

22 JUL 1998

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ACE News

Hanging Out at High Beam

Neridah Wyatt-Spratt

Its a month since I returned from the inaugural High Beam Festival in Adelaide and I'm still feeling incredibly stimulated by the performances, exhibitions, films and conversations.

The Festival was launched by an impressive lantern parade through the streets of the city. On a cold night, over 2,000 people celebrated the creativity of people with a disability. For Helen Connors and I, from Accessible Arts it was a very hectic time.

Some of the Highlights for me were:

A two day seminar on issues surrounding Art, Self Expression and Identity, explored issues surrounding disability culture, being an artist first, integration and getting on with it.

Phantasmagoria 2, an exhibition by individuals from the Western Community Access Service, held at the Port Adelaide, was a highlight for me. This show reflected the artistic skills of the participants

Issue 2 Winter 1998

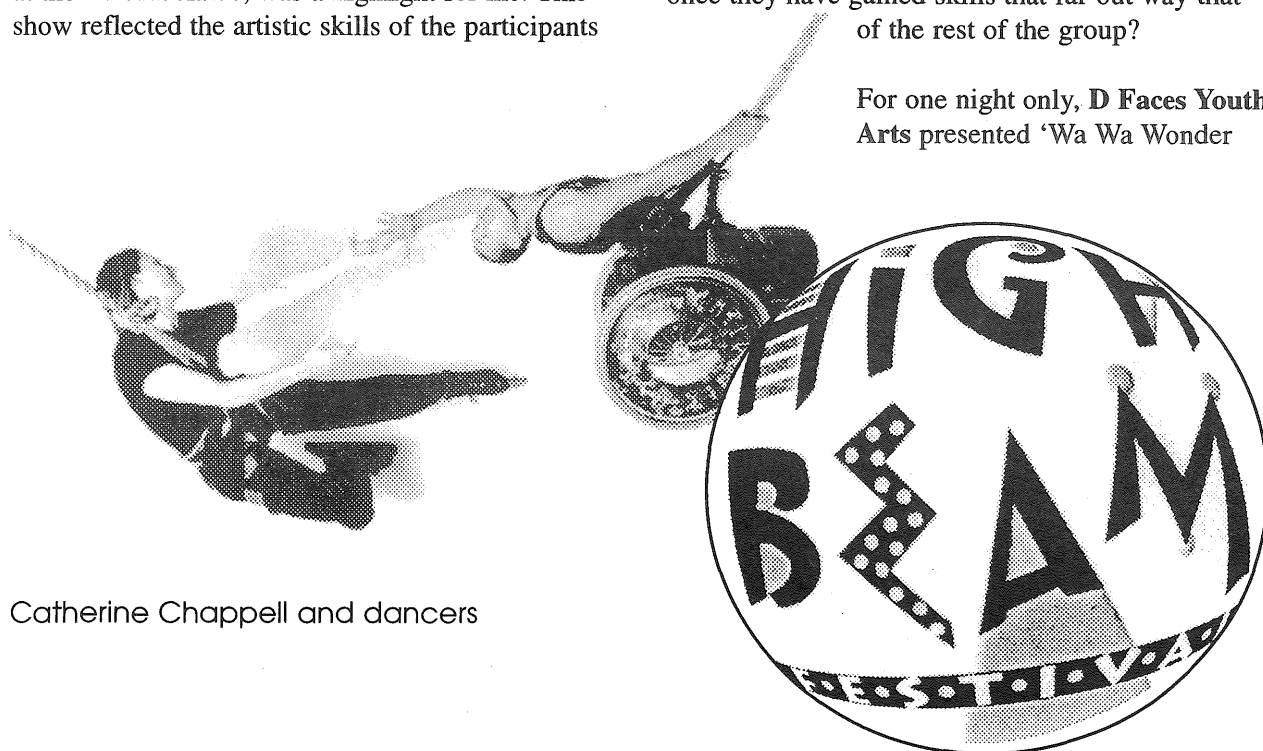
using various techniques under the direction of artist Catherine Pukeridge. The only downside was the lack of visitors to this excellent exhibition.

