

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

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

Patron: Jessica Dames AM



*Ashton Boyd, IAF Grant recipient at her exhibition,
with David McClay who purchased one of her works*

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Chair's Reports – John Holmes

It seems a long time since we prepared a Newsletter for you! Last year was such a blur of difficulty for the arts, and this year is staggering on in fits and starts for many artists.

The articles in this Newsletter remind us that we are focussed on fund-raising for a wide range of emerging artists, and that those artists are becoming highly successful in their fields. They are also immensely appreciative of our Grants and Awards. And, as you will read, the IAF supported a most successful 2021 Fringe at Holden Street Theatres, with outstanding results for productions in the Fringe and Critics Circle Awards.



Enjoy the reading that follows, which begins with my Report to the 2020 AGM.

AGM 2020

Monday 9th November 2020.

It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Chair's Report on behalf of the Board of our Independent Arts Foundation. This is the twenty-eighth Annual General Meeting of the IAF and the 29th year of the establishment of the IAF. Next November we will be 30 years old.

I would like to *acknowledge that the IAF meets on the traditional lands* of the Kurna people here in the Adelaide region, and that we respect elders past, present and into the future.

Welcome to you all, our Members and Life Members.

Throughout the last calendar year the Board held monthly face-to-face, electronic or covid-safe meetings. It is stating the obvious to say that we planned for a dynamic 2019-20 year, full of fund-raising events and offering



Grants to many emerging artists however, this year, like all voluntary organisations across South Australia, our Membership and fund-raising has declined. During the year our Mid North Branch ceased, with its members focusing as a Film Club based at the Blyth Cinema, and we wish them well in their localized entertainment and fund-raising.

As a Board we are especially saddened by this year's nation-wide and state-wide lack of support for the Arts. However, by offering a large number of Grants this month we are energetically doing our part to support as many diverse Emerging Artist applications as possible. Your Membership and donations make this possible. Thank you! And, thank you for your positive comments about the fulsome mid-year Newsletter, which was the Board's way of acknowledging your wonderful support while we were in hibernation!

At this point I would like to acknowledge that one of our Founding Members, Barbara Odium, died two weeks ago. She was Keith's mother and our wonderful Treasurer, Mary's mother-in-law. It is important for us to remember and thank such people as Barbara for their early support and encouragement of our goals to support emerging artists in South Australia.

As we move from 2020 into 2021 we

- have new activities planned from January onwards
- are offering many additional Grants to emerging artists,
- are re-appraising the format and locations of the Literary Club and Film Clubs and, of course,
- are celebrating our 30th Anniversary with considerable fanfare.

My plea to you all – please, come along to events and ... bring a friend!

Our wonderful Patron, Dianna Laidlaw AM, will step down this year and I wish to thank her sincerely for her Patronage and support of the Arts in South Australia for many years. The Board is extremely pleased to announce that our Founding Chair, Jessica Dames AM, has wholeheartedly agreed to take on the role of Patron as we celebrate into our 30th year!

I commend the detailed Reports from our Board Members, who throughout the previous year have supported each other in the various roles and events that we have attended, planned or actioned.

John

Newsletter Report

- *The Governor-Designate, Ms Frances Adamson, is delighted to host a reception at Government House to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the IAF in November. Details of this and other celebrations will follow.*

Firstly, I wish to thank Jen Dunstan who has been your constant contact with the IAF. I know that you all hugely appreciate her regular updates and advisories about all things 'Arts'. Her cheery communications have kept us informed and positive.

On governance matters, the SA Government is again flexible with the timing of the Annual General Meeting of Incorporated bodies - we will let you know when and where ours will occur in plenty of time.

Reports that follow attest to 2021 being a year when our Literary and Film Clubs, and the Double Author Literary Event, have been great fund-raisers and wonderful social times for us all this year.

Like many of you I'm sure, I have been getting a few jobs done over the weeks of restrictions – in my case it has been preparing books for printing.

- I have supported one of our Members, Dr Susan Bardy, prepare her book *Australia: a 70year love affair* for publication with Wakefield Press. The book starts from her escape from Hungary as a refugee.
- Dawn Nolan and I put together *What happened to The Otherway: a story of a once dynamic church for Aboriginal people in Adelaide*. Dawn conducted intensive interviews with Shirley Peisley, OAM, whom some of you may know.
- *A History of Drama Education in South Australia – primary source material* has been edited and reprinted. This huge research task also involved one of our members, Gwen Phillips.
- *Gordon Foulds: My story of drama education in South Australia* focusses on one aspect of Gordon's life. He was a dancer with the Borovansky Company in Victoria and NSW, television and stage performer in Adelaide, Drama Consultant for the SA Education Department, and finally Arts Reviewer in Queensland. Interestingly, Judy Connor, one of our Members, also danced with Borovansky and is now an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Ballet.

