

THEOREM



THE DREAM
THAT BECAME A REALITY.

Reflections on an extraordinary theatrical event.

On November 20 around 8 p.m. a queue of more than 100 people wound from the grand foyer of the new Concert Hall out onto the pavement.

All but a few waited in vain.

The house was full as it had been the previous night.

Such enthusiasm would not have been surprising had it been a concert starring some international celebrity. But the performance they were so eager to see was "Theorem" and the stars were 120 handicapped and disadvantaged people.

The public reaction to "Theorem" was a triumphal conclusion to a remarkable creative process. A conclusion that was never guaranteed. For "Theorem" was a daringly innovative project – a dream that many people believed could never become a reality.

That it did so is a tribute not only to those who participated but also those who supported them with either material or financial resources.

"Theorem" of course did not end on November 19 and 20. The experience changed and enlarged the lives of so many people associated with it – the institutions, the handicapped, the artists who worked with them and the members of the public who saw that even the most severely disadvantaged in our society have a creative potential waiting to be released.

But we thought it important, before time blurred the memory, to look back and record the major impressions of the extraordinary nine months that led up to the public performances in November.



"For me this project has been about showing people that they can do anything – even things they have never dreamed of." Artist, Bronwen Barton.

"Theorem" was based on the belief that there is a creative potential in us all. The trick is to release it.

The first step in "Theorem" was a series of workshops held around the State involving over 800 people.

The impact on those physically or mentally disabled people from institutions who took part and who flowered as their hidden abilities were explored and revealed was astonishing. It was perhaps even greater on the artists and others who helped conduct the workshops. Marge Roxborough, physiotherapist, believed it lifted her self-awareness to a much higher level opening up a new concept of creativity. As a result she has introduced creative workshops as a permanent feature of the Werribee Community Health Centre where she works.