles in doodling. She is the host of FBi Radio's Sunday Lunch program, where she presents an array of the week's best new music. She is a writer-at-large and the Sydney representative for Peril, an online magazine that aims to shine a light on Asian-Australian arts and culture. Currently, she is also studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney, majoring in Gender Studies and Indonesian Studies. Her interests lie in art, culture, race and politics, and the ways in which these intersect.



Greg Appel *Producer, Director, Writer and Musician*

Greg is well known in Australia as a producer and director of social history documentaries. Greg is also a hands-on editor and camera operator. He has worked around the world, making documentaries about the arts, culture and life. His diverse documentary work has included Awards in Australia and being selected to open the South African Film festival. Greg's career spans all facets of the Arts, having been a musician with the Lighthouse Keepers in Sydney in the 1980s, through writing, film, TV, radio and stage to online digital content production for the NSW Art Gallery and the Sydney Opera House today.



Sunil Badami *Writer, Academic and Broadcaster @thesunilbadami*

Sunil is a writer, performer and broadcaster. He has an MA (Distinction) in Creative and Life Writing (Goldsmiths, University of London) and a Doctorate of Creative Arts (UTS). He has written for publications including the *Sydney Morning Herald, Good Weekend, The Australian, The Monthly, Australian Literary Review, Australian Gourmet Traveller, Island* and *Meanjin*. He has appeared on stage at the Sydney and Melbourne Writers' Festivals and the Belvoir Street and Griffin Theatres. He presented the national ABC Local radio show Sunday Takeaway, and continues to appear regularly on ABC Local, Double J, Radio National and Fairfax Radio. He is currently rewriting his first novel.





Jackie Bailey Principal BYP Group @thosecre

Jackie is the Principal of BYP Group, a specialist consulting firm to the community, arts and government sectors. She has a University Medal, BA (First Class Honours) from the University of Queensland and a Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Media from the University of Melbourne. Jackie and BYP Group have a reputation for excellence in deep research. The firm regularly works on large-scale projects on matters of critical public and cultural importance, ranging from Indigenous health and wellbeing to the growth of the creative industries. Jackie is also a writer of creative fiction and nonfiction. She has been published in a number of publications including *The Sydney* Morning Herald, ArtLook, Arts Professional UK, Global Storytelling and Online Opinion. She is an alumnus of Varuna Writers Centre and recipient of a Research Excellence Award to undertake a Creative Writing PhD through the University of New South Wales. Jackie is studying at The New Seminary, New York and will be ordained an Interfaith Minister in 2018.



Paschal Daantos Berry Program Coordinator Blacktown Arts Centre @BlacktownArts

Paschal is an award-winning Filipino-Australian writer, theatre practitioner, dramaturg and curator. As Program Coordinator at Blacktown Arts Centre, he leads the curatorial team in delivering an award-winning, multi-artform program. He has worked across disciplines for companies such as Urban Theatre Projects, ABC Radio National, Griffin Theatre, Australian Choreographic Centre, ql2 Youth Dance, Belvoir, Performance Space, Blacktown Arts Centre, ATYP, PACT, Monkey Baa, Canberra Youth Theatre and NORPA. For over a decade he has established strong networks in the Asia-Pacific region, working with Manila-based artists and companies, including a 12-year collaboration with Manila-based multimedia group Anino Shadowplay Collective. He currently serves as a board member of Theatre Network NSW.





Grainne Brunsdon Head of Strategy and Industry Development Create NSW @Create_NSW

Grainne is Manager, Head of Strategy and Industry Development at Create NSW, working on the strategic direction of the organisation and developing opportunities for emerging and established practitioners. Grainne has more than 20 years professional experience in the creative industries, working in international cultural relations with the British Council, with arts organisations in Sydney and teaching design studies at tertiary level.



Julieanne Campbell General Manager Urban Theatre Projects (UTP) @UTProjects

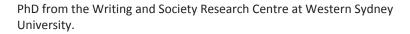
Julieanne is an arts manager who has worked in Australia, the UK, the US and Asia. She started work as a journalist in Indonesia in the early 90s, but soon specialised in communications and business strategy in the arts, working on three Venice Biennales, the inaugural Media_City_Seoul and was General Manager of Performance Space from 2003 to 2012. She was Business Manager for the 2012 Parramasala festival that celebrates the global impact of South Asian arts and cultures before joining UTP in 2013. Julieanne has been on a range of Boards, including Chair of PACT Centre for Emerging Artists, and is currently on the Management Committee of Inner West Cultural Services and My Darling Patricia.



