



THE INDEPENDENT ARTS
IAF
FOUNDATION (S.A.) INC.
Supporting emerging South Australian artists since 1991

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Patron: Jessica Dames AM



Pip Williams (right) in conversation with Sandy Verschoor, Special Fundraising Event, Oct 2023

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Board Matters

IAF Chair's Report July 2022 - June 2023



The year July 2022 - June 2023 has been an eventful year for the IAF. It began with a decision by the then Board to wind up the IAF due to declining membership numbers, an uncertain economic situation, and having no replacement to take over as Chair after John Holmes concluded his six-year, two-term stint in that role. The announcement at last year's AGM in November came as a shock to many and a decision was made by the Board in December to postpone for three months in an effort to find a new Chair and to manage the wind down.

In February and March 2023, with the firm belief that the IAF had the potential to be reinvigorated and to continue its work in fundraising to support South Australian artists, my husband and I submitted proposals to the Board for ways to do this and offered our assistance. These included adopting new fundraising strategies by planning occasional, larger-scale events with a wider range of events to attract broader audiences and boost income generation; developing and implementing a multi-stranded marketing plan that would raise the profile of the IAF amongst artists and the public and boost audiences and income; identifying one or more new venues with acoustics and a sound system, better suited to our needs and able to accommodate larger audiences; and undertaking an active and targeted search strategy for new Board members - including a Chair - with specific skill sets and professional expertise that would contribute to increasing the profile and marketing reach of the IAF.

In March 2023, with the Board still having no Chair and time running out, I volunteered to take on the role of Interim Chair, a proposal that was accepted by the Board. A few weeks later, the Board agreed to rescind the decision to wind up the IAF and we have been busy in many ways since then with work on new fundraising events and planning and policy documents.

The focus on larger events was adopted by the Board and we identified and have been using the Osmond Terrace Function Centre, Norwood for the literary dinners as well as for other, larger, fundraising events. During May and June planning began for three major events: a musical event with the Keith Conlon Trio in July, a cabaret in September and a literary luncheon with guest speaker Pip Williams in October. Helen Onopko approached Pip Williams, and she and Jill Argent began planning that event, whilst Laurence Nobes, a cabaret artist and event organiser, was approached to help with the organisation of the cabaret, a role that he adopted as a volunteer. The facilities of the Function Centre that the venue offers have enabled us to accommodate larger audiences for these events, with between 80 and 145 for each.

The Board will continue to explore opportunities for increasing future revenue generation with a program of events that reaches out to the public through more diverse – but targeted – range of events - with the prospect of increased revenue for grants, and better outcome in terms of time and energy of all the volunteers involved.

During the period 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023, the Board membership has had some changes. Carol Maelzer joined the Board at the last AGM, and since then has taken on several tasks including assisting Mary Odlum with the organisation of film nights, acquiring and preparing raffles prizes and selling tickets; Carol organised the completion of the December IAF Newsletter and also introduced and compiled a booklet of reports received from past grant recipients. This report, distributed earlier this year, provides a useful record of the outcomes for grantees and is a powerful illustration of the value of our fundraising work.

Early in the year, Jen and Chloe Dunstan both stood down due to Jen's health and to focus on her post-operative recuperation. Both have given several years work to the Board and had been key figures at regular IAF events as well as initiating some memorable one-off events. We have been delighted to see Jen's progress in her health journey and her attendance at the AGM.

The strategic search for new Board members undertaken between February and April 2023, has reaped rewards. IAF member Tracy Crisp, herself a performing artist, expressed her interest in joining the Board. She was formally co-opted onto the Board in May and since then she has provided valuable insights into artists' experiences and perspectives and made suggestions for policy changes which are under discussion.

Josh White was one of the individuals identified in our search for skilled professionals and we are delighted that he also joined the Board. Josh is CEO of Neon Treehouse, a digital marketing agency, and has a wealth of experience in marketing and management. Josh was formally co-opted onto the Board in May and immediately reviewed and revised the draft Marketing Strategy, presenting a draft document with the addition of several proposals that are under consideration by the Board. He is helping us to utilise online strategies and advising on various ways of building networks across the arts sector that will improve the IAF's presence, profile and reach.

Since they joined the Board, Josh and Tracy have been working with Margaret Lynch to develop a Strategic Plan for the IAF. This is critical to the formation of various policies and plans that the IAF needs to adopt to ensure that we operate according to good governance principals in everything that we do, and that we increase efficiency and productivity, build audiences, diversify activities, boost income and extend our reach within the arts sector. The plan will be completed early 2024.

We have gained another co-opted member of the Board, Merinda Edwards but, as her introduction falls outside the timescale of this report, I will leave discussion of her role and contributions until a later date.