An exhibition by people with **Dissociative Identity Disorder**, (multiply personality disorder) showed how creative expression is an important medium for communication. Location in a shopping complex, off the city mall; images and words, spoke directly to the viewer. A great way to create community awareness

'Touched' a production by 'No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability' at the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Tandanya was a piece of work that at times lost its connectedness, within the three spaces that it was performed in. Dealing with the broad themes of the environment, land rights and the human/nature relationship, at times the picture was not always clear.

A large and engaging cast also presented for me, the dilemma of where do actors with disabilities go once they have gained skills that far out way that of the rest of the group?

For one night only, **D Faces Youth Arts** presented 'Wa Wa Wonder



Catherine Chappell and dancers

Wheels', a play where the performers had the chance to sink their teeth into some fun characters and situations. A collaborative piece of theatre that looked at social issues surrounding disability in the form of a space race adventure. The performance had a strong sense of ensemble that held the shifting sets and scenarios together.

Restless Dance performed 'The Flight', a movement theatre piece that was a journey along the path to growth and maturity. At times, a strong, confronting piece, this was an ambitious production, with over twenty dancers on stage. Visually stunning, with live music, I felt that this piece was missing something and needed to be seen twice to appreciate all the subtleties and nuances.

New Zealand group **Catherine Chappell and dancers** presented a mixed program of dance including the piece 'Touch Compass'. Where roller blades, ropes, and people flying in wheelchairs presented a tale of the struggles and attempts between able bodied people and those with disabilities to finally learn to communicate.

An exhibition of photographic and digital images that challenged existing notions of disability through investigating a 'disabled' gaze was a project from **DADAA WA**. Aptly titled 'Reversing the Gaze' this exhibition gave me a strong impression of the 'normality' of people with disabilities as oppose to the way they are generally perceived by society.

I attended a workshops and seminar, conducted by **Moonstheatre** Artistic Director Kjell Stjernholm, from Sweden. A professional theatre company of actors with intellectual disabilities, the theatre cast began performing ten years ago.

I was disappointed, by the lack of any artswokers/performers from Adelaide, attending the workshops. A great opportunity, to gain insights and share experiences and develop skills wasted as far as I am concerned.

Congratulations must go to the organisers and supporters of this Festival and all the hard work that was involved. A big thanks and congratulations to Arts in Action. Things can only get better for the 2000 Festival.

Accessible Arts Annual General Meeting

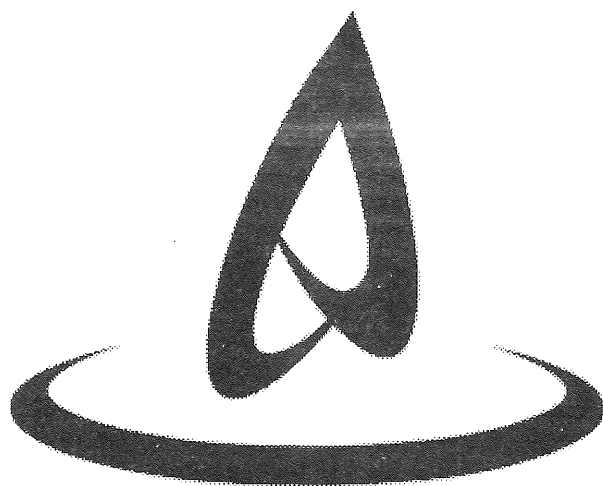
Monday 28 September
10.00am - 12.00 pm

Pier 4 The Wharf, Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay

Accessible Arts would like to invite
you all to attend the AGM.

An invitation also goes out
to those interested in standing for
the Management Committee.
If you are interested contact AArts
for application forms -
proxy forms are also available.

Light refreshment and entertainment
will be provided, so be there!



Accessible Arts
creativity expression inclusion

Upcoming Arts Projects



Catch Carnivale Fever

Accessible Arts as part of the 1998, Carnivale celebrations are running two arts programs during 1998. A music workshops with Lindy Morrision will be held in the **Fairfield/Liverpool** area from late July to mid Sept culminating in a performance in the local CBD. In **Newcastle** artist Jenny Brown, will develop a photographic project leading to an exhibition at a local gallery. If you are from an Non-English Speaking Background, have a disability, in the right areas- call us.