Felicity CastagnaWriter, Teacher and Community Arts Worker
@FelicityCastagn

Felicity is the author of *The Incredible Here and Now* (Giramondo, 2013), which won the Prime Minister's Literature Award (YA) and was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's Literature Awards, the WA Premier's Book Awards, The Adelaide Festival Literature Award and The Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award. She is also the author of the short story collection, *Small Indiscretions: Stories of Travel in Asia* (Transit Lounge, 2011) and *A Brief History of The Boat* (Giramondo, forthcoming 2017). Her work has been produced for ABC Radio National and ABC television. She has also written for journals and newspapers such as *Heat, The Age, The Sun Herald, Island, Wet Ink* and *Award Winning Australian Writing*. Felicity is a former high school English teacher who has many years experience in teaching creative writing workshops in schools, writing centres, universities and other institutions and also works as a community arts worker, editor and writing mentor. Felicity holds a







Rosie Dennis Artistic Director Urban Theatre Projects (UTP) @UTProjects

Rosie is the current Artistic Director of Urban Theatre Projects. She creates work renowned for distinct beauty, universality and currency. Prior to joining UTP Rosie's work was presented at more than 25 festivals across Central Europe, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. She has received a number of new work commissions including: Carriageworks, Channel 4 (UK), ABC TV, Arnolfini (UK) and Mousonturn Kunstlerhaus (GER). Most recently she has directed two documentaries, *Bre & Back* and *One Day For Peace*.



Blak Douglas Artist and Curator Blakspot Gallery @dhungatti

Born Adam Douglas Hill in Blacktown, Western Sydney, in 1970 to an Aboriginal father/Australian mother. Originally trained in illustration and photography, observing a family of artisans, he became self – practiced in painting with a style influenced by the study of graphic design and devoutly politicised per social justice. His works have been collected by AAMU (Utrecht), NGA, NMM, Town Hall Collection, Taipei Museum & Regional Councils. Blak Douglas is also a classically trained Yidaki (Didgeridoo) player. Performances include Festival of the Dreaming, Australian Idol final, The Deadlys, Rugby World Cup opening ceremony, 'Requiem' Peter Sculthorpe & Inter/national tours (Musica Viva) and Paul Jarman Projects.



Sopa Enari Writer and Playwright @sopaman77

Sopa is a writer and a dramaturg based in Sydney, Australia. In New Zealand, Sopa started his writing journey as a member of the writing collective 'Writer's Block' led by renowned Maori playwright Hone Kouka and Cook Island playwright Miria George. Since then, he has had residencies in Griffin Theatre and UTP. He has been a drama workshop and playwriting facilitator for Save the Children, Playwriting Australia, The National Theatre of Parramatta and The Joan Sutherland Theatre. Sopa's most recent dramaturgy roles have been for *Blackbirds* (The Joan) and *Postcards from the Wire* (NTofP).





Rosemary Fung
Illustrator and Animator

O witbik

Rosemary is a freelance illustrator and 2D animator based in Western Sydney. Having studied at the Production Art Department and UNSW College of Fine Arts, she currently enjoys working across a diverse range of styles and disciplines. Her dabblings include children's storybook and magazine illustrations, concept art, and various short animations that have been screened internationally. You can usually find her at her Cintiq or lion dancing, or both at the same time.



Aruna Gandhi *Dancer and Choreographer*

An independent performing artiste, choreographer and educator, Aruna specialises in the Indian-classical dance style of Bharatanatyam. With an artistic journey spanning three decades, she received the 'Distinguished Talent Visa' in Australia in 2013. Aruna presents solos in Bharatanatyam, collaborates with artistes for cross-artform projects, facilitates 'Creative Movement' workshops and is the Founder-Director of 'Silambam-Sydney' an institution for fine arts in South-West Sydney. She has performed at various mainstream and community arts events around Sydney. Her dance projects have won community grants from Fairfield and Liverpool city councils. Her mission is to represent the Indian artistic tradition and the multicultural face of Australia around the world.



