

Access Arts News Issue 6 - June 2002

accessartsnews

Madame Mercury
Cosmic
Cosmetician
Start
Today

Dear Readers

This edition of the Access Arts Newsletter is packed with new ideas and reports on what members of Access Arts have burst into the New Year with!

One of the best things about my job is seeing what members create for themselves and we have payed homage to the creativity of Janelle Colquhoun in this edition with a picture of Janelle entertaining the crowds at the Stage X Youth Festival last year. Janelle's performance as the Cosmic Cosmetician rocked the socks off the crowd and her success makes it easier for other members of Access Arts to negotiate with festival organisers to get their work seen by a wider audience. Other 'out there' members are busy getting involved in the arts through performances, book launches, workshops and creative business ideas. Two business ideas that have recently been created to support people with disability are David Alker's Travel Agency and Anthony and Justin's community focused cleaning service. I hope you can find opportunities to support these services.

Neal Price
Executive Director

Members Profile

Born in Sydney, Jeanne became stagestruck while attending the Spastic Centre of NSW in Mosman in the 1960's and declared that she loved performing. Jeanne's association with theatre has grown since performing in

school productions such as Mother Goose, The Wizard of Oz and playing Mother Superior in The Sound of Music. On Becoming a member in 1993, Jeanne has been in productions such as 'Passions and Perceptions' which was a series of poems where she narrated the title poem, *was challenged in 'Alive Still Life'* and has acted in end of year workshops productions such as 'Titanic going down in Style' which was devised by Daniel Anderson.



Jeanne Lavallee

Jeanne's first major performance was in 'Miraculous' where she had dual roles as one of the children being interrogated by a priest and a Portuguese woman who was traumatized by a vision of a young priest being crucified. 'Miraculous' was shown last year in the Visy Theatre. This working production is being developed by Marcus Hughes in the second term of 2002 workshops where Jeanne will again express her clear enunciated voice and display her talents.

Jeanne Lavallee

Postcard from Dianne Hill, Norfolk Island

About two months ago my sister Kerin her friend Sue and myself went to Norfolk Island for a ten-day holiday. After hiring a car Sue drove us around the Island. It was wonderful and we visited all the sites. One day we drove to the dock except there isn't a dock. They unload the goods onto little boats then take them to the land and repeat this until the job is done. This could go on for a week or two. Quite an education to watch. Then we went into a lovely restaurant on the other side of the island.

One night we went to a themed dinner at the hotel. Dressing up as convicts in black and white we ate the food the way the convicts did. Another night we went to a progressive dinner that was funny as well. Nancy Wake (the White Mouse) sleeps in one of the houses on Norfolk a couple of nights a year and this is where we had one of the courses.

Norfolk has an amazing curtain fig tree we visited near the prison that is reputed to shade a 1,000 people it is similar in size to the Brisbane Powerhouse. The people of Norfolk had to cut it in half because of the extensions to the airport.

I enjoyed my stay there but I still prefer to holiday in Australia.

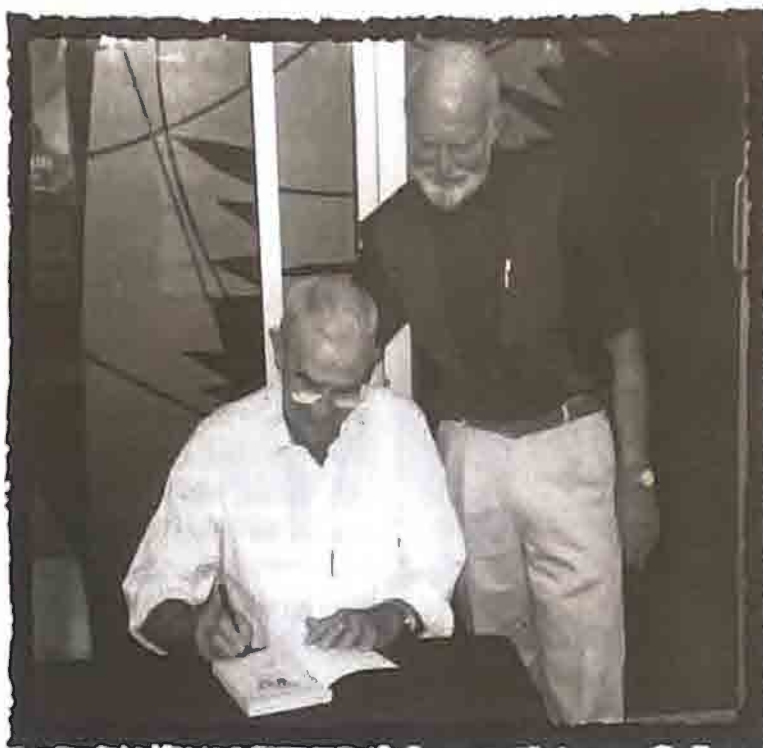
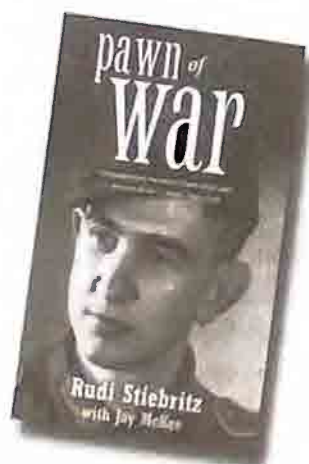
"Pawn of War"

