

## NEIL CURNOW AWARD 2015



*Rebecca Mayo receives her award from Independent Arts  
Foundation Chair Frank Ford*

The Independent Arts Foundation partnered with the Helpmann Academy to provide the 2015 Neil Curnow Award. Made possible by the generous bequest of long time IAF member the late Neil Curnow, the award is valued at \$10,000 and provides an emerging performing arts graduate with the opportunity to develop their career interstate or overseas. This year's winner is Flinders Drama Centre graduate Rebecca Mayo

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who will use the funds to undertake a number of internships in the US and Europe.

Rebecca says "The exposure to different methods of devising theatre will provide me with new skills and methods for making my own work when back in Adelaide, as well as a renewed motivation to do so. By interning with two different theatre companies and undertaking the festival secondment where I will see many different artists at work, I have ensured that I will be exposed to a great diversity of methods and styles that were not included in my initial training as an actor. This has the potential to vastly improve the quality of my artistic practice and thereby further establish my career and reputation" Congratulations Rebecca!!

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Recently it was very gratifying to receive emails from two recipients of IAF Grants and to hear what it has meant to them personally and also for the arts in South Australia.

Joanne Hartstone said "*the grant I received in 2013 has opened many doors for me, and helped me contribute to the South Australian arts scene in a professional and creative way. Thank you for facilitating my professional development and helping me grow the South Australian arts profile on the international market.*"

After being chosen by the Critics' Circle as the 2015 winner of the \$1500 IAF Innovation in the Arts Award, Hilary Kleinig, the Founder and player in the Zephyr Quartet said, "*Thank you on behalf of Zephyr Quartet to the Independent Arts Foundation for the very generous award. We are really very honoured to receive it and we will use the money to go towards our commissioning fund to support the 12 composers that are composing for our Adelaide Festival show 'Exquisite Corpse'.*"



*The Zephyr Quartet*

Further details of both Joanne Hartstone and Zephyr's remarkable work and achievements can be read later on in this newsletter. I am sure members will feel very pleased that their support of IAF has produced such exciting and important outcomes.

There have been many enjoyable activities in 2015 and I wish to thank the chairs and committee members of the clubs: Lynn Crosby (Film); Cheryl Appelkamp (Literary); Beverley Miller (Convenor, Gala Bookings and Christmas Party) Jessica Dames AM (Clare Regional).

Please inform us of your email address if you haven't already done so, as occasionally we receive discounted tickets at short notice and can only communicate that information to members through email. So please send your email address to: [Secretary.iaf@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.iaf@gmail.com)

We greatly appreciate individual donations received this year. All donations to IAF are tax deductible. So please help us in our efforts by donating and we will return to you the tax deductible receipt for your donation.

The support IAF gives to young, emerging artists is greatly assisted by the generosity of our sponsors and we gratefully thank them: Maria Kenda AM, Em-Kay Design Jewels and Skye Cellars. Carclew Youth Arts kindly make their facilities available to us. We also thank the generosity of many members and supporting sponsors who assist our activities throughout the year.

Thank you to all members and their friends who have attended IAF activities which allow us to continue assisting young emerging artists and arts organisations. Please encourage your friends to join IAF as we welcome new members to assist us in actively supporting the arts in South Australia.

### **STOP PRESS:**

Once again we have a block booking for the **Cabaret Festival Gala** on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016. All other seats are sold out. This year due to construction at the Festival Centre we were unable to get any concession for parking.

In addition to the Gala, we also have a 25 seat booking for the famous and hilarious **Wharf Review** on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 3pm at Her Majesty's Theatre.

The booking notices for both events will go out in our March mail out. Please book early to avoid

disappointment, as both events will sell out and bookings can only be filled on a 'first come first served' basis.

So please come along to our clubs and activities to joyously celebrate IAF's 25th Birthday in 2016

Sadly, at the time of going to press, we have been informed of the death of Lynn Crosby who had been a Board member of IAF since its inception, as well as convenor of the Film Club. Lynn will be greatly missed. Her tribute valed will appear in the July Newsletter.