Roanna Gonsalves Writer and Academic @roannagonsalves

Roanna came to Australia as an international student from India. She is the author of *The Permanent Resident*, an acclaimed collection of short fiction published by UWAP in November 2016. Her series of radio documentaries, 'On the tip of a billion tongues', commissioned and broadcast by Earshot, ABC RN, is an acerbic socio-political portrayal of contemporary India through its multilingual writers. She is a recipient of the Prime Minister's Australia Asia Endeavour Award, and is co-founder co-editor of *Southern Crossings*. She has a PhD from the University of New South Wales, and has been facilitating and teaching creative writing workshops for all ages within communities as well as at schools and in the university sector for many years. Her research interests are in the sociology of the arts, social media, creativity studies, and postcolonial literatures.





Ali Kadhim Founder Team 9Lives

O Team9Lives O Kadhimistry

Ali is a movement coach, stunt performer and filmmaker. He grew up immersed in physical movement, learning martial arts from age 12 and discovering the existence of Parkour (the art of overcoming physical obstacles in one's environment) at 15. Ali has taught the art since 2006, and is the founder of 'Team 9Lives', a Fairfield based crew dedicated to movement and Parkour. Ali is also a filmmaker. What began as "just borrowing the high school camcorder to record himself and friends jumping and climbing" evolved into editing, writing and choreographing all the movement, drama and action in his films. His short films have won awards and he is currently writing feature-length screenplays while continuing his movement training with students of all ages from across Sydney.



Colin Kinchela
Interdisciplinary Artist

Cope ST Collective/Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) @kinchela

Colin is an independently based and trained actor, director and writer, who works across a sweep of performance mechanisms combining the dominant work practices of community cultural development and social justice. An artist and educator from the Gomeroi Nation, he has over a decade of practice and experience in working in the independent arts sector. He is currently the First Nations Creative Producer at ICE and is a founding member of interdisciplinary theatre and online artist association, Cope ST Collective. Colin is recognised for his continued compunctions to purposefully remain on the perceived fringes of Urban Blackfulla Interdisciplinary Artistry. He resides in Western Sydney.



Kiriaki Koubaroulis *Arts Administrator and Blogger*

@CultchaOmnivore

Kiri has worked in the creative industries in diverse roles within local government and the nonprofit sector in both the visual and performing arts. She holds a Bachelor of Music from UNSW and A Graduate Diploma in Arts Management/Creative and Cultural Industries Management from UTS. Her long-running interest in arts practices informed by cultural and linguistic diversity led her to establish Arts Diaspora Inc. (2011–15), through which she produced crosscultural concerts, community workshops and a children's theatre show in key venues. Kiri currently works in the 'new music' space. She writes about cultural diversity in the arts at www.culturalomnivore.blog





Tiffany Lee-Shoy
Manager Cultural Development
Social and Cultural Development Division
Fairfield City Council
@FairfieldCity

Tiffany has been an artist, curator, gallery director, scientist and TV presenter, but her spirit finds its greatest creative expression as a cultural advocate and strategic negotiator. She specialises in working with culturally diverse communities, forging multidisciplinary partnerships, policy and strategy development, arts management, and community cultural development. In her role as Manager of Cultural Development at Fairfield City Council, she oversees Fairfield City Museum and Gallery, the Social Change Through Creativity Grants and the portfolios for multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. She wrote the first Regional Cultural Strategy for Greater Western Sydney in her former role at Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Tiffany has sat on many Boards and Committees, including ICE, the Australia Council and as a Trustee of Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory.



Jennifer Macey
Freelance Journalist and Podcast Producer
@jennifermacey

Jennifer is a freelance journalist and radio producer with over 15 years' experience. Her work has aired on the ABC's AM, PM and The World Today programs, DW-Radio, BBC and Pacifica Radio. She has covered UN Climate Change conferences, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, reported from Indonesia on the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, talked to the Archbishop of Krakow about Poland joining the EU, met members of Cologne's Nazi resistance movement, and heard extraordinary tales from people with ordinary backgrounds. She won the judge's pick in the Audiocraft 2016 short feature challenge and third prize in KCRW's 24-hour Radio Race 2016. Jennifer's podcast productions include the Australia Institute's Follow the Money and the Sydney Opera House's This Kid Life.