"a damned good read"

Drafted into the German Army in 1942, Rudi Stiebritz was sent into battle on the Eastern Front, participating in one of the longest and bloodiest campaigns in modern history. In 1945 Germany surrendered and Rudi and thousands of his comrades were sent to Siberia as prisoners of war. Rudi tells his story as he experienced it - with humour, passion and honesty.

Access Arts and the Brisbane Powerhouse were delighted to host the launch of Rudi Stiebritz's new book *Pawn of War* on 20 April. Following an introduction by Neal Price, Executive Director Access Arts, Jay and Rudi regaled the crowd with quotes from the book and anecdotes of Rudi's exploits. With musical accompaniment to Rudi's singing the crowd queued to get copies of this exciting and inspirational work.

Access Arts has copies for sale at \$14.95 each (plus postage and handling where applicable). Please contact the office on 07 3358 6200 or info@accessarts.org.au to reserve your copy



Rudi Stiebritz & Jay McKee

WANTED: One "Live" Extension Cord

In college many years ago I had a Sociology textbook with a very clever picture on its cover. It was a forlorn looking man standing on the bank of a very wide river. In his hand he held an electrical cord with a plug on it. Way across the river on the opposite bank was a vast, sprawling, bustling industrial city festooned with power lines. The drawing bore no caption because the unspoken question came over loud and clear. "How in the blue blazes am I supposed to plug into that from here?"

I cannot recall much else about that textbook, but as you can see the image on the cover left a lasting impression. Of course, what I could not have known back then was that the person standing on that riverbank

would be me. Me and the thousands of other disabled like me, the "shut outs".

My name is Don Ludlow, I am a writer and poet. It is one of the few things I can still do, and some say I do it very well. But the literary world, and the world in general is that city across the river and here I stand vainly clutching my plug at the literal end of my physical and financial tether. But I am not alone, many others share my plight. The world over there is abuzz, a cacophony of activity, but my voice is not a part of it and may never be. Why? Because this quiet riverbank is as far as I can go. Over there is the modern world and for me it is deadly toxic. I have Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and am violently allergic to the modern world. But there are as many reasons here as there are people, people who cannot physically participate in the modern world, including, for some, the problem of sheer

geographical isolation. But whatever our individual barrier we all share a common problem. We simply cannot physically attend or participate in the multitude of exhibits, conferences, seminars, performances, shows, readings, workshops, etc. that are the very lifeblood and nurturing grounds of the literary and artistic worlds.

Many of us are on the Internet in a desperate endeavour to overcome our isolation. But what we find is that the Internet is no more than a long, empty corridor, and at the end of it is a window - a small, closed window. A window that only opens from the other side should someone happen to venture close enough and be so inclined. Whether it is our individual websites such as my "Island Place" at www.flexi.net.au/~dludlow, or a joint co-operative site such as "Penned Voices for Christ" at www.geocities.com/pv4c/, it extends our reach a little, that is all, the plug on the end is still empty. The simple truth is that regardless of the individual and collective talents of those here, here they will remain trapped by our own physical limitations. The spark of creativity is unable to freely flow between us, unless somebody from out there takes the time and effort to run an extension lead out to each one of us where we stand and actively plug us into the main power grid of the literary and artistic worlds out there.

Yours faithfully,
Don Ludlow

Clowning Workshops

Workshops conducted by Circus Minimus exploded with a burst of energy at the open day on Saturday 20 April. The presentation centred around the circus group preparing to play a tune for the audience although there were many disruptions. Will we ever get to hear the group play a tune! Stay tuned to Wataboshi Music Festival where the Clown Band may appear once again.