So, the financial year ended in June with a much-improved outlook for the IAF, lots of activity being undertaken by Board members and the prospect of several exciting new fundraising events to look forward to.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their hard work, their energy and commitment to the arts and the work of the IAF, and also thank members and donors for their support as attendees of the events, for helping to spread the word amongst family and friends, and for the financial input through donations, ticket purchase, not to mention our regular raffles.

Due to the limitations on terms in office as members of the Board, as determined by the IAF Constitution, three of our Board members have reached – or gone beyond – that limit: Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela who has organised the literary dinners for many years; Mary Odlum, Treasurer; and Helen Onopko, Secretary and archivist. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous input that they have had in many ways and the huge amount of knowledge that they have of the IAF and its activities over the years. We will welcome their continued active involvement in supporting the IAF and the events program as well as Helen's ongoing volunteering work as the IAF archivist.

The Treasurer is a key role and the Constitution does make provision for Mary to continue in this role as a Board member, if there is no-one else appointed, and the role of secretary is also essential. Both Mary and Helen would welcome a rest and handing over the reins to others. So, we welcome nomination or volunteers for these two positions and will be dealing with the voting of Board members during the course of this evening's meeting.

As always, we would also welcome help from anyone who would like to volunteer to assist with planning and presenting future events as well as supporting the work of the Board in other ways. There are various roles that can be undertaken, so please approach any of the Board members over the course of the evening, or afterwards by email, if you would be able to assist in any way.

Moira Simpson
Chair
November 2023

Board Changes 2023-2024

Incoming

At the AGM held on 21 November, Dr Moira Simpson was nominated and accepted the position of Chair.

Joshua White, Tracy Crisp and Merinda Edwards who joined the board through the 2022-2023 Financial Year were formerly nominated and accepted as Board Members.

Tracy Crisp will take on the role of Secretary.

Outgoing

Jenny Dunstan and Chloe Dunstan retired from the Board early in 2023.

Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela, Mary Odium and Helen Onopko having reached the limit of their tenure stood down as Board Members.

Due to there being no other nominations for Treasurer, an essential position on the Board, Mary Odium offered to continue as Treasurer and was formerly reappointed.

Cheryl will continue to convene the Literary Dinners in 2024 and help with other events.

Helen will continue as Archivist and can stand in as Secretary should Tracy be unavailable.

Board Members 2023-2024

IAF BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2024	IAF OFFICERS
Moira Simpson (Chair)	Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela
Mary Odium (Treasurer)	Helen Onopko
Tracy Crisp (Secretary)	PUBLIC OFFICER
Merinda Edwards	John Holmes
Margaret Lynch	
Carol Maelzer	
Joshua White	

Thank you to outgoing Board Members

Jen Dunstan



Early in the year, Jen Dunstan stood down to focus on her health and post-operative recuperation. Jen is doing well and expects to be a regular attendee at events in 2024.

Jen joined the IAF Board in 2017 and immediately became a very active and valued member of the Board. As Chair of Marketing & Development/Events Management, Jen began publicising the IAF through media releases and introducing regular updates via email to members about IAF events and other Arts

Events in SA. She negotiated special deals with Theatre groups when possible and promoted the IAF whenever the occasion arose. During Covid Jen kept us connected with the arts through her emails, giving us links to online shows that we might not have otherwise known about.

Jen created a wonderful feeling of 'bonhomie' at all events. She added the role of Chair Film Events in 2018, organising monthly films at The Trak and then Mitcham after The Trak sadly closed its doors. Jen held film matinees on occasion at The Regal Theatre and other special events at different venues over the years, always popular with our members. Jen collected raffle prizes for nearly all events always making sure all gift donors were appropriately recognized.

A special thanks to Jen's mum, Clare Russ, who often funded the bubbles at The Trak film evenings.

Thank you, Jen.

Chloe Dunstan

Early in the year, Chloe Dunstan also stood down to help support her mum in her health journey as well as due to work commitments. The Board invited Chloe to join the IAF Board in 2019 as Marketing and Youth Contact, delighted to have a younger Board member!

Chloe quickly used her marketing skills in organising a membership-wide survey which produced interesting and informative results to help guide the Board.

Chloe established strong links between IAF and Holden Street Theatres, which we continue to support.



In 2022, Chloe was also instrumental in leading the Fundraising campaign, Investing in Artists' Futures which brought in \$11,000 in its first year and is still ongoing and increasing steadily.

Thank you, Chloe.

Helen Onopko



Due to the limitations on terms in office as members of the Board, as determined by the IAF Constitution, Helen Onopko stepped down as Board Member at the AGM held on 21 November 2023.