Patrick McIntyre
Executive Director
Sydney Theatre Company
@SydneyTheatreCo

Patrick has worked in the Australian arts and cultural sector for more than 20 years. Prior to his current position as Executive Director of Sydney Theatre Company, he was Associate Executive Director of the Australian Ballet, General Manager of Sydney Festival and held Marketing Manager positions at Sydney Opera House and Sydney Dance Company. He has held various board positions in the arts and nonprofit sectors and was a member of the New South Wales State Creative Industries Task Force. Patrick is a member of the Executive Council of the national industry body Live Performance Australia.



Magdalena Moreno
Deputy Director
International Federation of Arts Councils & Cultural Agencies (IFACCA)
@ifacca

Board Member DARTS

Chilean arts manager Magdalena lived in Melbourne for 20 years, until 2012 when she relocated back to Santiago, Chile to take up the position of Head, International Division and ministerial adviser at the National Council for Culture and the Arts, Government of Chile. She oversaw Chile's participation at the Venice Biennale, and Guadalajara's major International Bookfair in 2012. Previous board appointments include: Fundación Imagen de Chile; Public Art Advisory Committee, City of Melbourne; and, Chair, The South Project. She was CEO of Kultour aka DARTS (2009- 12) and was on the National Taskforce, National Cultural Policy 2013–20, called by the Federal Government of Australia. She has been at IFACCA since July 2014.



Ali Mousawi Filmmaker and Photographer @alialmousawi9

Ali is a filmmaker and photojournalist living in Sydney, Australia. Ali recently arrived from Ahwaz, Iran. Ali was the First Assistant Director for the feature *Revawathaye Natamam* and Cinematographer for the feature *Qalamranj* both shot in Iran. He has made three documentaries in Ahwaz and three films in Australia including *Man in the Mirror* which premiered at the Arab Film Festival, *Scourge in Darkness* and *The Journey of Fire*. Ali has recently been engaged as a cinematographer on projects for the Museum of Contemporary of Art, the Art Gallery of NSW and Camden City Council. He has over 14 years experience in Ahwaz, Iran, working for a variety of news agencies, including as Main Photographer for Fars News Agency (Ahwaz/Tehran) from 2011 to 2013, Group Manager and



Photographer for Ahwaz News Agency and Editor in Chief and Photographer at *Bejwak Newspaper* (Ahwaz) in 2012. Ali won first prize in Photography at the City and Media Festival, Ahwaz, 2010, and first prize in the Festival of Journalism in Bandarabas (Southern Iran) every year from 2008 to 2011.



Ali Murphy-Oates Company Manager Moogahlin Performing Arts @Moogahlin

Alison (Ali) is a Wailwan woman (Central-West NSW) who was born and raised on Darkinjung land (Central Coast NSW). Ali joined as Company Manager of Moogahlin Performing Arts in September 2015. She currently serves on the boards of BlakDance Australia and Theatre Network NSW, and has previously served on the Board of Moogahlin Performing Arts. In 2015 Ali co-produced the 4th National Indigenous Theatre Forum at the Judith Wright Centre in Brisbane, and is now working with a national group of peers to develop a new peak body for First Peoples performing arts in Australia. Ali is also an amateur weaver, and has been studying and practicing Koori methods of grass weaving.



Lena Nahlous Executive Director Diversity Arts Australia @DiversityArtsAu

Lena is Executive Director of Diversity Arts Australia and has 20 years' experience in arts and cultural organisations. She has managed screen and digital initiatives that have engaged thousands of women, refugees, migrants and youth across Parramatta and Western Sydney. Lena is a former Executive Director of Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE), where she worked for over a decade establishing projects like the Switch Digital Arts Centre and the Arab Film Festival. She was awarded the Asialink Arts Fellowship, was appointed to the NSW Government Arts Advisory Committee (2002–08); was a participant in the Australia 2020 Summit, a finalist in the CEO of the Year Awards and was named one of Sydney's 100 Creative Catalysts at the inaugural Vivid Festival.





