Annual Report

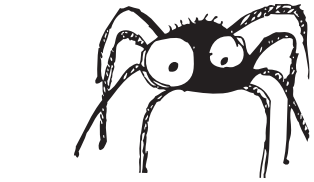
For Year Ended 30 June 2012

Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

Contact

Producer & Artistic Director
Penelope Bartlau
T: 03 9481 8849
M: 0419 590 630
penelope@barkingspidertheatre.com.au



www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

Barking Spider Visual Theatre Annual Report Contents

Philosophy and Objectives…….3

The Barking Spider Core Artists…… ……...4

The Barking Spider Board……...5

Barking Spider a Year's Work……..7

BSVT Supporters, Funders, Awards &Sponsors……..……..14

Financial Information

Profit & Loss Statement & Balance Sheet are attached in a separate file at the end of this document

Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

Philosophy

••

Established in 2006, Barking Spider Visual Theatre is a Melbourne-based puppetry and visual theatre company that develops and presents work to diverse audiences across ages and cultures, in Australia and internationally. The company members are dedicated to excellence in the form and practice of theatre, with a collaborative creative process. With illusion and transformation as the guiding aesthetic, Barking Spider aims to generate beautiful and truthful work that challenges habits of perspective and which allows audiences to feel, to delight, to dream and to be inspired.

Objectives

••

Barking Spider Visual Theatre is a company aiming for excellence in form and practice and which seeks to work with artists from various backgrounds and disciplines.

Barking Spider's objectives are to:

To create excellence in the form and practice of theatre, with an emphasis on puppetry and visual theatre.

To foster an open, spontaneous and uninhibited atmosphere of creation.

To develop a holistic working process, which ensures all aspects of production work together to create pieces defined by harmony and excellence.

To develop, promote and present work to diverse audiences across ages and cultures, in Australia and internationally.

To create beautiful and truthful work which allows the audience to feel, to

delight and to dream. To inspire wonder and awe.

To transport audiences into new, complete and extraordinary worlds, so that they may see their own with fresh eyes.

Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

The Barking Spider Core Artistic Team

••

Artistic director, producer, writer & performer	Penelope Bartlau
Designer, maker & performer	Dan Goronszy
Director, performer, set & lighting designer	Jason Lehane
Composer & performer	Leah Scholes
Photographer	Sarah Walker

Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

The Barking Spider Board

••

All board members are Melbourne-based and are the only members of the incorporated association.

Penelope Bartlau (Artistic Director & Producer) is a puppeteer, writer and director, who has worked professionally in film, television, theatre and radio drama for the last 18 years. Penelope trained for 6 months in Commedia Dell'Arte in residence at the Scuola Internazionale Dell'Attore Comico with Antonio Fava in Italy and for a year in Method Acting at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York City. She also studied Professional Screenwriting at RMIT University and has a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Political Theory from Monash University. In 2007 she completed a Masters in Puppetry from the Victorian College of the Arts.

Leah Scholes (Treasurer) is the composer for *Hatch*. Leah works as a freelance percussionist in many varied performance capacities. She has worked with the Malaysian Philharmonic, Melbourne Symphony and Queensland Orchestras, and in 2006 she was the principal percussionist in the Australian Youth Orchestra. Leah performs regularly as a chamber musician, and as a soloist she performed with the Melbourne University Percussion Ensemble in 2005. Currently, she is pursuing a passion for collaborative and theatrical performance, creating works with artists from varied disciplines such as puppeteers, circus performers and comedy actors.

Jason Lehane (Chair) is a designer & performer who has been involved with theatre since 1983, and has worked with a diverse range of professional arts groups including *All Human Theatre*, *Victorian State Opera* and the *National Gallery of Victoria*. He has been teaching acting since 1990 at *St Martin's Youth Arts Theatre* and the *Monash University Student Theatre* – where he has been employed for the last three years as the Technical Manager. He has directed a one-hour puppet show for the *Melbourne International Puppet Festival* and worked as a performer and maker on a variety of shows.

Sarah Walker (Secretary) is professional practicing photographer specialising in promotional and production photography. She has been involved with a diverse series of productions over the last three years including several shows for the

Monash University Student Theatre, *Barking Spider Visual Theatre* and work at the *Malthouse*.

