Annual Report

For Year Ended 30 June 2014

Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

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Contents

- Page 3 - Why we exist
- Page 4 - What we do
- Page 5 - Goals
- Page 6 - Artistic rationale
- Page 7 - The Barking Spider Board
- Page 8-10 - CEO/ Artistic Director's report
- Page 11-12 - The Company's Funders, Awards Supporters & Sponsors
- Page 13 - Financial report (prepared by Anthony Nagle and Co.)



Why we exist…

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BARKING SPIDER VISUAL THEATRE - It's all about story

We believe that people need to be heard and that everyone has a story. Our job is to enable the sharing and telling of stories - and to create the platforms for their telling, visually. Stories can come from communities, from individuals, from the young and from the old. Stories can also be shared from beyond the grave - through objects, sites, geography and through collections & histories. Stories are the grease in the wheel of our humanity. Stories are what set us aside from any other species: From stories we grow, we learn, we imagine - and we empathise.

Our purpose is to enable the sharing of stories - and to create the platforms for their telling.



"This is theatre that reminds you of the power and pleasure, and communal experience, of a great shared story"

Sara Bannister, Stage Whispers

What we do…

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Established in 2006, award winning theatre company Barking Spider Visual Theatre specializes in development and presentation of theatrical work. We love working with story: Story underpins everything we do. We seek out, unearth, explore and creatively interpret stories from many sources. We do not rely on verbal or written language to communicate: story is discovered and expressed through the many art forms we use, and through play.

The company has strong history in development, creation and production of theatre. We employ a broad variety of artists encompassing many art forms including puppetry, percussion, art installation, sound design and live-performance, film and animation. Whether in a museum, a theatre, with a community or school, at a festival or event, or through a residency or workshop, the company generates beautiful work that challenges habits of perspective and which allows visitors, audiences and participants to feel, to delight, to dream and to be inspired.

We embrace collaboration with an audience/community in the work: to break down any hierarchy between artist and audience/community members. Wherever possible, we strive to engage our audiences/communities physically, mentally and emotionally and aim for their authentic contribution during development and/or presentation. Everything we create is original – researched and designed from scratch. We love invention and thrive on challenge. Artistically, we transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, and make the extraordinary, truly magical.

The company collaborates and partners with many different industries in various sites, across Australia and internationally. Many of our productions have had recurrent or have on-going production lives. We also present a slate of 6 workshops, which successfully engage a broad cross-section of people: communities, pre-schools/schools, universities, arts-practitioners and corporations/businesses.



Goals

1. Museums: To be locally, nationally and internationally recognised as a key provider of specialised creative interpretations of history and visual arts via the development and presentation of theatre-events created through puppetry, percussion and art installation in the museum sector.

2. Communities: To provide an accessible program that enables local history to flourish by introducing new art forms and approaches, promoting stories to be shared within and beyond local communities.

3. Young People: To have a demonstrated artistic rationale of working with young people as collaborators and equal innovators in the majority of works across our programme.

4. Theatre: To be a leader in creating original productions in theatres and in site-specific spaces, presented interactively with audiences, and using unique art from combinations.

5. Roving Works & Workshops: To have an in-demand, expansive and inventive program of roving works and workshops for our local, national and international markets.



Artistic Rationale

BSVT includes audiences in the development of our work, breaking down the barriers between artists and audiences and engaging our audiences physically, mentally and emotionally.

BSVT curates programmes in the following streams:

- Museums and Galleries
- Theatre
- Communities and Schools
- Workshops
- Roving Works (mobile performances entertaining at festivals etc.)



The Barking Spider Board

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PENELOPE BARTLAU – Artistic Director & CEO
Director, writer, performer & puppeteer.

JIM LAWSON – Chair
Most recently worked as CEO of Young People and the Arts Australia, as Manager of Outreach & Access Programs with the Arts Centre Melbourne, and as Director of Drama Victoria. Jim is an Actor, Writer, Director, Arts & Education Consultant.

SOPHIE SIPIDIAS – Treasurer
Senior Manager, Group Finance, NAB

JANET WELLS - Secretary
Marketing & Communications Consultant (most recently at Melbourne Festival, Heide Museum & the Arts Centre)

LEAH SCHOLES - Artistic Associate
Freelance percussionist.

MARK CREES
General Manager at Darwin Festival: Producer / Arts Administrator / Arts Consultant

PETRA KALIVE
Theatre director, actor and dramaturg.

JOHN DICKIE
Criminal Law Barrister.