Thuy Nguyen *Filmmaker*

Thuy is a fashion film creative based in Western Sydney. Her proudest achievement to date is curating the annual event WSFF (Western Sydney Fashion Festival), a fashion runway featuring fashion designers from culturally diverse backgrounds. She has worked on community film

and TV projects such as the Cancer Council's Change of our Lives and SBS's Once Upon a Time in Cabramatta. In her final year at film school Thuy produced a three-part mini documentary series "Art Through Movement" which received an award at Fairfield's Short Cuts Film Festival. Thuy currently works as a social media video marketer for online fashion brands.



Gill Nicol
Director of Audience Engagement
Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA)
@MCA Australia

Gill originally trained as an artist and has over 25 years' experience, working with contemporary art and audiences. Moving from Wales to join the MCA in July 2015, her role oversees Learning (including Schools and Teacher Engagement, Kids and Families, Public Programs and Access); Marketing and Communications; and Visitor Experience. Her previous experience includes working for numerous organisations across the UK including engage, Creative Partnerships, Ikon Gallery (Birmingham), Tate Liverpool, Bath Spa University, Spike Print Studio and Arnolfini in Bristol. From 2011-15 she ran her own consultancy called lightsgoingon: making contemporary art accessible.



Bali PaddaActor, Presenter, Producer and Talent Rep Consultant
@BaliPadda

Bali is an actor, producer and director, with experience across various platforms and roles including as a drama teaching for young people, in industrial issues, casting, talent representation and story development for film, television and theatre. Screen credits include the 2017 Cannes favourite *Top of the Lake: China Girl, UnINDIAN, Legally Brown* and the award-winning short *Letters Home*. Theatre credits include *Oneness: Voice Without Form, Babies Proms: Bollywood Baby* (Sydney Opera House), *Singled Out* (Reginald Theatre), *The Lunch Hour* (Darlinghurst Theatre), *Festa!* (Young Vic Theatre), *STOMP: Lost & Found Orchestra* (Royal Festival Hall, London). Independent theatre producer credits include *Sunderella* (PACT Theatre 2017), *Lighten Up* (Griffin Independent 2016), *Hats Off!* (Seymour Centre 2014 and 2015), *Equity75: A Toast to Equity* (Seymour Centre 2013) and *In the Space Between* (Cleveland St



Theatre 2011). Bali is a proud member of Equity since 2009 and is the Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee.



Neil Peplow CEO Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) @AFTRS

Neil is the CEO of the Australian Film Television & Radio School. AFTRS is a world leader in educating and training professionals across a range of screen arts and broadcasting disciplines and rated as one of the world's top 15 international film schools. Neil is currently implementing a new strategy that focuses on innovation and inclusion. Previously the COO at the Met Film School in London, Director of Film at Creative Skillset and extensive experience as a consultant within the media industry. As a filmmaker, Neil has been involved in the production of 16 feature films including *Mike Bassett: England Manager, Waking Ned* and *Shooting Fish.* Neil also acted as a co-executive producer on the 2010 Rose D'Or-nominated Showtime TV comedy series *LA LA Land.*



Monique Perrin Content Producer, Editor Writer,, Nettle Soup

Monique is a Sydney writer, editor and content producer with over 20 years of experience. Monique has written travel guides for Lonely Planet, digital content for the ABC, columns for the Sydney Morning Herald, collection descriptions for the Australian Museum, and even greeting cards for Hallmark. She has a BA (Communications) and is an accredited editor (AE) with the Institute of Professional Editors. She has worked on communications for Information and Cultural Exchange, the United Nations and the Arab Film Festival Australia and has edited hundreds of books and digital products for major Australian publishers, including Allen & Unwin, Wiley and LexisNexis.



S Shakthidharan Executive / Artistic Director CuriousWorks @CuriousWorks

Shakthi is the founder and artistic director of Western Sydney arts company CuriousWorks, Associate Artist at Carriageworks from 2013 to 2015, and a directorate member of the National Theatre of Parramatta. In 2015 he was awarded the Phillip Parson's Playwright Award from Belvoir Theatre and in 2011 the Kirk Robson by Australia Council for the Arts, given to an artist for their work in relation to social justice and community cultural leadership.