Congratulations Jill Argent OAM



It was my pleasure and great honour to accompany Jill Argent to Government House for her investiture with the Medal of the Order of Australia in March.

Jen Dunstan has written the following for us: “Congratulations to long standing IAF member and past Board member, **Jill Argent**, who has been honoured in this year’s Australia Day Awards. Her thoroughly deserved Award is for ‘service to cultural heritage and the arts in South Australia’. Jill has devoted many years of service to both The Independent Arts Foundation and to Carrick Hill. Jill’s exuberance and enthusiasm shines through in all she does. No matter if she is working hard behind the

scenes, or front of house, Jill’s innovative and energetic contribution and tireless support is very much appreciated by fellow members and her colleagues. She has made a positive, outstanding difference to both organisations – and we applaud her. Bravo!”

John Holmes, with Jill and her family, and Robert Hannaford’s statue of The Queen – the most photographed part of GH that day.



Treasurer's Report – Mary Odlum



I am happy to report that \$23,700 in small grants, sponsorships and awards has been given in the Financial Year 2020 – 2021.

Many thanks to all of you who supported our events, donated and renewed memberships.

All of this helps us raise funds for young and emerging artists.

In summary we

- gave \$13,000 in small grant awards, eight to individual artists and one group award to dance group 'Motus Collective'.
- sponsored the Holden Street Theatre Fringe Artists' Program (\$5,000) and the Adelaide Film Festival (\$1,000).
- contributed towards the publication of 'Exploring Kangaroo Islands Secret Gardens' (\$3,000).
- continued to support the IAF Emerging Producer Award as part of the South Australian Screen Awards (\$1,200) and the Young Film Maker Award at the Fleurieu Film Festival (\$500).

Our income from events was down due to Covid impacting when we could hold events, but fortunately we have quite a healthy bank balance from previous years!

A full financial report will be presented at the AGM when we can hold one. Films started up in September 2020 and were held as regularly as Covid allowed, firstly at the Trak and then in 2021 at Wallis Mitcham. Literary Club evenings were held only in May and June 2021 in the financial year 20-21. In March 2021 a very successful Special Literary Board Event was held at The Havelock.

Membership numbers are just under 200 and there has been no increase to membership fees.

A number of members are adding a donation to their membership renewal and also taking advantage of our five-year membership deal where you pay the equivalent of four years and get one free! Please encourage your friends to join us!

We gratefully acknowledge the donations received between June 2020 and June 2021.

Jill Argent

Susan Bardy

Patsy Bennett

Madeleine Blackwell

Gavin & Joanna Blake

Malcolm Booth

Vincent Burke

Steve Charles

Kieran Chester

Judy Connor

Sonia Coorey

Christopher Dibden

Kathryn Dickinson

Beverley Dilena

Nicola Downer

Jen Dunstan

Marilyn Falahey

Ben Finn

Linda Gelati

Ann Gunson

Micheleine Hannaford

Samela Harris

John Holmes

Jill Hughes-Jones

Margaret Kellett & Bob King

Delia Kennett

Sally Luke

Greg Mackie

Stephanie Mallen

David McClay

Merilyn McPhee

Zina Meredith

Donna Montes

Felicity Morgan & David
Smith

Christopher Moten

Lyn Muller

Anne Nicholls

Helen Onopko

Helen Robinson

Karen Simpson

Megan Skelton

Robina Weir

Peter Whitham

Mary Wilson

Rosemary Wong

Grant recipient reports

Motus Collective



The money awarded by the IAF was used to support the artists involved in the making and the performing of 'White Rhino' which was performed as part of the Adelaide Fringe.

As originally stated in the

application, the money was put towards a flat rate artist fee for each dancer/choreographer, to recognise their time and dedication to the project.

The performance was highly successful, winning both a Fringe Weekly Award for 'Best Emerging Artist' and taking home the overall award for 'Adelaide Fringe Best Emerging Artist' at the completion of the festival. This was the first full length production directed and produced by Motus Collective, so we are extremely happy with the results. We sold out every performance in the Botanic Gardens and gained a lot of media and publicity attention which is highly beneficial for future endeavours.

