



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG/54

16 April 2008

Playing Australia – \$3.1 million funding round announced

Visiting the Long Paddock Forum in Melbourne today, Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, announced \$3.1 million in Playing Australia grants to assist 17 performing arts companies to tour live performances around the country.

“The \$3.1 million in grants I have announced today will see 17 great productions tour the country, taking live performance into regional and remote areas and providing an opportunity for these communities to enjoy something they might not otherwise have the chance to see.

“Productions that will tour the nation from this round of funding include traditional 19th century opera, multimedia theatre, dance with a Balinese influence, and a bilingual play performed in English and Pitjantjatjara .

“Playing Australia performances are always met with enthusiasm because of their high standards and variety across a number of artforms,” Mr Garrett said.

“As well as bringing a great cultural experience to the regional townships these touring performances visit, they also provide a welcome economic boost.”

Mr Garrett said the 2008–09 Playing Australia funding would support some 190 weeks of employment for 184 arts workers. Among the highlights for regional audiences in this round of funding are:

- *Ngapartji Ngapartji* by Big hART (Tas) – the popular and moving story of the Spinifex nation during the Cold War, performed by Trevor Jamieson. Touring to Darwin, Ernabella and Alice Springs.
- *Letter’s End* by Spoon Tree Productions (WA)—a children’s theatre piece about a man whose job it is to dispose of unclaimed post. Touring to the NT, Qld, NSW, Vic, Tas, SA and WA.
- *Nabarlek* by SkinnyFish Music (NT)—the ‘garage band that never had a garage’ will tour its bilingual mix of contemporary music to 18 venues in WA, some remote.
- *Walking by Apple Tree Creek* by La Boite Theatre Company (Qld)—challenges on the road for two grey nomads, one of whom is battling dementia. Touring to 11 venues in Qld, NSW and Vic.
- *The Fastest Boy in the World* by Patch Theatre Company (SA)—explores the world of Henry Horatio Richard O’Dockerty and his fantasy to become the fastest boy in the world. Taking this SA company to NSW, ACT, Qld and NT.

Playing Australia, the Australian Government’s national performing arts touring program, has been funding performing arts tours since 1992.

Visit www.arts.gov.au/arts/playing_australia where you will find full details of the program, guidelines, and lists of current and past funding recipients.



Australian Government

Playing Australia

Grant Recipients – Round 31
April 2008

NEW SOUTH WALES

Arts on Tour NSW (NSW)

Brilliant Monkey by **Pork Chop Productions** (NSW)

Brilliant Monkey is a comedy about two brothers, written by actor Al Dukes. One brother has just returned home from service in Afghanistan suffering a brain injury, and the other has taken to residing in the grounds of the repatriation hospital.

This production will tour to Geelong, Frankston, Bendigo, Newcastle, Coffs Harbour and Byron Bay, with 24 performances.

Grant: \$36 196

Arts on Tour NSW (NSW)

Thursday's Child by **Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People** (NSW)

Thursday's Child tells the story of Tin, born on a Thursday and, like the old nursery rhyme, 'has far to go'. Tin's sister tells the story of the family's struggle on their farm during the great depression which includes crop failure, neighbourhood and family disputes.

This production will tour to 38 venues in VIC, NSW, TAS, QLD, NT and WA, with 126 performances, including Sale, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst, Devonport, Launceston, Queanbeyan, Toowoomba, Townsville, Albany, Karratha and Taree.

Grant: \$294 809

Critical Stages (NSW)

Dealer's Choice by **Albedo Theatre** (NSW)

Dealer's Choice examines father-son relationships, men's bravado and the search for direction and connection.

This production will tour to 25 venues in QLD, NSW, VIC, WA, TAS and NT, with 66 performances, including Albury, Dandenong, Hobart, Mandurah, Bunbury and Darwin.

Grant: \$221 400

Magic Dirt Pty Ltd (NSW)

Magic Dirt by **Magic Dirt Pty Ltd** (VIC)

Magic Dirt will promote its new album and a second album simultaneously, which will contain 12 previously unreleased songs. Five 'super workshops' are scheduled and *Magic Dirt* will hold competitions for local bands to perform as support acts.

This production will tour to 38 venues in NSW, VIC, SA, QLD and WA with 38 performances, including Dubbo, Tamworth, Wilcannia, Mt Gambier, Coober Pedy, Armidale, Lismore, Cairns and Yallingup.

Grant: \$74 365

QUEENSLAND

ARTS/Queensland Arts Council (QLD)

Walking by Apple Tree Creek by **La Boite Theatre Company** (QLD)

Walking by Apple Tree Creek portrays Del and Stan, two Aussie battlers, in their Winnebago. These two grey nomads face not only the daily challenges of being on the road but also the overwhelming effects of battling with dementia.

This production will tour to 11 venues in QLD, NSW and VIC, with 29 performances, including Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Taree, Nunawading and Warragul.

Grant: \$55 733

ARTS/Queensland Arts Council (QLD)

61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes by **Circa** (QLD)

61 Circus Acts in 60 Minutes is a family show, set to upbeat music and featuring four multi-skilled performers.

This production will tour to 26 venues in WA, VIC, NSW and QLD, with 51 performances, including Port Hedland, Carnarvon, Esperance, Colac, Moorooopna, Caloundra, Mackay, Ayr and Thurwingowa.