Helen has been a member of the IAF since 2004 and joined the IAF Board in 2016 bringing her professional archiving skills to the Board. She quickly produced a detailed plan to gather a wide range of IAF materials in a safe and searchable format. In collaboration with Jill Argent OAM (retired Board Member), Helen and Jill started to interview some major players in the IAF gathering photographs and found stories of members who had been awesome in their capacity for hard work, and hilarious in their poetic and diarised reflections.

Helen took over the role of Minute Secretary in 2017. The Board is very grateful to Helen for taking the minutes and preparing the agendas for the monthly Board meetings so efficiently.

Helen is passionate about supporting young and emerging artists and was keen to hold a major fundraising event with a South Australian writer that would appeal to many. Helen was the main organizer, along with IAF member Jill Argent OAM, in the '*Pip Williams in conversation with Sandy Verschoor*' luncheon event held on 1 October 2023.

Helen is very generous with her support to the IAF raffle, regularly donating hydrangeas that she has grown in her garden. Many of us have a hydrangea or two in our own garden that we have won from the raffle events.

We are very fortunate that Helen will continue as Archivist and offered to be backup Secretary should a need arise.

Thank you, Helen

Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela



Due to the limitations on terms in office as members of the Board, as determined by the IAF Constitution, Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela stepped down as Board Member at the AGM held on 21 November 2023.

Cheryl was a founding member of the IAF and joined its Board in 1999, when she was asked by the then Chair to resurrect the Literary Club which had closed due to difficulties in finding a suitable venue.

The IAF Board would like to acknowledge and thank Cheryl for her many years of work that she has contributed, as a member of the Board and as the organiser of the literary dinners, as well as other events. Cheryl was instrumental with the organization and promotion of our first very successful major fundraising event in 2023, *An afternoon with the Keith Conlon Trio*.

The literary dinners have been one of the consistently successful events on the IAF calendar for many years and attract a loyal following from members. Cheryl appreciates the support of Michael Bollen, Publisher of Wakefield Press, which has sponsored the Literary Dinners over many years and has provided a wealth of interesting guest speakers.

We are very fortunate and appreciative that Cheryl has indicated that she will continue to convene the literary dinners in 2024 and help with other fundraising events.

Thank you, Cheryl.

Introducing new Board Members

Josh White



Josh White is the founder and CEO of Neon Treehouse, a bright and imaginative digital advertising agency. He has been forging his own path and leading the way for others in the digital world for over 10 years! What you'll hear from Josh is a clear passion for digital and startups, mobilising teams around values and vision, customer-centric marketing, the modern-day digital marketing stack, and excitement about what's in store for the future of the world.

Josh is a born and raised Adelaide entrepreneur, who moved to Melbourne 2 years ago to grow the East Coast office...no matter what people say though, he's insistent you'll never be able to take the SA spirit out of the boy.

With branches in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, Josh's dedicated team serves a diverse clientele spanning Australia and the global stage. Explore the "our work" section via Neon Treehouse's website for the work Josh is involved in.

Tracy Crisp



Tracy is an independent artist and also has wide-ranging work and volunteer experience in the arts and NGO sectors in South Australia and overseas.

She spent several years as the Executive Officer of the Arts Industry Council (SA) and her previous governance experience includes time on the boards and governing councils of Writers SA, Amnesty International Australia, the Disability Information

& Resource Centre, and Sturt Street school.

As an independent artist, she is a writer and performer whose work includes published novels, short stories and essays; a series of memoir-monologues; and a visual arts practice focused on textile arts.

Dr Merinda Edwards PhD



Originally from Victoria (Djilang, Taungurung and Naarm Country) Merinda's passion for the arts grew as she established herself in Adelaide.

Merinda completed a PhD at the University of South Australia and with extensive teaching and academic experience, Merinda has taken on a variety of roles such as directing her own festivals, marketing management in the arts, private sectors and state government to running live music venues, galleries and leading large-scale arts activations. She has a strong arts background.

Merinda is passionate about communicating with the public, drawing people in with stories, and creative and engaging communications practices. From her academic experience of community development, partnerships, and placemaking, Merinda's passion is to connect people to achieve goals with vibrancy!

In her free time, you can find her chasing events, festivals and gigs writing reviews for local publications or an adventure in the bush; on a quiet day, you will find her in her garden, or kitchen cooking up a storm.

Treasurer's Report

By Mary Odium



The IAF is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) which allows us to receive tax deductible donations.

A full financial report was presented at the AGM held on 21 November 2023.

The IAF revenue comes from members and friends attending fundraising events, supporting the raffles, paying membership fees and making donations. All funds raised go towards supporting emerging artists. We thank all of you that support us.