This project would not be possible without the support from Independent Arts Foundation, this money meant that we could support local South Australian Artists in trying times. Paying our artists for their commitment is a priority of ours, but it isn't always possible.

This grant meant we could spend more time with our dancers and truly make a work we were proud of.

Zoe Gay, Co-Director, Motus Collective

'Dirt'



Earlier this year, the premiere season of *Dirt* by Angus Cameron was presented at Holden Street Theatres for the Adelaide Fringe Festival. This season was possible, in part, due to the financial support of the Independent Arts Foundation. Their small grant program assisted the creative team in bringing this work to life and in reaching a wide audience.

Thanks to the \$1,000 in support from the IAF, *Dirt* was able to pay for the services of Neil Ward Publicity. Working with Neil allowed us to reach a wide range of audiences through print media, EDM's, giveaways and competitions via local newsletters, multiple radio interviews and features in local broadsheets and The Advertiser. Thanks to this, *Dirt* sold 1,800 tickets or almost 80% of its entire five-week season. Given the benchmark for independent theatre is 30-40% sales, this was an extraordinary achievement.

***** On top of this sales success, *Dirt* received a dozen five-star reviews, two weekly awards (BankSA Best Theatre & The Adelaide Critics Circle Award, both week one) and two Adelaide Fringe awards (The Frank Ford Award & The Adelaide Critics Circle Award). Thanks to the invaluable support of the IAF, *Dirt* was a smash success at Adelaide Fringe 2021 and on behalf of the entire creative team, we thank you.

Patrick Livesey

SA Screen Awards

IAF Emerging Producer Award - \$1200

John Holmes pre-recorded the presentation of the IAF Award at the Mercury CX. Simon Williams and Brendon Skinner, both graduates of the Bachelor of Creative Arts from Flinders University, won the Award at the virtual ceremony presentation on 4th December 2020.

Simon and Brendon won for their internationally co-produced doco *Ice Ball*. They also won the Best Editing Award, and are award-winning content creators of narrative and documentary films based in Adelaide. Some of their recent credits include co-producing the ABC iview webseries “*Goober*” (2016) which won Best Australian Comedy at Melbourne Webfest 2017. Producing feature documentary (currently in production) “*The Last Daughter*”, “*xp*” (2019) a pilot episode for a series helping teens explore life and faith and most recently the winner of Best Documentary Short at the Portland Film Festival and Minneapolis St Paul International Film Festival, “*Ice Ball*” (2020). Their production company Gravity Films has created a host of content for local and national brands including Beyond Bank and Dementia Australia with a heavy emphasis on serving the not-for-profit sector.

Fleurieu Film Festival

Inspirational Young Film Maker Award - \$500



In February, John Holmes and Kym Smith attended the Festival, and John presented Samuel Rosenzweig with the Award for his film *Blown Away*. Samuel is a 20-year-old Media Arts student at the University of South Australia, and lives in the Barossa Valley. He is in his final year of Media Arts. *Blown Away* was created as part of Samuel’s university studies in 2020, a year that saw disruptions to practical elements of university. He is

thankful for the opportunity he had to create the film and the challenges that provoked some creative problem solving along the way. He would love to continue to share stories and has an interest in writing or directing in the future. Samuel emailed John and said: “*I’m honoured by the support of the IAF and appreciate the amazing impact they have on our arts community in South Australia.*”

Recovery for the Arts & Facebook – Chloe Dunstan



Holden Street Theatre's dedication to developing the careers of emerging artist in SA made for the perfect sponsorship opportunity.

The IAF sponsored the HST Fringe Guide 2021, which featured an IAF advertisement on the back cover.

As a result, IAF has seen an increase in memberships and arts organisations, such as the Adelaide Youth Orchestra, have been in contact to discuss future collaborations.

In December 2020, Holden Street Theatres was delighted to launch its latest development – *The Holden Street Theatres*

Arts Park. Originally the All Saints Anglican Church Rectory, the addition of 32 Holden Street to the two existing spaces (The Arch and The Studio) allowed artists to develop a work from its initial concept to stage in one venue. '32' includes spaces suitable as creation and workshop spaces, exhibition rooms, office and production areas. There is also a family room to support working parents in balancing their artistic and parenting roles. Kitchen facilities and a café/library are also included to encourage a work-life balance.

These spaces were activated during Adelaide Fringe 2021, which featured 15 incredible shows from local, interstate and international artists in a Covid-Safe venue. Free on-site parking, lovely outdoor and indoor bars, delicious food, and an incredibly curated programme made HST the ultimate destination venue at Adelaide Fringe.

