Barking Spider
VISUAL THEATRE

www.barkingspidertheatre.com.au

BARKING SPIDER VISUAL THEATRE - It's all about story

2014-5 Financial Year Annual Report: prepared by P. Bartlau, Artistic Director & CEO

Overview

We have kept developing relationships with existing partners & presenters:
Heide Museum, Heritage Hill Museum, Albury LibraryMuseum, Hawthorn Arts Centre, Incinerator Gallery, The Melbourne Athenaeum Library, The Village Festival, Fitzroy High School, Regional Arts Victoria, City of Darebin, City of Casey, City of Moreland, Monash University Student Theatre, Black Hole Theatre, Wild@heART, Theatre Works, Slack Taxi, City of Casey, City of Greater Dandenong, The State Library of Victoria, Fairfax Festival, Roola Boola Children's Art Festival, Museums Australia and La Mama Theatre.

We have new relationships with: ABC Radio National, Nillumbik Shire Council, Diamond Valley High, White Night Festival, The Recital Centre, Frankston Waterfront Festival, Hothouse/MKA, New Zealand Fringe and Auckland Fringe, Darebin Homemade Food and Wine Festival, Australian National Academy of Music, Sydney Road Traders Association, Lisa Anderson & Shinyshinyworld, The Johnstone Collection and Melbourne Night Markets.

EVENT COUNT: We have generated and presented 66 events
(One event can mean a workshop, a residency or a show season).

AUDIENCE COUNT: 38,068
Adults – 25,645
Young people – 12,423

JOBS FOR ARTISTS: 216

REACH States: Victoria and New South Wales – including regional tours and metropolitan/city work. One international engagement: our puppetry work went to New Zealand Fringe and Auckland Fringe with show *Bucket's List.*

AWARD: MAGNA (Museum and Art Galleries National Award) Highly Commended, Interpretation, Learning and Audience Engagement – for *Liberty of the Press*.

"Barking Spider constantly aim to produce original and unique theatre for its audiences, with no performance experience the same.
It is risky but so far, they are hitting all the right spots."
Myron My, Theatre Press, May 2015



Psychopomp & Seething: La Mama, Feb ‘15

New works:

1. *Liberty of the Press* – State Library of Victoria & Melbourne Spring Fashion Week: Site-specific/heritage/theatre/art/fashion/community work
2. *Living Voices* – Albury LibraryMuseum for Write Around the Murray Festival launch: Museum/theatre/community/festival work
3. *#OTF – (Out there Forever)* – School residency/theatre installation work, Diamond Creek High & City of Nillumbik
4. *Snow Queen Puppet* – for Springvale Snow Festival
5. *Psychopomp and Seething*- Theatrical season, La Mama
6. *Four Stories: One Suitcase* - Theatrical season, Darebin Homemade Food & Wine Festival
7. *Athena3* – for Melbourne Athenaeum Library & White Night Festival in collaboration with artist Lisa Anderson: projected dance installation
8. *St Kilda Talks Back* – Children’s theatre work for Theatre Works
9. *Bucket’s List* – Melbourne Fringe Festival, Auckland and NZ Fringe Festivals BSVT created the giant puppet for the theatrical performance
10. *Granny’s Dream Catcher* – for Hawthorn Arts Centre Volunteer Expo: durational art installation, community engagement, performance.
11. *The Berio Project* – Opera showing with Justine Anderson at ANAM
12. *From the Heart* – In development: City of Boroondara – community/theatre
13. *Chronometry* – In development: Sound art/installation work
14. Additional new workshops in visual arts, performance and puppetry at museums, galleries, theatres, communities and for schools.



Liberty of the Press – September 2014

Remounted works:

1. *The Memorandium* – re-created and presented live for Radio National, (RN) Soundproof Programme
2. *The Biscuit Readings* – Roving, and pitched to (RN) Soundproof Programme & live roves (festivals)
3. *Bathing Beauties* – re-created for (RN) Soundproof Programme
4. *Puccini Jellyfish/Giant Illuminated Jellyfish* – in collaboration with Black Hole Theatre, for Summersalt Festival, Melbourne Recital Centre
5. *Bedtime for One* – Installation theatre & sound design
6. *Giant Illuminated Jellyfish* – Roves
7. *All Hands on the Puppet* – workshops
8. *Scratch trash Orchestra* – workshops
9. *Snap! Crackle! Pop!* - workshops
10. Additional remounted workshops in visual arts, performance and puppetry at museums, galleries, theatres, communities and for schools.



Snow Queen Puppet – Springvale Snow Fest '14

When I reflect on the company's work and achievements over this last financial year, I cannot quite believe the breadth, scale and integrity of the works Barking Spider has achieved.

Top 3 highlights are:

Liberty of the Press for artistic achievement, sheer event scale, significant community and audience engagement and the high number of supporters, collaborators and sponsors engaged to make this event happen. *Liberty of the Press* was a very high profile event, staged at the State Library of Victoria as a part of Melbourne Spring Fashion Week. We won a 2015 MAGNA for this work.