In the financial year 2022-2023, the IAF gave \$18,750 in small grants, sponsorships, and awards. Of this:

- \$14,750 was awarded in Small Grant awards, five to individual artists and two group awards.
- \$2,000 sponsorship was provided to the Holden Street Theatre Fringe Artists' Program.
- \$1,000 (2 awards of \$500) for the Young Film Maker Award at the Fleurieu Film Festival.

Our membership numbers are now around 160 and we thank those of you that continue to renew your membership. An increase to membership fees was approved at the AGM.

From 1 January 2024, annual membership fees will be:

- \$40 Single Membership (12 months)
- \$75 Double Membership (12 months)

Film nights were held regularly at Wallis Cinemas, Mitcham from March to November 2023 and Literary dinners were held from April to November 2023 at The Osmond Terrace Function Centre, The Norwood Hotel.

In addition, four very successful special fundraising events were held between July and December 2023, three at the Osmond Terrace Function Centre and the End of Year Celebration at The Regal Theatre and Marryatville Hotel.

Please note we have changed our postal address to PO Box 251, Stepney 5069.

Please see our separate report on our 2023 grant and award recipients.

Donations

We would like to acknowledge the donations received from members and non-members who donated either to our fund-raising campaign, direct to the special fund-raising account, or added a donation when renewing membership or booking an event, or who gifted their ticket payment in lieu of attendance when they found they couldn't attend.

Jill Argent OAM	Stephanie Mallen
Patricia Bagalou	Fred & Sue Mann
Roxanna Bianco	Brenton McClarty
John Bishop	David McClay
Madeleine Blackwell	Merilyn McPhee
Gavin Blake	Ines Medianik
Beverley Brown	Felicity Morgan & David Smith
Vincent & Josephine Burke	Lyn Muller
Judy Connor	Juliette Ninnis
Kathy Darling-Brookes	Mary Odium
Christopher Dibden	Jonathan Pincus
Sandra Edwards	Sherry Proferes
Elaine Fardell	Mary Reynolds
Cathy Farquhar	Alison Richards
Beverley Gibson	Helen Robinson
David Grybowski	Linda Sampson
Micheleine Hannaford	Mark Schulz
Samela Harris	Megan Skelton
Jan Hartwig	Miranda Starke
David Inverity	Petra Starke
Anne Jensen	Burt & Jeni Surmon
Hon Jing Lee	Di Truscott
Glenys Jones OAM	Tina Turci
Anne Kelly	Robina & Glen Weir
Stephen Leahy	Mary Wilson
Don Loffler	Barbara Wing
Sally Luke	Sue & David Wiseman
Diana M Evans	

Donations can be made at any time. Simply add one when you book for an event or renew your membership via Trybooking. To donate to our ongoing fund-raising campaign, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/investinginartists> or contact the Treasurer on 0457 857 385. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Raffle Donations

We sincerely thank the following who generously donated gifts as raffle prizes for our various events in 2023.

IAF Members	Businesses
Cheryl Appelkamp	Matilda Bookshop, Stirling
Mary Odlum	Miranda Brown Publicity
Jill Argent OAM	Evocative Arts
Helen Onopko	Wallis Cinemas
Janet Bonner & Robert Carter	Nick Haselgrove Wines
Elaine Fardell	Hahndorf Hills Wines
Christine McMahon	Affirm Publications
Moira Simpson & Steve Charles	Beerenberg Farm
Margaret Lynch	Fashada (Norwood)
Carol Maelzer	Lynn Robins (Jewellery)
Beverley Gibson	
David McClay	

Cunard British Film Festival



The IAF was fortunate to receive two double passes to the Cunard British Film Festival in November generously donated by Miranda Brown Publicity which were raffled at our film night in October.

One double pass was won by Merry Canavan who went along with her friend Nin to see Michael Caine in *The Great Escaper*.

Photo: Merry Canavan with her friend Nin

The other was won by Garry Hiskey who went along with a friend to see *The Trouble with Jessica*. Garry says it was a well-acted film full of tension and emotion.

Many thanks to Board Member, Merinda Edwards for arranging for IAF to have the tickets.

IAF Grant and Award Recipients

The IAF provides funding to support South Australian arts and artists through its small grants and several other awards in the donor's name. Successful recipients are required to submit a small report describing how the grant was used and the benefits that have been gained from the financial support. These reports are posted on the IAF webpage at www.iafoundation.org.au

You can also find the following summary report on our webpage:

- Grants and Awards Recipients' Reports 2022
- Grants and Awards Recipients' Report 2023