This year, HST welcomed back many wonderful artists who had delighted audiences in previous years, including:

- **Patrick Livesey** (The Boy, George, 2019 & Gone Girls 2020) in *DIAT*;
- **Martha Lott** (Grounded 2019 & 2020) in *That Boy*;
- **Spencer Scholtz** (Our Solar System, 2020) in *Lost Lives*;
- **Peter Goers** with *Peter Goers in Joyful Strains*.

The July lockdown

The July lockdown has demonstrated how quickly our lives can be put on hold and how lucky we were to have an uninterrupted and highly successful Fringe and Festival season earlier this year. The arts continue to suffer from the impact of Covid – with reduced capacities and late bookings increasing the risk of putting on a show. Your membership and involvement in the Independent Arts Foundation allows grants to be provided to help mitigate the risk of developing and producing artistic work for artists across SA.

Keep an eye on your IAF emails to discover more upcoming events and festivals around town.

You can also keep updated by following our **Facebook page**, which is now back up and running. Follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/independentartsfoundation

A couple of notes!

A Special Literary Event

In March we heard the wonderful Adelaide Hills authors Georgie Brooks and Molly Murn. This Double Author Event was organised by Helen Onopko and John Holmes at The Havelock. For 2 years we have arranged a Literary Event in one of our Non-Literary Club Months, and it was again a great success, both numbers-wise and financially. Over \$1000 was raised. Thank you everyone – it made another Grant possible!

Kangaroo Island

John Holmes was very pleased to make a donation of \$3000 to the IAF Special Fundraising Account to support the Kangaroo Island Art Feast Inc. in their preparation of a publication *Exploring Kangaroo Island's Secret Gardens*. A very detailed application was received for an emerging Kingscote type-setter artist and John decided that he would support them personally through the IAF.

Marketing & Events – Jen Dunstan

Cummins House

Jane Sims, Sherry Proferes, Keith Odium, Kaye MacLean, Michelle Franklin

On 14 April, the IAF hosted a "sold out" gathering at Cummins House, Novar Gardens. Members were greeted by The Cummins Society, a group of volunteer guides, who welcomed us into the atrium area (formerly the stable and domestic section of the home) to start the morning with a delicious Devonshire



Tea. Cummins House was built for South Australian pioneer and politician, Sir John Morphett and his family.

The home is filled with an extensive collection of artefacts, paintings, original furnishings and personal items once belonging to the Morphett family and their domestic staff. The well-informed guides had many stories to tell, creating a tangible picture of the early days in SA.

We are hoping to schedule another tour, possibly on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Adelaide Youth Orchestras



*Keith Crellin
OAM, Kathryn
Dickinson, Jen
Dunstan*

AdYO performed Maestro 11 at Elder Hall in June, the second in a series of outstanding concerts, performed by

exceptionally talented musicians. This particular concert was enjoyed by many IAF members scattered across the socially distanced Hall.

Many of us have attended concerts with AdYO in the past. Their Executive Director, Ben Finn, contacted us directly with offers of special ticketing after he saw our support for the Fringe at Holden Street Theatres.

AdYO will return in Spring to perform Requiem on 25th September at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Please note: IAF discount offer - A Reserve tickets at B Reserve prices with promo code. **IAFADYO**

Sonia Coorey and Ben Finn (Exec Director, AdYO)



Thank You

Throughout the year we conduct many in house raffles, most often at Literary Dinners and Film Club. As a result we raise considerable funds to help support emerging South Australian artists of all genres and age groups. This would not be possible without the ongoing support of our generous prize donors.

Your contributions to our raffles by way of prize donations, buying tickets and coming along to our gatherings keeps our fundraising initiatives solvent.

Your ongoing support is always appreciated.

On behalf of the IAF Board I would like to sincerely thank the following people, groups and businesses who have helped us this year:

Sonia Coorey, Christine McMahon,
Jill Argent OAM, Mary Odum, Helen Onopko,
David McClay, Heather Parkes,
Kym Smith, John Holmes,
Moiria Simpson, Steve Charles,
Russell Starke OAM,
Helen & Grantley Gill, Gwen Phillips,
Peter Brown, Bob King,
Clare Russ, Jen Dunstan,
Chloe Dunstan, Michael Bollen.

and ... Wakefield Press, Adelaide Youth Orchestras,
Independent Theatre, Holden Street Theatres.