Lyn Flanagan



Dan Schoch



Glenn Perkins

Access Arts & QPAC Present CACA Courage National Tour - Adelaide, Perth and Albany.

During May the CACA Courage cast and crew spent a hectic 18 days on tour to Adelaide's Highbeam Festival, Perth at the Subiaco Theatre and

Albany at the Town Hall. Some days were long and arduous, the cast and crew always willing to put in that last bit of effort to get things right. The shows were seamless with only the occasional glitch in the system. We spilled a lot of feathers across Australia and several towns and cities had unusual amounts of white feathers appearing in unlikely places.

CACA Courage received rave reviews across Australia in most major newspapers, radio and also on the Today Show on channel 9. Adelaide Advertiser's Patrick McDonald described CACA Courage as the



Liz Navratil with John Micheal

"sort of work which will maintain Adelaide's international reputation at the cutting edge of the arts" Theatre critic Tony Love acclaimed the production as "a great celebration of life lived in any way it presents - there is no shock, no outrage, just a simple joy to be alive."

In Adelaide the cast and crew were supported by Highbeam Festival. The Brisbane production of Mr Mania was also playing at Highbeam. Presented by Synchronesh Arts and actor Annie Lee, Mr Mania received strong critical acclaim and showcased a Queensland performance with exceptional production values. Along with other Queensland delegates to the festival we all had lots of friends on hand to socialise with and offer support.

In Perth and Albany DADAA WA was helpful in providing publicity, developing audiences and facilitating a workshop with Vancouver Arts

Brisbane Outsider Artists

The Brisbane Outsider Artists studio is in full swing, twice a week here at the Brisbane Powerhouse. After a successful show last year, focusing on lester McGregor's works we aim to have another exhibition soon showcasing works developed by participants with David Usher's guidance.

Sam Bullock (pictured) has recently had a successful show at Andrew Baker's gallery.



Angus Douglas & Sam Bullock

Centre (Albany). The cast managed to visit old friends made during the 1995 tour of Cabaret Erratica and take in a bit of sight seeing. In Albany the CACA Courage cast and crew were donated a stretch limo for the day by a local hire company. We visited the Albany Wind Farm (a must see) and several of the cast took to the highways on

Harley Davison's. Albany was the perfect place for the last two shows of CACA Courage. The hospitality of the town was tremendous.

CACA Courage cast and crew would like to thank all of our sponsors, host organisations, friends and support workers for making the 2002 National tour of CACA Courage a memorable success.



L R John Micheal Kathy Lewis Sam Liz Chris Scotta and Jackie Albany Wind Farm

Kathy Brennan writes:

This was my first experience in a performance that took me to Adelaide, Perth, and Albany and I was grateful to have this opportunity. When I was away the thought went through my mind in what my parent's might be saying if they could see me now. Why I thought this is because when I was growing up there wasn't one word said in any way to do with drama workshops.

Even though I worked long hours and each show took a lot of energy, I did appreciate having my own sleeping arrangement that help me to have a good night sleep and I said a big thank you for that. I had a cooked breakfast to help me through the day. I asked if they would cut the meat up before it was brought to the table. They were very good and happy in doing that and I thank them for it.

The only problems I had on the trip was when some people didn't allow me time to speak. I was able to talk about this and people were reminded to allow me to say what was on my mind.

At the end of the tour I was on a high. The last night in Albany there was a good applause and I went out and picked up the streamers and threw them back into the audience. It was the end and I thought, "Well why not!"

Kathy Brennan.



Kathy Brennan on tour with CACA Courage

New Board and Advisory Committee for Access Arts

Following the AGM in March 2002 the new board was elected and the advisory committee was sought from volunteers from our membership. Board and Advisory members have a range of experience; several are performers and songwriters or have skills in arts management and welfare. Photo includes: L-R Jan Leo (Secretary), Willie Prince (Ordinary Member), Deborah Macarthur (Ordinary Member), Peter Vance (Ordinary Member), Peter Armstrong (Advisory), Neal Price (CEO), Emma Bennison (Vice President), Karyn White (Advisory), Marcus Hughes (Treasurer), Liz Navratil (President), Lesley McLennan (Ordinary) and Di Hill (Advisory).

Regional Artist

RICHARD HAZELWOOD

Richard Hazelwood has recently begun to re-explore the medium of photography. He lives in Harvey Bay and is in the process of establishing an art group which aims to share artistic inspiration, ideas and professional development.



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YOUR TEAM: DAVID ALKER - A Wheel Chair user, Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma and Computer Experience. ANTHONY SPROULE - Had a stroke, Well travelled both Domestically and Internationally, Experience in the Travel Industry.