Recipients of IAF Small Grants: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Grant Recipient	Event/Venue	Date Awarded
Edwina Callary To cover tuition in classical ballet and exam fees to the Royal Academy of Dance	Clare Valley School of Dance	June 2023
Dante Niedzwiedz, Alice Reardon & Angus Becke-Smith Production of a short film titled <i>M-8</i>	Film Festivals	June 2023
Solitude Exhibition To support printing and framing expenses, promotion and venue hire for four emerging photographers.	Magpie Springs, Hope Forest	June 2023
Max Brading Production of <i>In the Belly of the Beast</i> , an interactive installation and performance work	The Lab	July 2023
Kavitha Anandasivam Post-production, music and festival entry fees for a short film <i>GNOME</i> . (approximately 11-minutes)	Australian Film Festivals	November 2023
Guy Henderson & Jasmine Leech Production funding for an 8-minute queer historical drama short film <i>Great Deliverance</i> .	Australian Film Festivals	November 2023
Chloe Zodrow Production of a short film <i>Fledgling</i> (working title)	Australian Film Festivals	November 2023

Sponsorships / other awards: 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Young Filmmakers Award (*under 24 years of age*), Fleurieu Film Festival

- Awarded February 2023
- Grant recipients (Joint):
 - Rizz Thomas for short film *Selma*
 - Ryan Nash for short film *In the Present*
- Purpose: Short Film

Critics Circle Award – Award for Innovation

- Awarded December 2023
- Grant recipients: Tutti Arts
- Purpose: Tutti Ensemble

Holden Street Theatres

- Awarded February 2023
- Purpose: HST Fringe Program, includes IAF promoted on the back cover

Russell Starke Small Grant 2023: Broadening access to the arts in country SA

No award made in 2023 as no suitable applicant. Will be offered again in 2024.

Thanks to Petra and Miranda Starke for generously continuing to support this grant.

Neil Curnow Award Recipient 2024 – Ren Williams

The Neil Curnow Award is made possible through the generous bequest of the late Neil Curnow. Following his impressive career as an actor, director, teacher and voice coach, Neil made a bequest through the IAF to support emerging South Australian theatre people through this prestigious award.



The Neil Curnow Award is available to final-year students and graduates aged between 18 and 30. The purpose of the award is to support an emerging artist to undertake further study or career development in acting, theatre performance or theatre direction.

The award supports the recipient to undertake further study or an internship at a recognised institution, nationally or internationally.

The 2024 Neil Curnow Award recipient is Flinders University Graduate, Ren Williams.

Ren is an actor, writer, director, and co-founder of independent theatre company CRAM Collective.

After graduating in 2020, Ren made her directing debut with Deadset Theatre Company's show *Truck Stop* along with winning State Theatre Company South Australia's Young Playwright Award for her play *Modified*. After forming CRAM in 2021, Ren performed in and produced their world premiere of *Something Big* following the sold-out *New World Coming*, a show created in five days. In 2022 Ren performed in STCSA's StateSide show *Kill Climate Deniers* as five different characters. Most recently, Ren performed in the DreamBIG Festival in the one-woman show *Guthrak* before puppeteering on the set of *Beep and Mort* for Season 2 and joining the USA tour of *Bluey's Big Play* at the end of 2023.

In 2024 Ren will travel to London to undertake a four-week intensive screen acting course with the Actors Studio. This will be followed by a week-long intensive at the International School of Screen Acting with tutoring by renowned industry professionals, including Sue Dunderdale, Ben Cogan, Jane Ahmore, and Leon Lopez.

On receiving the news of her successful application, Ren said she was, "over the moon". "Being given the opportunity to undertake a world-renowned masterclass in screen acting will not only enhance my artistic development as an actor, but it will further my career within the film industry and allow me to bring this knowledge back to Kaurua Yerta. I am so excited and incredibly grateful to Helpmann for this career-changing experience," said Ren.

For further information on the application process for the Neil Curnow Award 2025, please visit their website at: <https://helpmannacademy.com.au/neil-curnow-award/>

Special Fundraising Events

During 2023, the focus on larger events was adopted by the Board. Planning commenced in 2023 for three major events: a musical event with the Keith Conlon Trio in July, a cabaret in September and a literary luncheon with guest speaker Pip Williams in October.

All three events were held in the Osmond Terrace Function Centre, Norwood.

From Mozart to Mancini: An afternoon with The Keith Conlon Trio

What a fantastic afternoon we had on Sunday 9th July 2023. There was a real buzz in the room, and I think everyone had a fabulous time.

The event sold out with 145 guests attending for a fun afternoon of nostalgia, great music and entertainment from Keith Conlon and his band.

Thank you, again wonderful members for your support. All monies raised go to supporting emerging artists in SA. The IAF made a profit of just over \$4,000 dollars which equates to four small grants for emerging artists. In addition, 6 people signed up as IAF members. A wonderful outcome!