- I would also like to thank *Sonia Coorey*, not only for her generous prize donations but also her thoughtful donation of photographs and documents which have been added to our IAF archive.
- I am looking forward to releasing a selection of prints, kindly donated by *Russell Starke OAM*, to be auctioned at a future fundraiser.

From the Archive - Helen Onopko

1994

In 1994, the IAF Literary Luncheons were more energised and celebrated than Premier Dean Brown it seems. Eminent international and Australian guests included **Bryce Courtenay**, at the time one of the most creative and influential people in the advertising industry, and an entertaining speaker. He had just written his first novel set in South Africa, "*The Power of One*" earning a record sum in Australia for a debut work.



The IAF, headed then by our current Patron, Jessica Dames, soared to the top of queue to secure Bryce to speak at a luncheon at the Union Hotel in March of that year, with an introduction by 5AN's Keith Conlon.

Later in the year, Bryce wrote a Christmas message to Jessica, in which he laments the massive year of global conflict across 4 continents.

Jessica donated this item to our Archive, and I reproduce much of it below:

"I can't quite believe how fast this year has gone. Writers are supposed to be able to watch the grass grow and observe the clouds as they scud by. Instead, I have been on over 150 plane trips since January, with half a dozen of these overseas. It's been a hectic time as I am also writing a huge historical saga which will be out Christmas 1995. It's a house brick of a book and you have a year to do a bit of weight lifting in preparation for its release.

This Christmas note is simply to thank you for your support and friendship over the past year; I am truly grateful to you for all you've done for me as a writer.

..... The world isn't a lot prettier than it was twelve months ago and when I asked a famous psychiatrist friend of mine why he thought we keep killing each other, he replied, 'Well, it's only natural, man is a hunter'.

'Yes', I said, 'but we are also gatherers. It seems as though the takers and not the gatherers are winning at the moment'.

And so my wish for you is that for the next year you and your family become gatherers, harvesting the good things from the world we live in and gathering love and pride, honesty and compassion as your intellectual and emotional property. May the year to come be a loving one for you.

With my very kindest regards, Bryce Courtenay”

Glimpses of the IAF past for our 30th birthday

Archives are collections of valuable evidence of an organisation's or person's activities of the past. Traditional Archives are often preserved and mostly static – residing in their pristine box containers and begging for someone to release the stories they contain. Archives are most often used for researching histories, for evidence, and for the truth.

But this is a limited view, and Archives should also be open to interrogation, which can increase their meaning and legacy through living on. One of my U.S. colleagues in Archival studies from many years ago – who developed the Nelson Mandela Archive – wrote that if we view Archives proactively as something to be reinterpreted, we can help people come closer to glimpsing the past. One of my current colleagues on the IAF Board, David McClay, brought all of this back to my mind when he suggested that the IAF Archive could support a “performance piece” as part of our 30th birthday celebrations this year.

A creative person might extract from our Archive, events and personalities that could be reinterpreted as a performance. We have many such events, descriptions and personalities in our Archive that tell us on one level, what took place, when, and by whom. But if any one of these events was reinterpreted as a performance, then we have an enlightened view of what took place and how IAF grew – and of course how the items qualified to be retained in our Archive collection in the first place.

To this end, we did have discussions with young and emerging performance creators and writers with a view to a performance elicited from the Archive. We hoped to develop the piece for our 30th birthday and to have it performed for members, perhaps at Holden Street Theatre. Budgetary

consideration were a key determinant, and after much research and consideration the Board eventually decided against this particular project.

In the meantime, your comments and suggestions are always welcome in regard to any aspect of the Archive. Of course, the Archive would not even exist without the wonderful contributions of memories, artefacts and photographs donated by our members! These are always wanted and treasured items.

Literary Dinner Poems

The Literary Dinner traditionally ends with a themed poem. This is written on the night by everyone at the same table, and then recited by one or many of our creative guests. Here are two from recent dinners.

*Here we are gathered at The Maid,
Enjoying a wine or lemonade.
We've had a fun quiz and an interesting talk
And after great food, we'll need a long walk.
What a relief to be returning to norm,
After a year and a bit of the
COVID storm!*

Suzanne Duell, May, 2021

*Bubbles
We are known as "Bubbles",
together, we forget our troubles.
Over a glass of wine,
we sit and fine dine.
We chat and sip
and nibble at a hot, crisp chip,
Oh for a life of bubbles!*

The "Bubbles" Table, June, 2021

Literary Club - Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela

We started holding the monthly Literary Club on the third Tuesday in May at the attractively restored hotel, The Maid (formerly known as The Maid and Magpie), and this has proved to be a popular choice, with a good range of enjoyable food options with seasonal variations, friendly and helpful staff, and, very importantly, onsite parking!

