

National Multicultural Arts Symposium 2010: Diversity in the Arts: Theory + Action

Nexus Multicultural Arts, Adelaide, 19 - 21 May 2010

Presented by Nexus Multicultural Arts in partnership with Kultour.

The **Diversity in the Arts: Theory + Action** symposium provides a significant opportunity to draw on the experience of experts from across Australia who are actively engaged in the production, presentation, research and promotion of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) arts. The symposium includes an exhibition, performances and a full-day forum involving discussion panels and a keynote address by **Lyndon Terracini, Artistic Director of Opera Australia**.

Discussion topics include:

- Programming CALD Arts
- Multiculturalism: perspectives from the past
- National Perspectives: how is cultural diversity driving contemporary arts practice?
- Cultural Innovation & Leadership: shaping CALD arts towards 2020

The **Diversity in the Arts: Theory + Action** symposium will: explore a theoretical context for emerging cultural practices within an international framework; identify key emerging trends, artists and advocates; connect participants; set benchmarks for CALD arts; and contribute to a national debate on the future of Australian cultural identity.

Registration Fees: \$50.00 Full // \$35.00 Concession / Nexus and Kultour Members

(Fees include exhibition opening, entry to three concerts at Nexus Cabaret, full-day forum on 21 May and buffet lunch)

Symposium Partners

Nexus Multicultural Arts is home to the Nexus Gallery and Nexus Cabaret, and is Adelaide's year-round centre for world music, dance, theatre and visual arts. For over 25 years, Nexus Multicultural Arts has been a dynamic arts and social networking hub uniting creativity and cultural diversity - a place where diverse artists, communities and audiences share experiences, create artworks and tell their stories. Nexus Multicultural Arts is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the South Australian Government through Arts SA.

Kultour is a national network of arts organisations established in 2001 by the Australia Council as part of Council's Strategic Initiative for Arts in a Multicultural Australia, to increase awareness of Australian multicultural arts through annual touring and advocacy programs. Kultour promotes high quality multicultural arts and, in partnership with its distinct network of state peak multicultural arts bodies and arts sector organisations, produces and presents work reflecting multicultural Australia to wide and diverse audiences through a range of programming streams across art forms. Visit kultour.com.au

Nexus Multicultural Arts

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Diversity in the Arts: Theory + Action Symposium

PROGRAM

Wednesday 19 May 2010:

4.30pm: **Tolais cooking demonstration / workshop at Nexus Gallery:** Lisa Hilli and her mother Cathy Hilli will guide and demonstrate a celebratory feast melding Australian and Papua New Guinean cultures, where members of the public can participate in the preparation, cooking and eating of *I gir*, a traditional Tolais vegetable and chicken dish cooked in banana leaves.

NB: Free workshop limited to 30 participants only on a first come, first served basis; please register interest in participating by emailing nexus@nexus.asn.au

6-8pm: ***Just Like Home* by Lisa Hilli – exhibition opening at Nexus Gallery:** Part exhibition, part meal, film and biography, *Just Like Home* explores artist Lisa Hilli's New Guinean and Australian heritage. *Just Like Home* celebrates the continuation of Tolais cooking traditions (unique to the people of Rabaul, Papua New Guinea) with an Aussie twist. With one simple meal, Lisa Hilli highlights issues of assimilation and cultural adaption.

The video documentary *Just Like Home* follows Lisa's mother, Cathy, as she adapts a specific Tolais culinary practice to suit her adopted Brisbane home, using tin foil instead of banana leaves during the cooking process. At Nexus Gallery, Lisa Hilli's video will screen under the shade of her life-sized banana tree sculptures constructed entirely of tin foil.

Lisa Hilli's 2010 touring exhibition is supported by Multicultural Arts Victoria (a Kultour Company Member) and Kultour, an initiative of the Australia Council. The touring exhibition has been developed in partnership with Nexus Multicultural Arts (a Kultour Company Member).

8pm: **Monkey Puzzle Tree – performance at Nexus Cabaret:** Monkey Puzzle Tree is a dynamic local ensemble that recently performed at WOMADelaide 2010, playing its trademark original post-romantic music. Ethereal melodies mingle with striking rhythms to create a soundscape that is rich, capricious and complex.

NB: Entry to this performance free for symposium registrants; ticket prices for public are \$15 Adults // \$10 Concession / Nexus and Kultour Members. Tickets available from dramatix.com.au or on the door.