**Frank Ford AM - Chair**

## **REPORTS FROM EMERGING ARTISTS**

### **CHELSEA EVANS**

"In September 2015 I was fortunate enough to receive support from the Independent Arts Foundation to help fund the premier of my first solo work, SHOWGA. SHOWGA is a one-woman show that satirizes the Health and Wellness industry. I premiered SHOWGA for the Melbourne Fringe Festival in the renowned venue The Butterfly Club to rave reviews and wonderful audience reactions.

I created SHOWGA under a one-month artistic residency with The Mill Adelaide in association with the Helpmann Academy. During the residency I used structured improvisations to generate the physical and text based material and I received mentorship from Israel Aloni; the director of Swedish Dance Theatre company iIDance.

SHOWGA is interactive work where audiences are instructed through a five step plan to "*learn how to love themselves*". In the work I employ text, movement and comedy to tell the story of an eccentric modern day failing Yoga Guru. Adelaide artists Ben Roberts and Olivia Freear are also on the SHOWGA team; Roberts as producer and Freear as costume designer and maker.





With the funding I received from the Independent Arts Foundation I was able to fine-tune the work with two weeks of rehearsals. I was also once again able to work with my mentor from the Mill Residency, Israel Aloni, who traveled to Australia from Sweden to continue the mentorship.

Additionally I was able to print flyers and posters to promote the show and boost audience numbers; all of which I am immensely grateful for.



Whilst alone in the rehearsal process, a challenge I faced was to be inside and outside of the work at the same time (as this is my first solo work I had never experienced this so greatly). I had to be with the characters inner workings

whilst rehearsing and also keep an awareness of what I was going from an outside point of view, as I did not have a director. When the time came for my mentor to join me I was able to let go of some of this outside awareness so I could fully invest in the performance. I am very grateful to have worked with Aloni once again and for him to have pushed me artistically. He is now not only a mentor but also a friend and I look forward to working with him again in the future.

During the Fringe season we played to vibrant and energetic audiences. There was a real sense of community with the artists at The Butterfly Club and I formed friendships with Artists from all over Australia. We received rave reviews from the media and had wonderful audience reactions. I am proud of the work and am very grateful to Independent Arts Foundation for supporting the production.”

*“Evans is one flexible, funny woman”* – We Know Melbourne

*“An awesome night of laughs-till-u-cry!!!”* - Audience

SHOWGA will be touring to the Perth World Fringe, Adelaide Fringe Festival and the Melbourne Comedy Festival in 2016.

**Chelsea Evans**

**MADLINE BLACKWELL** has updated the Board on the progress of **DAMAGE** which was supported by the IAF. The production has now moved to Sydney.

Madeline is producing the film with the help of Production Manager, Francois Baumberger and Line Producer, Daphne Paris, both of whom bring enormous film making experience to the project. So, stay tuned for the adventure of **DAMAGE** - the movie.

Below is a link to the website. Shooting began on the 11th January and continues to mid-February. Go to the **NEWS AND UPDATES** page.

<http://damagethemovie.net>

**JOANNE HARTSONE** wrote this following thank you note to members:

“In 2013, I received a grant of \$1000 from the IAF to assist with my travel to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where I worked as a Company Manager and Producer for two independent companies from Croatia and Los Angeles.



Whilst there, I had the opportunity to network and plan with other theatre producers, writers, directors and performers for future tours and productions. I have subsequently produced and managed productions from London, Kansas, Belfast, and Tbilisi (Georgia) in the Edinburgh Fringe, as well as engaging with South Australian theatre practitioners to create new local productions, that are currently in development for Australia-wide touring. Other opportunities have emerged from this initial trip, both locally and internationally.

I will be travelling to New York in two weeks to produce a new comedy off-Broadway at Theater for the New City. I have also been able to bring some of the best theatre productions from the Edinburgh Fringe to Adelaide, including the Best Theatre Award winner ‘The Bunker Trilogy’ in 2014, which is returning for a hugely anticipated return in 2016.