Lily ShearerPerforming Artist, Cultural Collaborator, Consultant and Educator
@Moogahlin

Lily is a proud citizen of the Murrwarri Republic & Ngemba Nation (north-west NSW/south-east QLD) woman with 30+ years experience in First Peoples Cultural Development, Arts Management and in theatre and performance making. In co-founding Moogahlin Performing Arts, a First Peoples company in Redfern, Lily's vision was to put into practice the principle of ownership for First Peoples Australian communities by facilitating the handover of the final Gathering Ground project from Pact Youth Theatre to Moogahlin Performing Arts in 2010. A process outlined in Protocols of Engagement: 'Community Cultural Development' Encounters an Urban Aboriginal Experience (2009), this process provided leadership opportunities for local First Peoples Australian theatre practitioners and opportunities for emerging local First Peoples Australian theatre makers and practitioners. Currently Lily is a freelance performing artist, cultural collaborator, consultant, educator, and member of Moogahlin Artistic Directorate.



Annette Shun Wah Executive Producer Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) @CAAPerformance

Annette has had an extensive career in television and radio as a presenter and producer, and has worked as an actor and writer. She currently holds creative roles in two theatre companies. She is Executive Producer of Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP), formerly Performance 4a, the leading producer of contemporary Asian Australian performance, and in 2015 she was appointed to the Directorate of the National Theatre of Parramatta, the resident company at Riverside Theatres.



Jeremy Smith

Arts Practice Director – Community, Emerging and Experimental Arts Australia Council for the Arts @auscouncilarts

Jeremy has spent much of his professional career working in close connection with the arts and cultural industries since graduating from the WA Academy of Performing Arts in 1997. He has held a range of senior positions in the corporate, not for profit and government sectors. Jeremy's most recent appointments include Manager, Community Investment with Rio Tinto Iron Ore, and Manager, Regional Arts & Strategic Development at DADAA. He has worked across festivals, youth arts, community and regional arts development in a range of creative and management roles. A large portion of his work has seen the development of long term, reciprocal relationships



across regional Western Australia, which has shaped his approach and values towards arts practice in this space.



Dr Tim SoutphommasaneRace Discrimination Commissioner
Australian Human Rights Commission
@timsout
@AusHumanRights

Dr Tim has been Race Discrimination Commissioner since August 2013. Prior to joining the Australian Human Rights Commission, Tim was a political philosopher and held posts at The University of Sydney and Monash University. His thinking on multiculturalism, patriotism and national identity has been influential in shaping debates in Australia and Britain. Tim is the author of four books: *I'm Not Racist But...* (2015), *The Virtuous Citizen* (2012), *Don't Go Back To Where You Came From* (2012), and *Reclaiming Patriotism* (2009). Tim is an adjunct professor at the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University and chairs the Leadership Council on Cultural Diversity. Born in France and raised in southwest Sydney, Tim holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy (with Distinction) from the University of Oxford, and is a first-class honours graduate of The University of Sydney.



Pearl TanFilmmaker, Consultant, Lecturer and Speaker
Pearly Productions
@pearlyproductns

Pearl is the director of Pearly Productions, creating independent films and producing videos for businesses and arts organisations. Her work focuses on diversity, with 10% of profits pledged to diversity in the arts. She is the creator behind the award-winning YouTube series 'Minority Box', is Co-Chair of the Equity Diversity Committee and sits on the National Performers Committee for Actors Equity. She graduated from the NIDA Acting course in 2005. She also holds a Communications degree majoring in Media Studies from Edith Cowan University. In 2009 she received a Mike Walsh Fellowship to attend the New York Film Academy. In 2013 she received a Business Leader Postgraduate Scholarship from the University of Sydney to undertake a Master of Commerce, specialising in Strategy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.





Maria Tran Filmmaker, Actor and Community Facilitator @mariatran85

Maria is a filmmaker, actor and community facilitator and has worked in the Australian film and television industry for the last 10 years in various capacities. In 2012 Maria worked for Screen NSW's Development and Production Unit as a producer placement and was NSW State Champion at the 2011 National Film Pitching Competition. Maria worked on ABC's TV series *Maximum Choppage* as an Associate Producer, stunt double and extras casting coordinator. She has recently finished working on another ABC1 documentary by Academy Award nominee David Bradbury: "Battle of Balmoral, and finished producing China co-pro Take Me to the End of the Earth. She is awaiting the release of Vietnamese action movie Truy Sat | Tracer in both Vietnam and Australian cinemas in May, 2016. In her spare time, she teaches at guerrilla filmmaking, screen acting and fight choreography/stage combat at AFTRS as well as her own weekly classes of Screen Action Fight Essentials in Western Sydney.