Danielle Goronszy is a performer/designer exploring puppetry, circus and physical/gestural theatre for the past seven years. A founding member of the *Machination Theatre Ensemble*, Danielle also works with *Polyglot Puppet Theatre,* and *Wind-Up Beanstalk* as a performer, workshop facilitator and designer.

Gilly McInnes is an artist with a long history in the performing arts, as a performer, writer, dramaturg and artistic director. One of the original members of Handspan, Gilly was also AD of Polyglot Theatre for a number of years. Most recently Gilly lectured in puppetry in the Post Graduate & Masters courses at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Elsea Bartlau JP has been actively involved in business management for over 32 years, having been a licensed real estate agent in Emerald, Victoria for most of this time. She is also a recognised specialist in antiques and collectibles and was principal of Nobelius Auctions over a similar time.

Lisa Speakman B.Mus (Hons) B.A. LL.B**,** Solicitor is a lawyer and composer.

Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

Barking Spider – A Year's History

••

List (by month) of artistic works over the last financial year

August-September 2011

X – Puppets! Pirates! Adventure!

BSVT collaborated with Rob Reid & Sayra Lothian's company *Terrible Comfort* to create a children's work about pirates, using puppets, shadow puppetry and visual theatre/object manipulation to achieve the filmic, the epic and the impossible. Season 1 was presented as part of Melbourne Fringe Festival 2011. BSVT engaged in this production for two reasons: firstly, we aim to keep our "oar in" as a company that can collaborate with other companies. Secondly, Rob Reid is a very successful writer and had recently had two works produced at MTC: working with Rob could attract new markets, supporters and potential presenting partners to BSVT. As AD, I feel this strategy failed with this production, and I am re-thinking any future collaboration with other companies. BSVT needs to maintain a high creative standard, and I feel this collaboration failed in this area. The work attracted the interest of Geelong Courthouse Arts but was cost prohibitive to remount & present.

The work cost the company nothing, but all artists worked pro-bono.

Artists engaged: Penelope Bartlau, Jason Lehane, Dan Goronszy, Sarah Walker, Danny Diesendorf, Hannah Camilleri, Dave Rosenblatt, Renee Dudfield.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Y63dgQnDXA

The Memorandium

This work had it's first rounds of creative development and two showings at La Mama theatre. Sarah walker filmed and photographed these showings, enabling the company to promote the work, to attract funding and start gathering momentum/building audiences, sponsors for the 2012 season.

This work was created with no budget & artists worked pro bono..

Artists: Penelope Bartlau, Jason Lehane & Sarah Walker

October 2011

Stories of Sunshine

This work was a site-specific, storytelling through puppetry based on the history and local area of City of Brimbank. Developed in conjunction with City of Brimbank and Brimbank local community. This was a large-scale, outdoor promenade-style puppetry performance that used local history for visual narrative and story. *Stories of Sunshine* was a fantastic opportunity for BSVT to showcase our ability to create a work based on history, and to fulfil a very specific brief. It was also an opportunity to create a larger scale work, and promenade style, which we had not done to date. This work was made on a very small budget.

Artists engaged: Penelope Bartlau, Dan Goronszy, Sarah Walker, Bronwyn Kamasz, Hannah Camilleri and musician Robert Jackson plus two international students as volunteers.

http://barkingspidertheatre.com.au/stories-of-sunshine

EDUCATION WEEK - Barking Spider at Heide Museum
We presented a series of workshops for Heide Museum of Modern Art: these were theatre meets visual arts explorations.

Artists: Dan Goronszy & Heidi Weatherald.

The Memorandium
Had a performance in the Great Hall at the National Gallery of Victoria as part of a symposium on Theatre and Museums. We continued creative development on The Memorandium in the lead up to this presentation. Presenting at this symposium was highly strategic for BSVT as the museum sector is of our target partners. Remuneration was minimal.

Artists: Penelope Bartlau & Jason Lehane.

November 2011

A Big Hand For Big West

This work was large-scale community-based puppetry project created as part of the opening night celebrations of Big West Festival in November 2011. We worked with children from Footscray North Primary School creating lantern puppets, and we collaborated with Snuff Puppets and the Melbourne Museum with the Federation Hand Bells, to create this spectacular, large-scale outdoor segment at the opening night event. The work was strategic, as BSVT is generally known for creating smaller works. To create this spectacle-sized work and for the opening night of a big community festival was an excellent opportunity to showcase our ability to create work of this scale. Initial concept involved all company artists, with a big scale budget. The final budget was whittled down to barely pay one artist.