I have curated for the 2016 Adelaide Fringe a 12-production season at the Queens Theatre with some of the best productions from the UK, the USA, NSW, VIC and SA. I will also be bringing a

new solo-show from New York to the 2016 Adelaide Fringe, and have coerced Guy Masterson – my friend and mentor – to give two performances in the middle of the festival.

The grant I received in 2013 has opened many doors for me, and helped me contribute to the South Australian arts scene in a professional and creative way.

Thank you for facilitating my professional development and helping me grow the South Australian arts profile on the international market.

**Joanne Hartstone**

### ADELAIDE CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS

The annual Adelaide Critics Circle Awards were held in the University of Adelaide's Little Theatre in December 2015. The evening's compere was Peter Burdon, Chair of the Adelaide Critics Circle.



*Frank Ford, and Peter Burdon*

IAF sponsors the Innovation in the Arts Award which went to the **Zephyr Quartet** for their concert *Music for Strings and iThings*, a demonstration of Zephyr's dedication to collaborative practice embracing music, composition, lighting design, animation, gaming and downright geekery. With smartphones left on during the concert, the audience genuinely became part of the performance themselves.

ADELAIDE'S fifteen-year old Zephyr Quartet is renowned for its exploration of diverse music, expanding musical boundaries and introducing audiences to courageous new works. Their concert continued their cutting edge approach with six different Australian compositions, all utilising electronic and visual technologies in addition to the string quartet. Two works took audience participation to a new 21st century level, asking audience members to download pre-recorded tracks from Sound Cloud to their mobile phones to play back at full volume, on cue, as part of the performance accompanying the quartet.



*Zephyr Quartet*

Zephyr's cellist Hilary Kleinig composed *For Those Who've Come Across The Seas* using Australia's treatment of 'boat people' as her impetus. Back projections of swirling ocean waters accompanied the music using fragments from traditional masses, the national anthem, and the SOS morse code signal. It was strongly emotional combining almost folkloric elements with a pining spirituality, and when the phone tracks swelled from amongst the audience the effect was quite magical. (The Advertiser).

**Zephyr Quartet will perform: Exquisite Corpse 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in the Adelaide Festival of Arts\*\*Bookings at Bass\*\***

The IAF, through its special fundraising account, was able to assist the Adelaide Critics Circle awards to the following successful recipients:



*Elena Carapetis  
Emerging Artist Award  
with James Smith*



*Michelle Ryan  
Professional  
Individual Award*





Julie McInerney  
Visual Arts Award



Julie Quirk  
Amateur/Community  
Individual Award

## IAF GRANTS

In the period July to December 2015, IAF has supported-

**Young Adelaide Voices (YAV)** with a \$500 contribution towards their European Tour. The tour will involve 37 of the YAV First Concert Choir who are aged between 12 and 20, plus supporters and of course Christie Anderson, YAV's Artistic Director. The choir will visit 3 major destinations in Europe over a month from June next year and will take part in festivals, competitions and friendship concerts as well as cultural excursions and sightseeing.

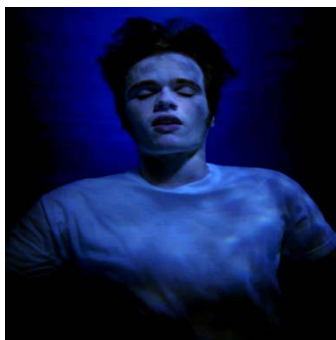
The IAF and YAV hope to arrange a joint project in 2016 to which members will be invited to come and hear their beautiful and artistic singing.

**Mid North Coast Strings Alliance Inc (MCNSA)** with a \$1000 grant to support two South Australian musicians tutor the young musicians at their annual summer music camp held in January 2016.

**Joanne Hartstone** - \$1000 grant to assist with her attendance at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference in January 2016 in New York.