Life is a Cabaret



Many thanks to demure and saucy international performer and witty Mistress of Ceremonies Helga Handfull for organising such a wonderful cabaret event to help the IAF raise funds for emerging artists in South Australia! Helga brought along David Gauci, Crimsin, Jax Grayson and Alison Kimber to assist with the entertainment. All the artists volunteered their time so that all funds raised could go towards supporting artists in SA. Around 80 people enjoyed the evening and almost \$2000 was made from this event which is equivalent to two small grant awards.

Many members took advantage of having dinner before the show in the Osmond Terrace Function Centre which was set up with round tables with black tablecloths and sparkling lights! The room looked amazing!

Many thanks to Steve Charles for working with Supersound Productions to create great lighting and sound for the event.

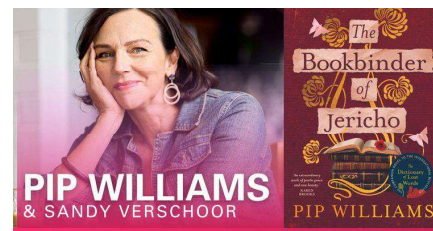
Thank you, Steve.

Photo: Helga Handfull (above); Alison Kimber (right)



Pip Williams in conversation with Sandy Verschoor

The Independent Arts Foundation was thrilled to host Pip Williams and Sandy Verschoor at our literary event on Sunday, 1 October 2023, and very much appreciated the time Pip gave us amid her busy schedule.



Pip has become the go-to author across book clubs here and overseas, and we were very happy to have secured her for our event. Sandy Verschoor many of you will be familiar with as our former Lord Mayor of Adelaide until 2022. Sandy also has a deep involvement in the Arts industry in South Australia directing or producing the Festival of Arts, the Adelaide Fringe, the Festival of Ideas and the Windmill Theatre to name a few.

In a "Writer's Week" style, Sandy interviewed Pip on the stage at the Norwood Function Centre, seamlessly moving between Pip's travel memoir "*One Summer in Italy*", her next publication "*The Dictionary of Lost Words*", and more recently "*The Bookbinder of Jericho*".

Pip wowed the 107 people in the audience with her grace, eloquence and wonderful company. With particular relevance to the characters in the two novels, she expressed the need in this current world for recognizing the needs of humanity and the significance of work undertaken by women in history.

We also very much appreciated the generous donations made by Nick Haselgrove Wines, Hahndorf Hill Wines, Affirm Publications, Beerenberg Farm, Fashada, and Lynn Robins, all of which separated dollars from the pockets of attendees to buy raffle tickets. All proceeds went as always towards grants and this event raised sufficient funds for two grants for emerging artists and we are thrilled with that result.

Organisers of the event Helen Onopko and Jill Argent have threatened to hold another major literary event in 2024! Watch our website for IAF events.

End of Year Celebration

On Sunday 12 December we held our end of year celebration at Regal Theatre, Kensington with the movie *Napoleon* followed by optional dinner at the Marryatville Hotel. On arrival our guests enjoyed a glass of bubbles followed by a very generous Christmas raffle.

Thank you to the many members, their family and friends who came along to the movie and then joined together for a lovely meal at the Marryatville. It was a lovely way to end what has been a very successful year for the IAF.



Literary Dinner Report

By Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela, Convenor, Literary Dinners



Looking back over our 2023 literary dinners, I am reminded of what a wonderful range of books Wakefield Press publishes and how lucky we are to have access to their authors, thanks to their sponsorship and the presence of its publisher Michael Bollen at most of our dinners.

We commenced the 2023 series on Wednesday, 12 April in our new venue, the Osmond Terrace Function Centre of Norwood Hotel, with Abraham Maddison as guest speaker. His heartfelt talk about

his autobiography, *Crazy Bastard*, on the subject of his own forced adoption, was very moving and provoked a lot of comments from guests.

We resumed holding the dinners on the third Tuesday of the month from 16 May, with Mike Ladd, well-known to ABC listeners through his program Poetica, talking about his book, *Dream Tetras*, in which Mike's dream-inspired essays are accompanied by illustrations produced by his partner, Cathy Brooks.

Our guest speaker on 20 June was Heather Taylor-Johnson, an American-Australian who was so upset by the result of the 2016 American presidential election that she expressed her outrage and disbelief in a series of poems which were published as *Alternative Hollywood Ending*.

Roanna McClelland, a former South Australian now living and working in Melbourne, whose background includes environmental policy and law, was an inspiring guest speaker on 18 July, talking about her book, *The Comforting Weight of Water*.

On 15 August, Martin Hamilton-Smith, who has the unusual distinction of having served as a Leader of the SA Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition and subsequently as a cabinet minister in a Labor government, was guest speaker to talk about his book, *Seven Leaders in Camelot*, which outlines the major political events that took place under seven different leaders over thirty years in South Australia.