Grant: \$137 143

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Co-Opera Inc (SA)

The Magic Flute by Mozart by **Co-Opera Inc (SA)**

Co-Opera's *The Magic Flute* tour features a core group of 14 singers who will perform the key operatic roles with piano and string quartet accompaniment.

This production will tour to 26 venues in VIC, NSW, ACT and QLD, with 26 performances, including Tumarumba, Forbes, Cowra, Coonabarabran, Goondiwindi, Emerald, Charters Towers, Innisfail and Winton.

Grant: \$156 308

Country Arts SA (SA)

The Fastest Boy in the World by **Patch Theatre Company (SA)**

Patch Theatre Company's production of *The Fastest Boy in the World* explores the world of Henry Horatio Richard O'Dockerty and his fantasy to become the fastest boy in the world.

This production will tour to 23 venues in NSW, ACT, QLD and NT, with 92 performances, including Griffith, Taree, Lismore, Canberra, Gladstone, Townsville, Mt Isa, Darwin and Alice Springs.

Grant: \$282 599

TASMANIA

Big hART Inc (TAS)

Ngapartji Ngapartji by **Big hART (TAS)**

Through dance, story and song, *Ngapartji Ngapartji* explores displacement as the Spinifex nation is swept up in the Cold War. The production is performed in English and in Pitjantjatjara.

This production will tour to Darwin, Ernabella and Alice Springs, with 7 performances.

Grant: \$158 301
VICTORIA

Circus Australia Ltd (VIC)

Circus Oz by **Circus Oz (VIC)**

This production of *Circus Oz* will tour to Canberra for a Big Top tent season, Tasmania and regionally throughout Victoria and New South Wales after returning from a tour of Europe and North America. The tour will also include workshops in regional centres.

This production will tour to 12 venues in VIC, TAS, NSW and ACT, with 44 performances, including Mildura, Griffith, Launceston, Hobart, Bathurst, Orange and Canberra.

Grant: \$481 620

Cultural Infusion Ltd (VIC)

IndoBboy by **Cultural Infusion (VIC)**

IndoBboy is a fusion of Balinese and Indonesian traditional dance, and contemporary Australian urban street dance.

This production will tour to 32 venues in QLD, VIC, NSW, NT and WA, with 37 performances, including Camooweal, Nyngan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett, Roma, Injune, Springsure, Hughenden, Julia Creek, Wyndham and Derby.

Grant: \$42 672

HIT Productions (VIC)

David Williamson's Travelling North by **HIT Productions (VIC)**

David Williamson's 'Travelling North', which has been described as a love story and beautifully written play, has at its centre two wonderfully drawn characters dealing with the complexities of lives well lived.

This production will tour to 33 venues in VIC, QLD, NSW and ACT, with 70 performances, including Swan Hill, Portland, Mackay, Capella, Hervey Bay, Tenterfield, Gunnedah, Dubbo and Canberra.

Grant: \$230 000

Kultour - Multicultural Arts Victoria (VIC)

Drums and Lions by **Drums and Lions (VIC)**

Drums and Lions is a musical collaboration between reggae artist Nicky Bomba and Ethiopian born Azmari musician Dereb Desalegn. The tour will include percussion workshops on Ethiopian traditions.

This production will tour to 11 venues in QLD, NSW, SA, NT and VIC, with 11 performances, including Darwin, Katherine, Minyeri, Tennant Creek and Ali Curung.

Grant: \$18 513

Opera Australia's Oz Opera (VIC)

Madame Butterfly by Opera Australia's OzOpera (VIC)

Madame Butterfly will be sung in English, accompanied by a chamber orchestra (string quartet, wind quartet, trumpet, trombone and keyboard).

This production will tour to 27 venues in VIC, ACT, QLD, NT and WA, with 35 performances, including Toowoomba, Mossman, Mt Isa, Katherine, Kununurra, Derby, Newman, Carnarvon, Borden and Moora.

Grant: \$508 404

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Country Arts WA (WA)

Baby Boomer Blues by Perth Theatre Company (WA)

Baby Boomer Blues is a comedy about a couple's search for fulfilment. When Bob's business fails, Carol plays the breadwinner, causing surprising results for their marriage.

This production will tour to 23 venues in QLD, NSW, VIC and SA, with 38 performances, including Townsville, Caloundra, Port Macquarie, Bendigo, Shepparton, Renmark, Mt Gambier, Tanunda, Port Pirie and Whyalla.

Grant: \$161 144

Country Arts WA (WA)

Letter's End by Spoon Tree Productions (WA)

In *Letter's End*, we meet 'the keeper', a man whose job it is to dispose of all unclaimed post. One day, the keeper decides to open one of the packages, and his life is changed forever. *Letter's End* is a mix of circus and theatre, stage illusion, video projection and physical comedy.

This production will tour to 46 venues in NT, QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, SA and WA, with 119 performances, including Thurwingowa, Mackay, Bathurst, Orange, Sale, Hamilton, Hobart, Launceston, Port Lincoln, Albany, Geraldton and Karratha.

Grant: \$197 216

Country Arts WA (WA)

Nabarlek by Skinnyfish Music (NT)

Nabarlek is 'the garage band that never had a garage'. Its repertoire is a mix of traditional and contemporary lyrics with some songs performed in English and others in the band's first language, Kunwinke.

This production will tour to 18 venues in WA, with 18 performances, including Halls Creek, Derby, Broome, Port Hedland, Marble Bar, Tom Price, Warburton, Warakurna, Jameson and Mount Magnet.

Grant: \$35 180