**Philip Kavanagh and Ben Roberts** - \$1500 grant for their upcoming play **DELUGE** which will be performed at the Adelaide Festival of Arts on **8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016**.

**\*\*Bookings at Bass\*\***



Philip writes "**Deluge** began in 2013 as part

of an Australia Council mentorship between myself and playwright Andrew Bovell.

I set out to create a large work in partnership with STCSA Resident Director Nescha Jelk and ten then third-year actors at Flinders University Drama Centre. We spent a total of six weeks over 2013 and 2014 exploring the notion that we live our lives so inundated with information that it threatens to overwhelm us. *Deluge* is structured as five separate plays that ran simultaneously in the same space, with the audience's focus torn between each. We have been lucky enough to be programmed in the Adelaide Festival of Arts 2016.

Nescha and I have formed a company for our creative partnership, Tiny Bricks, and *Deluge* is being presented in partnership with Brink Productions. Being programmed in the Festival is a huge coup for this group of young and emerging artists, but as an umbrella show we are still responsible for raising the vast majority of the funds ourselves. The money contributed by the Independent Arts Foundation will go towards paying the actors' fees, and will help us to present a new local independent work to a local, national and international audience."

## AGM – NEW BOARD MEMBER

Nominations were sought for the one vacant position on the Board at the AGM held in August at the Public Schools Club. Three nominations were received and following the election process, Dr John Holmes was selected. Thank you to all the nominees for their interest in standing for the Board.



John has provided some background on his career in the Arts. The IAF is pleased to welcome John to the Board.

John's Arts background ranges across teaching in secondary schools, Advising and Consulting in Drama for the Education Department of SA, and being Drama Chief Examiner for what is now called SACE. He has also sat on, or chaired, the Boards of Adelaide-based theatre companies in SA, chaired country Arts Councils, Historical Societies and Theatre Groups. Arts colleagues speak of him as being "passionate, fair and hardworking".

His career continued in The Arts as he moved to the University sector where he lectured and became an Associate Professor and Head of School. Currently he supervises doctoral research students across the Arts of drama, visual art, dance, palliative care, religion, sexuality and race. He enjoys the challenge of doctoral students, and spends many hours a week with these candidates, doing so without remuneration as an Adjunct with UniSA.

John holds a B.A (Hons), Diploma of Education, Master of Arts (Aboriginal Studies) and a Doctorate of Education. His current writing ranges across the Arts, with drama being a major focus, plus writing biographies and work around disability. With colleagues he has recently researched a 70,000-word primary source material entitled "The history of Drama Education in South Australia".

Aside from an ongoing interest in the Arts, for many years John has been a Justice of the Peace for South Australia, and he is one of the longest serving and most popular Civil Celebrants for the Commonwealth. He also prepares the annual program for a large group of gardeners – The Hills Green Thumbs Garden Group! Recently he moved from a large Hills garden to a much smaller Glen Osmond patch which more easily accommodates extensive travel in Australia and overseas. With his partner Kym, John travels overseas each year to visit family who are now in Vienna, adding excursions either side, loves visiting the 'Outback', and tries to spend 'focussed' time with seven grandchildren.

After this year's particularly good end of year IAF event John said that he: "enjoys the Literary and Film Group gatherings, writes appalling poetry, loves a drink, and has a good time at all functions!"

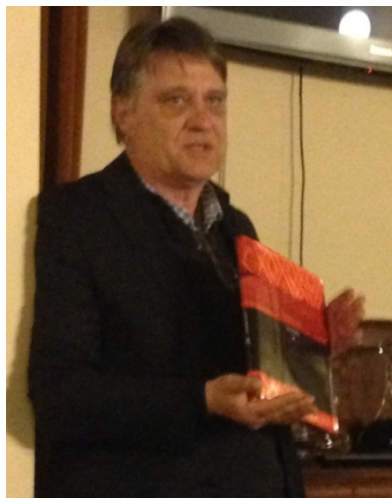
## FILM CLUB

The Film Club continued to receive good attendances culminating with over 50 attending the Christmas Film evening at The Regal Cinema.. Delicious finger food was served from Kays Kitchen and drinks from Skye Cellars. Margaret Kellett won the raffle prize of a picnic set. Thanks go to Beverley Miller for organising the event.