Artists engaged: Penelope Bartlau & Sarah Walker.

http://barkingspidertheatre.com.au/big-hand-project-big-west-festival-opening-night-2011

Heide 30th Birthday Celebration Weekend

We designed and presented the event entertainment spots, around celebration themes “Art, Architecture & Landscape”. We created the Big Heide Birthday Card – a work created by Heide visitors to the celebration weekend, and which remains as part of the permanent Heide collection. This was the first major event that BSVT created at Heide Museum, and a prestigious event to be associated with. Strategically, creating this event was a feather in the cap for the company, creating a substantial landmark for BSVT as being a company that works with museums. I created a menu of potential works that public programmes at Heide could pick and choose from: they shoes two, and the other “menu items” – which are Heide specific, have potential to be used in the future.

Artists engaged: Sayraphim Lothian, Dan Goronszy & Penelope Bartlau. BSVT also engaged Vardos for the event entertainment.

http://barkingspidertheatre.com.au/barking-spider-and-heide-gallery

The Big Butterflies – Penelope & Ulysses

In 2011 City of Albury approached BSVT, asking what roving puppets were in our repertoire. They had brought Polyglot puppets (dinosaurs “Tooth” and “Claw”) the year prior, but their budgets had been cut and City of Albury could no longer afford Polyglot’s puppets. I asked how much money they had in the budget, and suggested that BSVT create puppets specifically for this event using that budget. BSVT had not had any large roving puppets, and I saw this as an excellent opportunity to use the budget City of Albury was offering to invest in some large roving puppets, and to potentially create a relationship with this city council. BSVT invested some money in

this project, but the puppets earned their keep with bookings at the Northcote Kris Kringle market.

Penelope & Ulysses were the result - Two giant butterflies.
Presented at Albury Children's Festival, and then in December in Northcote at the Kris Kringle Markets.

Design & build team: Jason Lehane, Conor Fox & Bronwyn Kamasz.
Puppeteers: Dan Goronszy, Dave Rosenblatt & Conor Fox

http://barkingspidertheatre.com.au/roving-butterflies

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBXqh9mTcSA&feature=plcp

Barking Spider at the Village

At the Village Festival in Edinburgh Gardens, we presented The Biscuit Readings, Short Pants No Holes, and an "in development" version of The Memorandium.

The Biscuit Readings were presented at Falls Festival, Lorne, as part of the Village over New Year. Artists: Penelope Bartlau & Jason Lehane.

The Village is not a money-making thing, it's fun. It's also the place to test out new things with a home crowd. Jason had not performed Short Pants No Holes, and I wanted another performer to be able to present this work, and we further tested the Memorandium.

January 2012

All Hands On The Puppet

This workshop was presented at the Wonthaggi Show.

Artists: Jason Lehane & Penelope Bartlau

February 2012

The Next Big Thing

First artist, teacher & Arts Victoria meeting on *The Next Big Thing* – our Extended Schools Residency with Dandenong West Primary School.

Artists: Nat Grant & Dan Goronszy

March 2012

The Biscuit Readings

We presented at Moomba Festival and at Bundoora Homestead.

Artists: Jason Lehane & Penelope Bartlau

April 2012

The Next Big Thing

We commenced work at Dandenong West Primary School on *The Next Big Thing* – our Extended Schools Residency (see details below).

Artists: Penelope Bartlau, Nat Grant & Dan Goronszy

Workshops

We presented various workshops at Heritage Homestead House in Dandenong and at Heide Museum.

Artists: Dan Goronszy, Penelope Bartlau, Heidi Weatherald

The Biscuit Readings

We presented at the Regional Living Expo and at Emerald Fun Fest

Artists: Jason Lehane & Penelope Bartlau

May 2012

Tea & Secrets in the Heart Garden: Barking Spider at Heide Museum of Modern Art for Mother's Day

We presented Tea & Secrets in the Heart Garden at Heide. It was a beautiful, poetic and inspirational event. While sipping chamomile tea in the library of Heide 1 people wrote down heart-thoughts and posted these in Sunday's letterbox. The postcards are planned to be used in the presentation materials of the Memorandium in the next financial year. This work was created for Heide's public programme and had been offered as one of the works for the 30th Birthday back in November.