We are very grateful to Michael Bollen, Publisher of Wakefield Press, for continuing to sponsor the Club and for compering our evenings when possible. Wakefield Press publishes a wide variety of books on different subject areas, quite a feat for a small, Adelaide-based publishing house, and it is therefore the source of a wide variety of guest speakers for our Literary Club evenings. So far this year our guest speakers have been Garry Hiskey, author of "Maralinga", Robbie Brechin, author of "Blood on the Typewriter", and Elizabeth Hutchins, author of "Troop Train", all of whom have given engaging talks about their books.



We have also been fortunate in that, in spite of Covid raging around the country, we have only had to postpone our July meeting due to a lockdown, but were then able to hold it on the first Tuesday of August, with The Maid providing increased space for our guests, and to postpone our August scheduled meeting until the last Tuesday in August, thanks to the cooperation and availability of the two guest speakers concerned.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 31 August and for every third Tuesday after that, circumstances permitting, until November!

Film Club – Jen Dunstan

We have been fortunate to meet regularly throughout the year, although, not always as planned. Several Film Club gatherings were postponed or our format changed as we navigated our way around the imposed pandemic restrictions.

Happily, we have managed to enjoy a collection of films from different genres, including latest releases, a Hitchcock Classic and most recently a French film.

There is more to come, including an afternoon tea film meeting and evening drinks and canapés.



Our thanks to Michelle Wallis and Glyn Berry and his team at Wallis Cinemas, Mitcham for all their help and patience as they negotiate their way around the many obstacles of this Covid era.

I would also like to thank all those people who assist each month to ensure this event runs smoothly. Special thanks to

- Mary Odum who organises our very own, IAF Film Box Office, so efficiently
- Jill Argent for her expertise in raffle sales
- Helen Onopko, Marg Jude, David McClay, Keith Odum, Sherry Proferes, John Holmes and Kym Smith for their always reliable help and support.

Small Grants Committee - David McClay, Chair



Fighting to Farm

Set in the wake of the devastating summer bushfires, *Fighting to Farm* chronicles the remarkable tale of returned WWII veterans and their families who created farms and communities across the undeveloped western end of Kangaroo Island. The one-hour documentary features interviews with original Soldier

Settlers Des Johnston, Dudley Roberts and Cec Harris, as well as Ivy Wooton, wife of the late Tom Wooton.

Production was a local affair, with young Kangaroo Island filmmakers Isaac Doman, Jemma McGowan and Cobey Hann working as crew, with drone pilot David Rhodes providing stunning aerial footage before and after the fires. Local musicians Scott Ellson, Craig Smart and Jemma McGowan also contributed to the soundtrack, while Parndana Campus students Shakira Tremaine and Jay Whale created animation scenes.

The IAF received an application for an IAF Small Grant to assist two young members of the production team, Isaac (an exceptional budding filmmaker) and Shakira (a talented animator), in Dan Clarke's upcoming film *Fighting to Farm*. The application was approved and ratified by the IAF Board. The application was excellent and clearly set out the benefits to the careers of Isaac and Shakira as well as identifying the community benefits. The IAF informed Dan, Isaac and Shakira that they looked forward to following the progress of the film and would be interested in discussing with Dan how they might circulate the film to the broader IAF membership once it has been completed.

As the year progressed (and work progressed on the film) the IAF was conscious of its need to hold an Annual General meeting (AGM) that allowed for social distancing. Arrangements were made to hold the meeting at the Trak CineCentre. This decision provided an opportunity to see if the completed film *Fighting to Farm* could be screened at the completion of the meeting. Contact was made with Dan and he was very receptive to the idea.



David McClay, Isaac Dolman and Dan Clarke (filmmakers)

Dan arranged for Isaac to attend so that they could participate in a Question and Answer segment at the conclusion of the film.

The following quote from Dan Clarke sums up the evening very nicely:

Fantastic world premiere of our film Fighting to Farm

at Trak CineCentre in Adelaide last night. A hugely positive response from the crowd during a Q&A with filmmakers Daniel Clarke and Isaac Doman at the end. Comments like "astounding", "blown away" and "genius editing". We always knew this story would resonate and educate. The night was hosted by the Independent Arts Foundation - SA Inc, who assisted with funding to help pay for the great work of Isaac on camera and sound. We look forward to the film's multiple screenings on Kangaroo Island this Friday and Saturday.