We look forward to seeing you all at the movies in 2016. Our thanks go to the Trak Cinema who continue to support the IAF Film Club.

## LITERARY CLUB

The Literary Club has a loyal following with members enjoying a range of interesting authors whose books are published by Wakefield Press.



The irrepressible Michael Bollen (*pictured*) is the compere who always provides an entertaining quiz before dinner. The lucky winners receive a prize of books generously donated by Wakefield Press.

At the end of the evening many guests take the opportunity to share their poetry writing skills. A fun evening is had by all. Please join us in April when Literary Club recommences.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

We have had a good start to the Financial Year 2015/2016 receiving a total of \$2190 in tax deductible donations into our Special Fundraising account enabling us to give \$1750 in awards to recipients. We gratefully acknowledge donations received from July to December 2015

<i>Jill Argent</i>	<i>Ann Gunson</i>
<i>Raelene White</i>	<i>Helen Onopko</i>
<i>Karen Simpson</i>	<i>Philippa Walker</i>
<i>Diana Evans</i>	<i>Lyn Marlow</i>
<i>Peter Burdon</i>	<i>Alan Brissenden</i>
<i>Grant Thomas</i>	<i>Patsy Bennett</i>
<i>Betty Solomon</i>	<i>Thelma Baynes</i>
<i>Samela Harris</i>	<i>Kay Thorp</i>
<i>Maggie Tonkin</i>	<i>Elizabeth Silsbury</i>
<i>Ewart Shaw</i>	
<i>John &amp; Lyn Hillier</i>	
<i>Felicity Morgan &amp; David Smith</i>	
<i>Cheryl Pomeroy &amp; Maggie Middleton</i>	
<i>John Bishop &amp; Barbe Pidcock</i>	

Membership fees continue to provide a valuable source of revenue so please continue to renew your membership and encourage your friends to join!

**Mary Odlum**  
Treasurer

## BOARD EVENTS

### August - Mark Nadler in a Nutshell

Members and friends enjoyed an intimate, wonderful evening of entertainment at La Boehme from Cabaret singer and piano player Mark Nadler. Mark went out of his way to give an amazing concert, interacting with the audience with his jokes, talented piano playing and singing. A great night was had by all!



### September – Zig Zag Street

A small group of members went to see the Stirling Players perform Zig Zag Street, written by Philip Dean and adapted from the hilarious novel by Nick Earls. Delicious sherry was served on arrival!

**October** – our garden visit planned for October had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest which was disappointing.

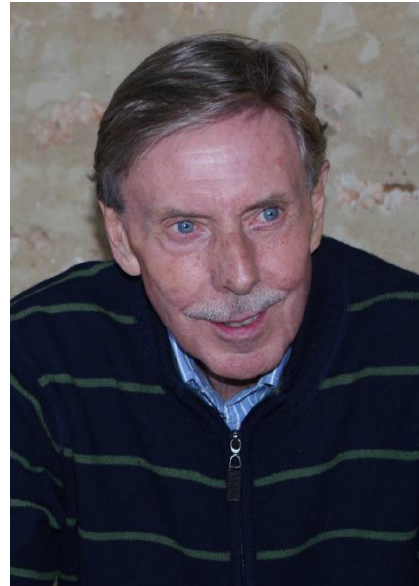
**November** - our final event was the Film evening held in the vintage surrounds of the Regal Cinema.

### VALE ALAN FARWELL (1944-2015)

Our members will be saddened to hear that long-time member and former very successful Chair of IAF, Alan Farwell passed away on September 12 after a long fight with cancer.