Artist Jenny Brown based in Newcastle

Musician Lindy Morrision



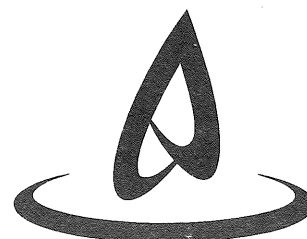
AArts 1998 Creative Program 'Out There!'

Interested in attending an **advanced theatre skills** workshops leading to a performance?

Want to **sing** your heart out?

Learn how to design and build **groovy lanterns** for Christmas?

If the answer is yes, to any of the above then join AArts in its inaugural Arts Program 'Out There!', to be held at Pier 4, The Wharf, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay (under Sydney Theatre Company) phone for further details.



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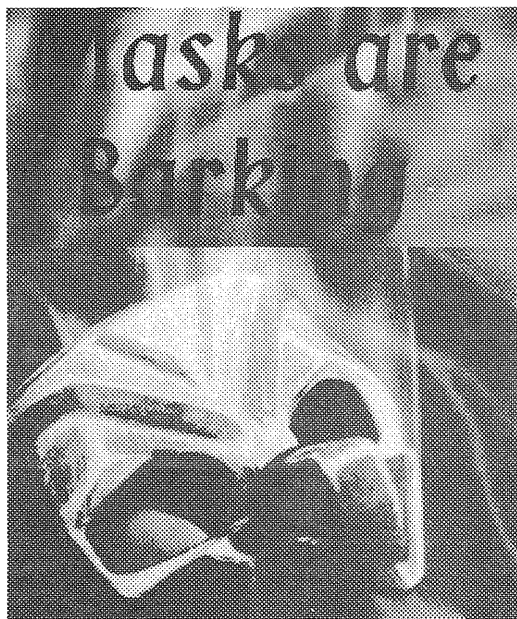
disability in the
Arts,
Disadvantage in the
arts,
Australia

National Visual Arts Exhibition for 2000 and beyond

The DADAA network is proposing to develop a national visual arts project in each State and Territory. The theme currently being discussed involves regionalism and isolation. Since aspects of this feature in the lives of artists with disabilities within the arts in New South Wales. AArts will focus on a call of interest from artists on its register and through its networks during 98/99.

For information on all of the above contact Neridah at Accessible Arts
(02) 9251 6499 aarts@ozemail.com.au

What's On & Info



Australian Theatre of the Deaf in their new work explore aspects of love and fear in two stories 'Who is behind the Masks' and 'Who is Barking'. The play will be performed in Parramatta, Wollongong, Penrith, Campbelltown and Sydney/City. For details call ATOD. Ph: 02 9310 1255/V or 02 9318 2835/TTY

'Spanning Identities'

Access Plus - a working party on issues affecting Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people with disabilities or people living with HIV/AIDS, will host a seminar in Sydney in October 1998.

The one day seminar, 'Spanning Identities' aims to identify barriers to accessing services and will provide a forum where people can share experiences. The program will explore the following areas:

Access and Equity to Social, Cultural and Political Life.

Violence - to include domestic, sexual, institutional and homophobia.

Images in the media.

Living in institutions and Identity politics.

To attend or present a paper, contact Anti-Violence Project

Ph: 02 9360 6687

Fax: 02 9380 5848



Australian Red Cross
New South Wales

Classes offered by the Australian Red Cross in:

Art	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
Cane	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Folk Art	Wednesday, Thursday
Knit/crochet	Tuesday
Leather	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Needlecraft	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Paper Mache	Monday
Weaving	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Session Times

Morning session	9.15am - 12pm
lunch	12pm - 1pm
Afternoon session	1.00pm - 3.45pm

Cost

Two dollars (\$2.00) per session
Art and paper mache cost 50c more if people do not bring their own material

Materials

People can supply their own materials, or for a minimum cost material can be purchased at the Red Crosses craft store.

Morning, afternoon tea and tea and coffee at lunchtime is supplied.

Necta, a network of people interested in the creative arts in therapy and personal growth is holding its 16 annual conference 'Anticipation' on 26 & 27 September 1998 at the Newtown School of Performing Arts.

20 or more workshops in art, dance, bodywork and movement will be conducted in an environment where you can learn more about yourself and therapy.

For more information contact

Valeries Atkinson Ph: 02 9660 0984