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We Can Do It.

Anthony and Justin have a working philosophy of reliability quality and flexibility. We are aware of the different needs of our customers and already have two satisfied customers who experience life with a disability. Our aim is to keep the business community focussed and diverse in its range of customers.

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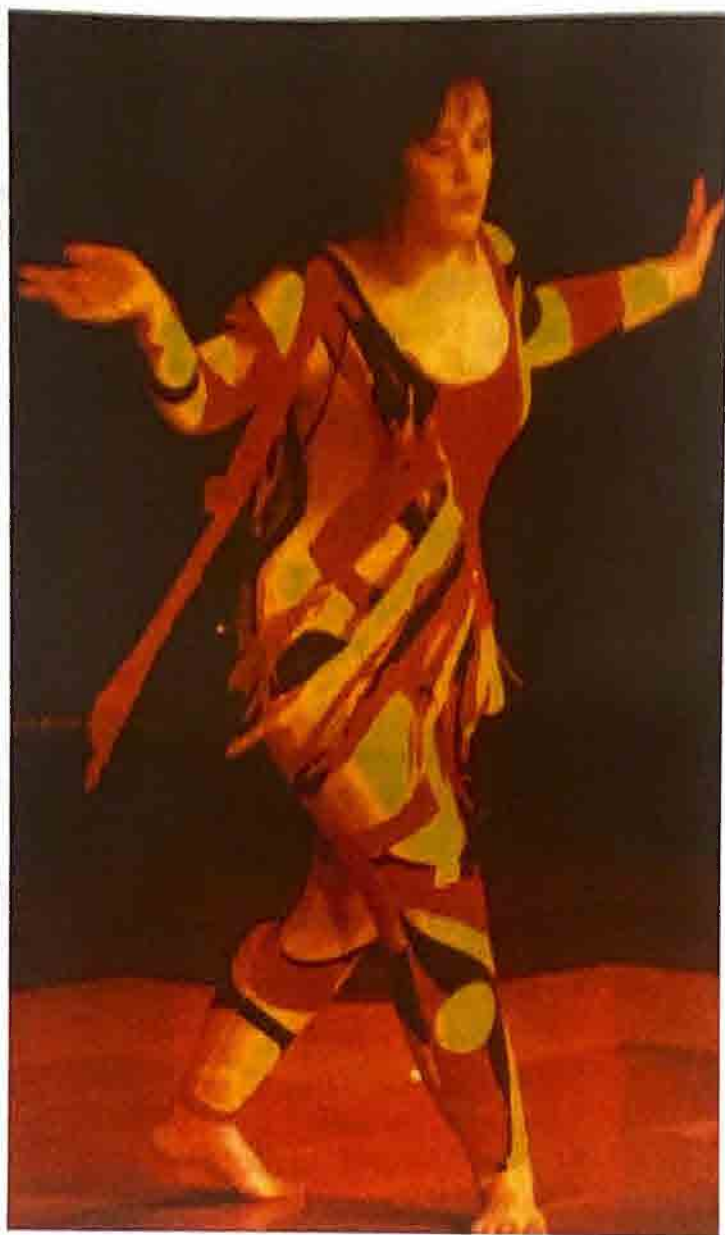
Justin 0410.689.872 Anthony



Ethical Property Management

EPM are in process of becoming a workers cooperative including people from a refugee background who are often disadvantaged with respect to finding employment. Initially it is providing pest control services to organisations and individuals. Key goals of the cooperative are to provide fair and empowering employment to its members and excellent value for money to its clientel. We are currently looking for organisations wanting to support this initiative by purchasing services or helping with our market research. Please contact Martin Richards (3342 7724) or Marc Blum (3844 8653) for more information.

artistpage



Macushla Doyle 1974-2002

Dancing in Semerang Indonesia 1995

One of Access Arts most accomplished actors, painter, performer and self-titled 'mermaid singer', Macushla Doyle died after a short illness recently in the Lismore Base Hospital. Macushla had toured with Access Arts to Indonesia in 1995, played one of the Freda's in Marcus Hughes's *Alive Still* in 1995 and her paintings had toured to Japan and Western Australia in the *Tracking the Blue Sheep* exhibition in 1997.

The Access Arts Board and members send their thoughts to Ochre and Zephyr in the knowledge that Macushla blazed a trail for us all. Her work is highly regarded across Australia and she had recently been working at the Highbeam Festival in Adelaide with Kompany Kaos and InHabitat.