Alan began his working career as a teacher, but soon moved into music education and the arts. He was a founding member of "Come Out" children's arts festival, Superintendent of the South Australian Education Department's music division and Chairperson of the South Australian Chapter of the Australian Society for Music Education. He dedicated his working life to youth arts in South Australia.

Moving to Auburn in 2002, it did not take Alan very long to become immersed in the town.



Under his chairmanship of the Auburn Community Development Committee many notable improvements were made to the town. Alan was also involved in establishing the Open Garden Scheme at Auburn and a driver behind the CJ Dennis Festival.

His dedication to improving and developing his town was honoured with an Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award in January 2015.

Alan Farwell will be remembered for his efforts to reinvigorate Auburn as it entered the 21st Century, as well as his love of the arts, and work for young people.

### CLARE REGIONAL BRANCH CLARE VALLEY FILM CLUB

The Movie Club has gone from strength to strength since we moved from the Blyth Hotel to the Blyth Institute for our dinners.

We have had between forty and eighty guests each month this year except for one month. People arrive at 6.45 pm and are served wine from one of our world renowned Clare Valley Wineries together with nibbles prepared by the Movie Club committee. We enjoy a film in Ian Roberts' lovely Blyth Cinema then just a few metres away Rae Edwards and the Blyth Institute Committee have prepared a delicious meal after viewing the film.

There are experienced film buffs (on the committee) who review the film and a quiz is conducted to test everyone's knowledge. Altogether a lovely, stimulating evening.

The last movie club for 2015 November eighty two people attended film and dinner and twenty six



people attended film only. The film was 'The Dressmaker' which most people loved. Following the film Rae Edwards, Josie Errington, Marie Spinks and Blyth Hall Committee did us proud. On the night the room looked very festive and the delicious food had a Christmas theme.

Sadly I announced my resignation however I have a delightful couple to take over. Sally Michael will be chair and her husband Neville will be vice-chair. Neville and Sally are more than qualified to organise the film club



*Sally & Neville Michael*

As part of Neville's university degree he did screen studies and his reviews of the films are always thought provoking. Sally who is a beautiful people person has a love of films and the arts generally.

The Club will grow under their capable hands. These past years I have loved every movie evening and the SALA events. Not any of these occasions could have happened without an outstanding committee. Thank you every one of you and thank you Sally and Neville for agreeing to take over.

I must add, my husband Joe with his invaluable support has made my involvement with these events a joy.

**Jessica Dames AM – Chair**

## **REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Jessica Dames AM**

Jessica Dames AM, Founding Chair of IAF in 1991, has a remarkable record of supporting the Arts in South Australia. It was Jessica and husband Joe with others who decided that the work they were doing for the Elizabethan Theatre Trust should continue after the national organisation collapsed. It was Jessica's energy and vision that helped create IAF and later IAF Clare Branch. Jessica received national recognition for her outstanding achievements by

being awarded an AM, Member of the Order of Australia.

### **Her Clare Story:**

In 2005 following her relocation to Burra, Jessica was appointed to the Clare Region Tourism Committee. In this role she became aware of the need, and the opportunities for, the Independent Arts Foundation to support and promote the artists in the region as a natural adjunct to tourism in the area.

As a consequence, in 2007 the IAF Clare Branch was formed, with Jessica Dames as Regional Chair. The projects that her committee has implemented since 2007 included:

- The IAF Clare Valley Movie Club established 2007. The Club has proved very popular with some people driving 100 to 150 km each month to see and discuss a movie and partake of good regional wine & food.
- SALA Festivals (South Australian Living Artists) in the region for 2008 and 2009. These involved 65 artists and 30 venues exhibiting art works in 2008 increasing to 120 artists at 60 venues in 2009.

These festivals once again demonstrated to Jessica the great influence art can have in uniting communities and providing a medium by which people of all ages can become involved. In 2009 Jessica was the winner of the Jim Barry Clare Valley Tourism Excellence Awards for "Outstanding Contribution by an Individual".



All IAF members, many young artists, arts organisations and arts lovers' thank Jessica for her remarkable achievements.