Our guest speaker on 19 September was Hilton Koppe, a former NSW country GP who was forced to give up general practice due to PTSD and who wrote about his experiences in an insightful book, *One Curious Doctor*. If any of you missed his wonderful talk at our dinner, you may like to access his recent interview on Radio National by Sarah Konowski.

We didn't hold a literary dinner in October due to a major literary event which was held on Sunday, 1 October with Pip Williams in conversation Sandy Verschoor.

Our final dinner for 2023, a very well-attended event with Samela Harris as guest speaker, was held on 21 November.

Samela gave an insight into how she compiled the wonderful book, *Adelaide Festival Centre: Celebrating 50 Years*, with stories about some of the people she interviewed for the book and their reactions to being involved with the Festival Centre.

Photo: Samela Harris with IAF Patron, Jessica Dames AM



In summary for 2023, we have had the following guest speakers:

- April: Abraham Maddison with his autobiography, *Crazy Bastard*
- May: Mike Ladd with his book *Dream Tetras*
- June: Heather Taylor-Johnson, discuss her series of poems in *Alternative Hollywood Ending*
- July: Roanna McClelland, with her book *The Comforting Weight of Water*.
- August: Martin Hamilton-Smith, talked about his book, *Seven Leaders in Camelot*
- October: Hilton Koppe with his book *One Curious Doctor*
- November: Samela Harris with her book *Festival Centre: Celebrating 50 Years*,



We are resuming our literary dinners on Tuesday, 20 February 2024 with Peter Goers OAM as guest speaker and look forward to seeing you at what promises to be another great evening.

The following literary dinner will be held on Tuesday, 16 April, due to March having so many other arts events.

Photo: Penny McCann and John Fitzpatrick at the November 2023 Literary Dinner

Film Report

By Mary Odium and Carol Maelzer

In 2023 we have seen another interesting collection of films at Wallis Cinema, Mitcham. The (Hollywood) writers strikes during the year, whilst limiting films that were available the IAF still managed to find a film to showcase for our event.

Thank you to our IAF and non-IAF members, their family and friends for your ongoing support and company. Thank you to our generous raffle prize donors and to those that support via purchase of additional raffle tickets.

Thank you to Wallis Cinema Mitcham for their ongoing support to the IAF.

For 2023, we have watched the following films:

- March: *Living*
- April: *Mafia Mamma*
- May: *Bookclub - The Next Chapter*
- June: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*
- July: *Belle & Sebastian - The Next Generation*
- August: *Oppenheimer*
- October: *Haunting in Venice*
- November: *NYAD*
- December: *Napoleon*

We look forward to seeing you at the movies.



IAF News

Damage



Previous IAF grant recipient, Madeleine Blackwell had a National release of her film *Damage* on 9th November 2023.

The cinema screenings were well attended.

We were also thrilled to receive the news that the film *Damage* has been officially selected for this year's UK Film Festival in November 2023. It will screen as a 'very select collection of films'.

The IAF congratulates Madeleine Blackwell and her team on her success. More information about Madeleine and *Damage* can be found at <https://if.com.au/madeleine-blackwell-finds-a-way-forward-for-debut-feature-damage/>

Fleurieu Film Festival

The IAF received an invitation to the Launch of the Fleurieu Film Festival of which we are a sponsor.



IAF Board Members Margaret Lynch and Helen Onopko represented the IAF Board at the event held on Sunday 26th November 2023 at the McLaren Vale Visitor Centre.

Photo: IAF Board Members Margaret Lynch and Helen Onopko with Harrison 'Rizz' Thomas, joint recipient of the 2023 IAF Young Film Makers Award.

As a budding young film maker, Rizz was selected to receive photographic equipment which had been donated by a member of the public who no longer had a need for the equipment. Rizz was delighted!

Rizz was presented with the equipment at the Launch by Carolyn Corkindale, Director of the Fleurieu Film Festival.

The Fleurieu Film Festival is on Saturday 3 February at the McLaren Vale Visitors Centre.

<https://www.fleurieufilmfestival.com.au/tickets>

From the Archive

By Helen Onopko (Archivist)

IAF is forever grateful to past members who have generously provided reminiscences and documents relating to the earlier days of the Elizabethan Theatre Trust as it morphed into the Independent Arts Foundation.

Nora Miliken added much value to our story with documents and photographs. She regaled through a letter to 'Bill' - a colleague overseas at the time - a series of three events concerned with the Playwrights Competition which was conducted every two years to coincide with the Adelaide Festival.

Many thanks once again for this entertaining story Nora....

