organisation profile

Salubrious Productions

Performance agency & web-site

Salubrious Productions was established in late 1999 by Janelle Colquhoun, herself an artist experiencing disability. Before going blind due to diabetes, Janelle worked as a professional opera singer with the Australian Opera and Opera Frankfurt. While Vice-President of Access Arts Inc. Janelle met many artists with a disability performing at a professional level, unable to find work or an agent.

"I was so annoyed that agents and mainstream companies had preconceived ideas about an artist's ability based on their disability, without even giving them a chance, Janelle said. While I still could sing as well as previously, suddenly nobody wanted to employ me any more, and I discovered the other artists had similar stories." With a long history in the arts industry and well-networked, Janelle decided to make a difference.

The work has been steadily growing over the past few years, with a healthy portfolio of contracts and regular bookings.

I do not exclusively represent artists with a disability Janelle said, "My policy is that the best artist for the job is sent out. However, often the best person also happens to have a disability."

- Janelle Colquhoun

Salubrious Productions aims to find artists work in the mainstream industry as well as at disability related functions. Therefore, the web site has been carefully written to emphasise the ability rather than the disability. Most biographies do not include the disability unless it is part of the act.

In late 2002 Janelle recieved funding from Arts Queensland to develop her business with the view to making the artist more visible and giving them a space to display their work on-line. www.salubriousproductions.com was designed by Ross Barber, a visual artist himself with a disability. The web site has been designed in compliance with the web accessibility standards making it both accessible and visually pleasing.

www.salubriousproductions.com lists over 60 professional artists with a disability from Brisbane and throughout Australia. Categories include bands, musicians, singers, speakers, workshop facilitators, actors, visual artists, with artists' pages including biographies, photos and recordings. Visit the website for a full list of current artists and acts.

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Above: performer Steve Sparrow, one of the artist represented by Salubrious Productions Photo by Nigel Sparrow.