Bathing Beauties – A creatively ambitious, high profile event staged as part of the Festival of Live Art (FOLA). This work engaged community, was site-specific, and was as beautiful as was politically hard-hitting.

Antarctic Gaze – An intensive one-month arts residency at Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, which engaged families and young people. The process of the residency was the highlight: meaningful engagement with scores of children and families. The outcome – installation and giant "Iceractic" puppet – was a delight. We won a 2014 MAGNA for this work.



The Iceractic Puppet – Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Jan '14

Challenges:

Barking Spider has had a high level of activity and expansion over the last two-to-three years, but in particular this last financial year has been somewhat of a creative explosion.

While there is now some financial support through the City of Boroondara Triennial Funding, there is still a lot of fiscal pressure. On an HR level, from a perspective of sustainability, to ensure longevity and sustainability we sorely need more support.

Ideally, Barking Spider would have a General Manager on staff to assist with the daily running of the company. Secondly, there would be enormous benefit in employing a Manager of Fundraising and Philanthropy. Both of these roles could be on a part-time basis – even one-day a week as a start. This is not new news, but as yet we have not achieved in generating any substantial strategies or plans to shift the current mode of operation.
As a goal for the next financial year, I think this is what the company needs to set out to achieve.



Bathing Beauties – Melbourne City Baths

Future visions:

Museums & site-specific work
The company's engagement in museums and site-specific works is a very clear direction in which for us to keep expanding. The museums sector needs us - to help tell stories to engage visitors in original ways and means. For us, we are presenting and working with young people in a museums environment, serving our purpose well, as we interpret sites, objects, collections and stories.

A little bit of financial help
2014-15 was the first year we secured a small triennial funding grant from City of Boroondara. This has enabled us to employ a bookkeeper, which alleviates some of the pressure of running the company day-to-day. This funding is secured until the end of 2016-17 financial year.

Nailing our elevator pitch
Isolating what it is that Barking Spider does, in a nutshell, is something that the current board requested when we had our big board changeover around two years ago. I have played with this and tinkered, and I feel have finally nailed it:

Barking Spider? We are all about story.
How and where we tell stories – that changes, but story is at the heart of everything we do.

The extended version of this - to take us all the way through the pitch so to speak (from elevator door closing to elevator door opening) is:

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.

AND…

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

Great reviews
We have had some fabulous critical reviews this year. Please see our new reviews page:
http://barkingspidertheatre.com.au/new-article-press/



Four Stories: One Suitcase **– Darebin Homemade Food & Wine Fest, May 15**

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BARKING SPIDER VISUAL THEATRE INC.
ABN 86 698 299 732

Financial Report
For the year ended 30th June 2015

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

Barking Spider Visual Theatre
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

for year ended 30th June 2014	**2015**	**2014**
	$	$
Income		
Grants	14,200	25,000
Ticket Sales	-	-
Donations	-	1,398
Performance Fees	42,352	43,218
Workshops	22,302	23,568
Other Income	6,258	11,538
Interest	206	163
TOTAL INCOME	85,318	104,885
Cost of income		
Materials	737	2,323
Expenses		
Accommodation	1,353	241
Airfares & Transfers	1,324	-
Accounting	1,106	1,319
Artist Fees	2,070	5,863
Bank Charges	78	13
Contractors	15,824	4,794
Catering	464	66
Computer Expense	210	440
Costumes	-	226
Equipments	1,961	648
Equipment Hire	966	-
Insurance	1,712	1,719
Internet	-	149
Gifts	415	-
License Fees	-	-
Memberships and Registrations	1,414	726
Marketing	-	315
Music	2	12
Office Expenses	263	271
Parking	-	19
Petrol	37	409
Postage	15	8
Printing	-	36
Props/Lighting	824	1,088
Repairs & Maintainence	-	-
Set Design & Construction	275	133
Seminars/Training	-	1,710
Taxis & Transport	198	255
Trainee	-	200
Website Expenses	2,403	1,385
Wages and Salaries	58,139	48,607
Per Diems	2,299	1,417
Superannuation Expense	5,861	5,318
Rounding	1	1
TOTAL EXPENSES	99,951	79,711
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES	- 14,633	25,174

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BALANCE SHEET
for year ended 30th June 2015

		2015	2014
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash on Hand		24,659	43,276
Trade Debtors		8,838	3,917
Total Current Assets		33,497	47,193
TOTAL ASSETS		33,497	47,193
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
GST Liabilities		2,058	2,375
Super Guarantee Liabilities		1,766	1,669
PAYG Liabilities		4,727	3,570
Total Current Liabilities		8,551	7,614
TOTAL LIABILITIES		8,551	7,614
NET ASSETS		24,946	39,579
EQUITY			
Total Retained Members Funds		39,579	14,405
Current Year Deficit	-	14,633	25,174
NETT RESERVES		24,946	39,579

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