Following the very successful film (over 50 IAF members and guests attended) Dan Clarke and David McClay were interviewed by Peter Goers about the film and the IAF's role in assisting the young and emerging artists.

Overall *Fighting to Farm* was a great project to be involved in for the IAF. Without the support of IAF members and their annual subscription as well as their attendance at Film Nights and Literary Club evenings throughout the year this support of young and emerging artists may not be possible.

First Grants round 2021

The IAF Small Grants committee conducted its first round of grants for 2021 in April to June. Thirteen applications were considered and five were approved. The Small Grants' committee was pleased with the diversity, quality and number of applications that were submitted. The successful applicants were:

Ellie Cheesman \$1000 – To create a short film (about 10 mins) called '*Womenarche*' which explores the menstrual experience. The film aims to liberate both the subject and young girls from shame. Ellie plans to use very aesthetically strong cinematography and editing, requiring a lot of focus and attention, to give respect to the subject matter.

Kyle Dolan \$1000 – To produce a 3-5minute animated short film that will be submitted to film festivals around Australia and the UK. As an emerging filmmaker, this project aims to expand Kyle's knowledge, experience and portfolio. Collaborating with an animator to make a short film will allow Kyle to further develop his voice as a producer and director, in order to gain more work in those fields in the future, as well as creating a network of other professionals.

Stephanie Jacyn \$1000 – The funds will go towards submission fees for several international and acclaimed film festivals of Stephanie's short film "Mating Call" of which she is the writer, director and producer. Receiving funds for film festival entries via the IAF will allow Stephanie and her crew to proceed with necessary pick-ups without negatively impacting her crew's ability to showcase their work or having to scale back their important festival strategy.

Lauren Murphy \$1000 – The grant will be used to purchase the equipment and materials such as clay and metal required to learn new skills such as welding, sandblasting, etc. while undertaking the Helpmann Academy residency at George Street Studios. Lauren plans to expand her current practice and further extend her knowledge through research and experimentation with new materials within the studio.

Gene Phoa \$1000 – Gene will use the grant to record 'The Sweetest Smile' which is the first single of his debut 12-song album 'Young Love Days' and explores the phenomenon of "love at first sight". Representing the first step in the journey of meeting and falling "head over heels" for someone, this song will not only establish the project in general but it will establish the narrative that the next 11 songs will build upon.

In Bloom exhibition



A number of IAF Board members were pleased to be invited to the Opening Night Event of past IAF Small Grants recipient Ashton Boyd (Bay the Artist).

The first attempt at the opening was foiled by a fire next door to Urban Cow Studio in June, and the building had to be evacuated before the formalities of the evening began.

Not to be daunted by this unexpected event Ashton reconvened the opening the following week with an opening talk by James Hayter, live music by El Blat and reflections on her work by Ashton.



Jen Dunstan, Mary Odlum, Heather Parker, Chloe Dunstan

Ashton's current exhibition was different from her previous exhibition (partly sponsored by the IAF Small Grant) which drew on her Tongan heritage. In part this exhibition was a response to the challenges of being locked down during Covid and responding to the environment at hand. Focussing on the symbolism of popular fruits and flowers, Ashton aimed to educate, inspire and uplift viewers.

Her expressive paintings are overflowing with positive themes of hope, strength and prosperity.

As a passionate mental health advocate, Ashton's aim is to use her work as a platform for connection, after a stressful 2020 marked by distance and isolation.



Regret by Ida Sophia

Ida Sophia presented her durational performance *Regret* over 28 days commencing in June 2021. It was a very moving and emotional performance. Ida was the recipient of a small grant from the IAF in 2020. The IAF is very proud to be able to support young and emerging artists in South Australia. The ABC were filming the performance for their program *Art Works* so watch out for it on your television soon.





Regret was an act of redemption. The performance confronts Ida's regret that she was absent from her fathers' side in his last month of life. Time spent in the work represents the time Ida regrets not spending with him. Spending it here becomes her redemptive action. Over the month of June, Ida observed a monumental installation of flowers decompose. This natural life-to-death process mirrors the effect of the disease on his body that she did not have the courage to face.

Regret invited the audience to participate and release their own regrets. Over 1000 weighted pieces of plaster were cast as small writing tablets.

After writing a regret, the participant was invited to attach it to Ida's clothing. In this act, Ida physically took on and carried the symbolic weight of Regret(s) for the duration of the performance. *Regret* evolved daily as the flowers decomposed and participant's regrets multiplied.