JOHN BARCHAM – Advisor to the Board
General Manager at Creature Technology Company



CEO/Artistic Director's Report

Last year, with the new board's steerage, we refined and clarified the company's vision, purpose and philosophy, which spurred me to develop more strategic partnerships, and a far more strategic manner. The company's real point of difference from other arts organisations is our work with Museums and Galleries: this was isolated over a year ago, and it is wholly our standout strength. Through this line of work we still hit our target market of young people and families, as this is the bread-and-butter market for the museums sector in general. Additionally, we began working with older people this year, and looking ahead, this could prove a new and abundant avenue for story gathering, creation and interaction. Additionally, through Barking Spider working with Wild@heART, we have tapped into working in disability arts, which is enormously rewarding and has strong future potential.

We have had a fantastically diverse year, rich with achievement and recognition, while keeping our vision firmly fixed on our audiences. This financial year has been by far and away the company's most successful financially also (please see financial report at the end of this document).

Moving ahead, the strategy and focus for the next twelve months and indeed the greater future, is to collaborate increasingly with museums and historic sites, and to work nationally and internationally with our unique style of visual theatre and storytelling.



The company still needs to become more financially stable. Planning and strategies for more funding, sponsorship and partnering to cover operational costs is needed.

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For a small company, we are kicking big goals. The following pages give some insights and statistics to our achievements this year:

We have kept developing relationships with existing partners: Heide Museum, Heritage Hill Museum, Albury LibraryMuseum, The Village Festival, Fitzroy High School, Regional Arts Victoria, ArtPLay, City of Darebin, City of Casey, Monash University Student Theatre, Black Hole Theatre and Slack Taxi.

We have new relationships with: Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, The State Library of Victoria, Lorne Festival, Sydney International Arts Festival, Chapel Street Arts Burst Festival, Melbourne Athenaeum Library, Victorian College of the Arts, Frankston Arts Centre, Hawthorn Arts Centre, Mildura Festival, Moomba Festival, City of Horsham and Wild@heArt.

EVENT COUNT: We have generated and presented 126 events (one event can mean a workshop, a residency or a show season).

AUDIENCE COUNT:
Adults - 29,076
Young people - 12,640

ARTISTS EMPLOYED:
197 – this may mean the same artist/s has/have been employed and re-employed on numerous different events: the figure shows our employment rate across the year.

REACH
States: Victoria, New South Wales & Tasmania – including regional tours and metropolitan/city work.



Over this year, we have created the following new works:

1. The Lucien Swift Chronicles – Theatre
2. Ex Libris – Site specific theatre
3. Psychopomp - Theatre
4. Bedtime for One – Theatre in a van
5. Puccini Dreams - Theatre
6. Giant Illuminated Jellyfish - Rove
7. Unearthing the Hill (Heritage Hill Museum) – Museum/theatre
8. Mrs Hart at (Heritage Hill Museum) – Museum/theatre
9. Through Their Eyes – Theatre/community work
10. Tasmanian Museum and Arts Gallery residency – Museum
11. Bathing Beauties – Site specific theatre
12. Confessional – Installation theatre/live art

These works have been remounted &/or touring:

1. Memorandium - Show
2. Short Pants No Holes – Show
3. Interactive Storytelling - Show
4. The Biscuit Readings – Rove
5. Anastasya the Bold – Rove
6. All Hands on the Puppet – workshops
7. Heide Museum - art workshops
8. Wild@heART – disability arts workshops
9. Scratch trash Orchestra – workshops
10. Snap Crackle Pop – workshops



. Funders, Awards Supporters and Sponsors

Funders

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

Awards

MAGNA Award - with Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery 2014
Dome Centenary Fellowship, State Library of Victoria, 2013
MAGNA Award - with the National Museum of Australia 2013
Handspan Visual Theatre Travelling Scholarship 2008
R.E. Ross Playwright's script Development Award 2007
Friends of The VCA Award 2007
Theatre Works "In the Works" 2004



Supporters & Sponsors

Kwikkopy
Bubble Pack
Magnum IP Legal Services
VISY Specialties
La Mama Theatre
Theatre Works
Fitzroy High School
Auspicious Arts Incubator
Arts Hub
Streaka
Arnott's
Northcote Pottery Supplies
Northcote Pets

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



Financial Statement 2013-4

Barking Spider Visual Theatre
ABN: 86 698 299 732

BALANCE SHEET
For year ended 30th June 2014

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash on Hand	43,276	16,873
Trade Debtors	3,917	-
Total Current Assets	47,193	16,873
TOTAL ASSETS	47,193	16,873
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
GST Liabilities	2,375	890
Super Guarantee Liabilities	1,669	508
PAYG Liabilities	3,570	1,070
Total Current Liabilities	7,614	2,468
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,614	2,468
NET ASSETS	39,579	14,405
EQUITY		
Total Retained Members Funds	14,405	42,861
Current Year Surplus	25,174	-28,456
TOTAL EQUITY	39,579	14,405