Roxie Vuong *Filmmaker and Continuity Supervisor*

Roxie is a filmmaker who lives and works in South West Sydney. Her passion for telling stories stems from an insatiable fascination with people and the things that they do. She co-founded Left of Centre Content with her partner, Rudge Hollis in 2013 and together, they create video packages for clients such as Uniting, TAFE Online and The University of Sydney. She won the TropWest Scholarship and and went on to make her first short film *Punch Drunk* in 2009. In 2011 she won Best Script for her documentary, *My Cambodian Aunt* at the Biennial UTS Golden Eye Awards. She graduated from a Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts Production) the following year. She is currently working on a few scripts, one of which is inspired by her love of flamenco dancing.



Lisa WalshDirector, Research and Knowledge Management
Australia Council for the Arts
@auscouncilarts

Lisa joined the Australia Council for the Arts is January 2016 as Director, Research and Knowledge Management. Prior to this Lisa was Head of Audience Research at the ABC for 13 years and was a member of the ABC's Senior Executive. Lisa has worked in market and social research for close to three decades. She holds a Masters in Applied Science (UTS), Graduate Diploma in Change Management (AGSM) and an Honours degree in Geography (Sydney University).





Feral Arts / Arts Front

@FeralArts
@Arts_Front

Feral Arts is a national community arts and cultural development (CACD) service organisation with a focus on supporting campaigns, connectedness and capacity building across the whole arts and cultural sector. They take a leadership role in responding to national watershed issues for the arts sector and broader community.

Arts Front is a four-year project to support artists to take the lead in shaping the future of culture and the arts in Australia.

Thank You

Australia Council for the Arts Liverpool City Council

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

Create NSW

Feral Arts and Arts Front Moogahlin Performing Arts

NSW Family and Community Services

Urban Theatre Projects

Augusta Supple

Mia Zahra

Tiffany Lee-Shoy Claudia Chidiac

Ana Tiwary

Adam Porter

Fadia Abboud

Craig Donarski

Nikita Karvounis

Nikki Akbar

Renee Lombo Laura Luna

Leigh Perrett

Cayn Rosmarin

Adrian Chope (Ericsson)

Nicole Clark & Yasmin Dandachi (Auslan Stage Left)

Tean

Lena Nahlous: Creative Director/Executive Director,

Diversity Arts Australia (DARTS)

Kevin Bathman: Producer, Events and Projects,

DARTS

Sonia Mehrmand: Admin and Communications Officer,

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Sarah Moynihan and Norm Horton:

Feral Arts / Arts Front

Jackie Bailey: Researcher, BYP Group

Greg Appel: Filmmaker

Jennifer Macey: Podcast Producer Rani Haywood: Marketing Consultant

Benython Oldfield: Publicist Patrick Abboud: Emcee

Christopher Woe: Photographer Nickin Alexander: Volunteer (Admin, Marketing and Research) Gabriela Ellicott: Student Intern Loribelle Spirovski: Live Illustrator

Rosemary Fung: Illustrator Andy Ko: Event Assistant



Thank you to the **Diversity Arts Australia Board members** and in particular to our Chair, Professor
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event.

Mariam Abboud: Event Assistant Vicki Gutierrez: Event Assistant





diversityarts.org.au







Project partners











Venue partner

CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE





ATTENDEES

Adam Porter Curator Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre

Adrian Burnett Arts Practice Director, Dance Australia Council for the Arts

Ala'a Al Qaisi Filmmaker Golden Touch Production

Ali Mousawi Filmmaker Independent

Ali Murphy-Oates Managing Director Moogahlin Performing Arts

Alissar Chidiac Creative Producer, CACD Independent

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Angela Nashaat Community Artist Independent

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Annabel Davis Partnerships Manager CuriousWorks

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Annette Shun Wah Executive Producer Contemporary Asian Australian Performance

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Aruna Gandhi Dancer/Choreographer Independent

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Carmen Pratap Producer ABC

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* Program is correct at the time of printing