Update on SAYarts Group Small Grants Application [rehearsal images below are from 'I Still Have No Friends']

In early 2020 the IAF was approached by SAYarts (South Australian Youth Arts). SAYarts wanted to see if the IAF could support their production of *I Still Have No Friends* in a tour to London where they had been invited to perform at the International Youth Arts Festival. Their initial enquiry was whether



they could submit multiple separate applications (one for each cast member). The IAF Board discussed this request at their next Board meeting and agreed to conduct a trial of a group application (with a maximum grant of \$5,000). SAYarts submitted a group application and the new group process was judged to have worked well.

SAYarts ensure that their students have a high degree of input and control over their devised work. Because their productions are facilitated by talented industry professionals the work the young people produce is authentic, topical and of a high standard. Many of Adelaide's future creatives are being nurtured at SAYarts – and this unique opportunity was seen as cementing their place in the South Australian arts landscape. The funding sought from IAF was very important to the financial arrangements of the tour. Funding from IAF would be used by SAYarts to cover some of the major costs associated with taking this show to London such as meeting the cost of accommodation for 13 young people and 4 adults in London. SAYarts group application was approved, and they were informed of their successful application.

The very next day SAYarts found out the festival in London had been cancelled. SAYarts was unable to go to London as the influence of Covid impacted on international travel and other gatherings. Our treasurer Mary contacted SAYarts to inform them that their grant would be held over until there was another opportunity available for the group.

Bec Pannell, Managing Director and Creative Producer at SAYarts, contacted me recently to see what the current status of the funding was. I met with Bec in early August 2021 and we discussed the focus for the held over funds. Both Bec and I thought that a focus on next year's Fringe would be most beneficial to SAYarts and the IAF. Bec has undertaken to write up a brief outline of what is intended.



The intention is for the IAF funding of \$5000 to assist two SAYarts groups to perform at the 2022 Adelaide Fringe Festival. The two groups are Kindred and On the Fringe. This would benefit approximately 30+ young emerging artists who are involved with SAYarts. While there are two separate groups involved, the intention of SAYarts is to have them perform “back-to-back” at a suitable venue (possibly Rumpus at Bowden or the new Wallis performance space at Piccadilly, North Adelaide). The promotional material from SAYarts would include IAF branding and our members would be welcome to attend and see both shows with a small break in between. Both venues have bar facilities so members could enjoy a drink pre, interval and post show if they choose.

Like the IAF, SAYarts has found 2020 and 2021 extremely challenging. I think IAF members will agree with me that supporting this group is a worthy cause.

Special Event

IAF Special Fundraiser



Friday, 5
November,
2021 @10am
Tour the glorious
gardens of
DROUIN,
LITTLEHAMPTON
Tour, talk and
morning tea
\$20 (all inc)

A visual botanic paradise with easily accessible, flat, private gardens. Full event and booking details to follow.

Mark the date in your diary for a springtime sensory feast!



IAF Organisation

IAF Board 2020-21

Chair – John Holmes

Secretary – Helen Onopko

Treasurer – Mary Odlum

Membership Officer – Mary Odlum

Marketing & Youth Contact – Chloe Dunstan

Marketing & Events Management – Jen Dunstan

Literary Club – Cheryl Appelkamp de Valenzuela

Film Club – Jen Dunstan

Grants/Awards – David McClay

Archivist – Helen Onopko

Support Committees

Literary – Michael Bollen, Marg Jude, Jill Argent, Jen Dunstan, Helen Onopko, Mary Odlum

Grants/Awards – Moira Simpson, Margaret Lynch

Archives – Jill Argent

Newsletter – John Holmes, Mary Odlum

IAF Contacts

Secretary/Archives – Helen Onopko secretary@iafoundation.org.au

Treasurer/Memberships – Mary Odlum treasurer@iafoundation.org.au

Marketing/Development – Jen Dunstan events@iafoundation.org.au



Membership entitles you to discounts to all IAF events. *Please continue to renew your membership and encourage your friends to join!*

Funds are raised through membership fees, regular and special events and tax-deductible donations.

<http://iafoundation.org.au>

INDEPENDENT
THEATRE

September: *A Song to Sing, O*

<https://www.independenttheatre.org.au>

IAF Members receive reduced price tickets to ALL productions and ALL sessions.



We subscribe to 5MBS. IAF events are advertised a number of times each day on Arts Diary

SKYE · CELLARS

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