"The Playwrights Competition was held every two years to coincide with the Adelaide Festival. This particular year (mid 1980s) we received 97 entries from all over Australia, and the judges were very impressed with the high standard. The awards were announced and presented during Writers Week by John Bannon in the presence of august and prominent citizens, and afterwards we served drinks and exquisite savouries on the lawns around the Writers tent. As you can imagine, it was difficult to exclude gate-crashers and consequently quite a few interestingly loutish citizens who were neither august nor-prominent came lurching in, lured by the chilled white wine nestling in ice –that day it was 100 degrees!

I was put in charge of the drink for all three functions, but that one was the most difficult. I had to get a special permit so that a delivery van could enter the sacred ground of the Torrens Parade Ground, drive across it, and deliver the goods, but it all worked beautifully, and I am now regarded as an expert at getting drink delivered in awkward places.

The second function was a cocktail party at which we entertained artists appearing during the Festival. But the third was our piece de resistance! The Trust gave us \$5000 to workshop the winning play. The Stage Company, under the direction of John Noble were engaged to carry out the workshop, and the Playwrights Committee decided to do something stylish. The day was master-minded by Jessica Dames.



We decided to hire a train to take us to Mt Lofty where we were greeted by a brass band, then buses took everyone to Eurilla (the home of Kym and Julie Bonython) where a beautifully decorated marquee housed the play workshop, followed by a magnificent buffet served on the lawns, then back on the buses to the train and return to Adelaide.

Photo: John Noble and Jessica Dames

As you can imagine, the organisation was complicated: 310 people were coming on the train, with another 90 driving themselves. The train had to be decorated, we served champagne and crayfish sandwiches on the way up, and port, cheese and meringues on the way back. I had to get to the station early on the Sunday morning to get the champagne, glasses, and food into each carriage.



Photo: The workshop marquee at Eurilla

The whole operation went so smoothly it was all worth the effort. The weather wasn't particularly good, in fact it was bloody awful – rain and cold – but the hardship coupled with the abundance of wine seemed to bring people together and everyone had a marvellous time."



"Eurilla" hosts Kym and Julie Bonython congratulated Gary Langford on the success of his play "Playing Moliere".

Newspaper clip: Bonythons, Langford

Poems

By IAF members at last Literary night in November 2023, with guest speaker Samela Harris.

*I was but 12 when it emerged, the place where I would worship.
The place where my soul would find its calm, its song, its flight, its challenge.
The words would leap and tease and play, and cut and fly and sometimes die.
With them I could dance, and laugh and cry and run and hide and think and salve the hurt
that burns inside.
The actors' hearts were mine, their limbs and faces shared.
As girl as mother, grandmother – what joy what sanctuary this theatre was and is for me.
(Penny McCann)*

*When you think about Christian ethic.
You tend to become quite athletic.
But it is easy to see.
When you're down on one knee.
That to talk from sublime to pathetic.
(John Bishop)*

*Christmas is coming.
So much to plan.
Presents and events.
Oh god got to order the ham.
In all of the rush.
The frazzle and haste.
We lose sight of the meaning, there's a turkey to baste!
Its Jesus for some.
I know he's the reason.
But for most of our family and all of our friends sharing the season.
Time to say hey I've missed you all year.
So very glad you're able to be here!
(Elaine Fardell)*

*There once was a lady called Sa.
To hear her we came from afar.
The theme was a frazzle.
But she was the dazzle.
We joined her with drinks from the bar.*

*A speech she gave on her book.
Can't wait to buy and have a good look.
The Festival – 50 years!
We all gave 3 cheers.
For Facebook our photos we took.*

*The quiz it tied us in knots.
We felt like a real bunch of clots.
An architect, responded which Friday? We ought to know – and join up the dots.
But Black Friday caused quite a stir.
Thanks Michael – what kind sir.
One table was swap less.
Thanks heavens not topless.
A great night we all concur.
(Lizzie Vines)*



The Independent Arts Foundation (IAF) is a registered charity established in 1991 to raise funds to support emergency artists in all art forms, including dance, film, literature, music & visual arts.

Grants, scholarships and annual awards supported by the IAF provide financial assistance for individuals and groups seeking support for professional development or a project, such as an exhibition, performance or film.

Funds are raised through donations, membership fees and a program of events including literary dinners, film nights, and special events.

All monies raised go to providing grants and sponsorships.

Non-members are welcome to join us at our fund-raising events.

The IAF welcome new members who are interested in meeting like-minded people, knowing that supporting the IAF also supports the arts in South Australia.

IAF Contact Details

Please visit our website at <https://iafoundation.org.au/>

To join, visit <https://iafoundation.org.au/membership/>

Or following us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/>

IAF phone: 0457 857 385

Postal address to PO Box 251, Stepney 5069.

Donations

To donate to our ongoing fund-raising campaign, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/investinginartists> or contact the Treasurer on mobile: 0457 857 385.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.