Artist: The concept was developed, researched and performed by Penelope Bartlau.

June 2012

Beardo was presented at Coburg Carnevale

Workshops We presented various workshops at Heide Museum.

March - June & into next financial year

EXTENDED SCHOOL RESIDENCY WITH DANDENONG WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Next Big Thing - We Made It Ourselves - Extended School Residency through Arts Victoria with Dandenong West Primary School where children created a series of art installations and performances, which were developed from exploration of a variety of sensory materials sourced from Dandenong market. The sensory materials will provide the springboards into puppetry, performance, voice, story creation & telling and installation creation workshops. From these workshops, the artists will guide the development of the final works, which will have a public display/performance outcome. This work began in Term 2, in this financial year, and finishes in Term 3, next financial year. Strategically, this work is a creative development for the company (outcomes not yet known), and is a prestigious residency to be engaged in. It is the largest single grant the company has received (Arts Victoria). Taking this project on has strengthened the company's reputation for capability, and artistic vision.

Artists: Nat Grant, Dan Goronszy & Penelope Bartlau

RESIDENCY, DEVELOPMENT AND SEASON: The Memorandium

We received funding from Arts Victoria and The Ian Potter Trust to develop and present a season of this work at 45 downstairs, this financial year. The Ian Potter Trust funding was for a residency at Fitzroy High School (FHS), for us collaborate with students from FHS in the development of the work in the lead up to the season. This residency was negotiated prior to the funding as part of the project, for community involvement, to give the company a working space, and to build potential new audiences.

The Arts Vic funding announcements went out very late (expected in early December, not received until mid January), and without forewarning or consultation, Mary Lou Jelbart at 45 downstairs gave away our May booking for that space. Theatre Works came to the rescue, providing an opportunity to present in the 2012-2013 financial year. FHS was likewise able to accommodate the changes. Season is planned for August 2012.

Artists: Penelope Bartlau, Leah Scholes, Jason Lehane, Dan Goronszy, Kelly Mc Coster, Elsea Bartlau, & with Caitlyn Barclay and Lani Teasdale in production.

WORKSHOPS
All Hands On The Puppet*
Character Archaeology*
Making a Piece of Theatre from Scratch
Object Puppetry
Ozraku
Scratch-Trash Orchestra

* These workshops are being marketed by Regional Arts Victoria's "Arts-To-Go" programme across the whole of 2012.

Scratch Trash Orchestra is the newest workshop created this financial year.

Additional Notes

Website We have been developing a new website over this financial year, which will launch in the 2012-3 financial year**.**

Relationships We have been consistently working with both the Education and Programming areas at Heide Museum. We have put a proposal into RAV for 2013 Arts-to-Go with Heide, as co-presenters.

We were slated to work at the Chinese Museum in June this year. Funding fell over, but this has seeded the relationship with this museum, and has opened up a pathway to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra who has approached us to create a work in 2013.

The Biscuit Readings, Roving Butterflies and Beardo are now represented by Adelaide Agency "Slack Taxi".

Over the past 6 years

BSVT has developed and produced no less than 26 productions, and when counting additional co-productions, workshops and current works in development, the company's output to date comes to 35 works. Many of these works have had continuing lives: with tours and subsequent presentations to their premieres.

Funders, Supporters, Sponsors and Awards to date:

Funders

Arts Victoria
Ian Potter Trust
City of Melbourne
Sidney Myer Foundation
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Australia Council

Supporters

Magnum IP Legal Services
Regional Arts Victoria
La Mama Theatre
Theatre Works
Fitzroy High School
Auspicious Arts Incubator
Arts Hub
Streaka

Sponsors

VISY Specialties
Bubble Pack
Arnott's
Northcote Pottery Supplies
Northcote Pets

Awards

R.E. Ross Playwright's Script Development Award
Handspan Visual Theatre Travelling Scholarship
Friends of The VCA
Theatre Works "In the Works"

Barking Spider Visual Theatre is a not-for-profit incorporated association with both DGR and TCC status for tax purposes.