Just Like Home by Lisa Hilli

Thursday 20 May 2010:

8pm:

WHO'S THAT CHIK? by Candy Bowers – performance at Nexus

Cabaret: *WHO'S THAT CHIK?* brings the urban hip hop experience to Nexus Cabaret. The true story of performer Candy Bowers – raised in western Sydney by a South African mother and Zimbabwean father – *WHO'S THAT CHIK?* combines hot beats and fiery rhymes with comedy, Broadway and classic storytelling. By using hip hop, video and pop culture references in her show, Candy Bowers reaches out to new, younger and marginalised audiences, bridging cultural and theatrical divides. *“She has charmed audiences across Australia with a blend of rapping, dancing and hilarious jokes.”* Sydney Morning Herald

Winner, Best Performance Award, Melbourne Fringe 2009

Candy Bowers' 2010 tour of WHO'S THAT CHIK? is supported by Footscray Community Arts Centre (a Kultour Company Member) and Kultour, an initiative of the Australia Council. The tour has been developed in partnership with Nexus Multicultural Arts (a Kultour Company Member).

NB: Entry to this performance free for symposium registrants; ticket prices for public are \$25 Adults // \$20 Concession / Nexus and Kultour Members. Tickets available from dramatix.com.au or on the door.



WHO'S THAT CHIK? by Candy Bowers

Friday 21 May 2010:

FULL DAY DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS: THEORY + ACTION FORUM at Nexus Cabaret

- 9-9.40am:** Symposium registration
- 9.40-10am:** Welcome to Country and formal opening speeches
- 10-11am:** **Keynote address: PROGRAMMING CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE ARTS**
LYNDON TERRACINI – *Multicultural Magic in the Land of Oz... What are the implications in the 21st Century?*
Chair: Dr Noris Ioannou
- 11-11.15am:** Morning break
- 11.15am-12.30pm:** **Session One: MULTICULTURALISM: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PAST**
CHRISTIAN (BONG) RAMILO – *Reminiscences: Multicultural Arts in Australia Twenty Years Ago*
MIRNA HERUC – *Multicultural Arts: A No-Win Situation?*
DOUGLAS GAUTIER – *The Birth of the OzAsia Festival and Changes at the Adelaide Festival Centre*
Chair: Justin Macdonnell
- 12.45-1.45pm:** Lunch break
- 1.45-3pm:** **Session Two: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES: HOW IS CULTURAL DIVERSITY DRIVING CONTEMPORARY ARTS PRACTICE?**
AARON SEETO – *No Chinese: The Absence of Asian-Australian Perspectives in a History of Australian Curatorial Practice and Exhibition*
CANDY BOWERS – *An Industry of Colour...*
FOTIS KAPETOPOULOS – *Adjust Your View: Reaching New Multicultural Audiences and Building Patrons*
CECELIA CMIELEWSKI – *Shifts and Intersections*
Chair: Caroline Stacey
- 3-3.15pm:** Afternoon break
- 3.15-4pm:** **Session Three: CULTURAL INNOVATION + LEADERSHIP: SHAPING CULTURALLY DIVERSE ARTS TOWARDS 2020**
GREG CLARKE – *Get Out, Engage and Be Blown Away*
KARL TELFER – *CALD Arts Moving Forward*
KHALED SABSABI – *Support For Future Leaders*
KATH PAPPAS – *A Diverse Aesthetic and the Role of the Producer*
Chair: Magdalena Moreno
- 4.30-5.30pm:** Symposium close and networking session
- 8pm:** **Akoustic Odyssey – performance and after party at Nexus Cabaret:** Akoustic Odyssey is Adelaide's most innovative seven-piece instrumental act. Its rich and eclectic tapestry of world music is a feast for the soul! With an original blend of instruments and musical flavours, Akoustic Odyssey will take you on a journey through rock, baroque, Latin, jazz, funk, Mediterranean and Middle-Eastern music. *"Their sound is unique and their energy is infectious..."* Jan Foreman, Infolkus

NB: Entry to this performance free for symposium registrants; ticket prices for public are \$20 Adults // \$15 Concession / Nexus and Kultour Members. Tickets available from dramatix.com.au or on the door.

Diversity in the Arts: Theory + Action Symposium

SPEAKERS

Lyndon Terracini, Artistic Director, Opera Australia (Keynote Speaker):

Lyndon Terracini is currently the Artistic Director of Opera Australia, Australia's national opera company. Previously, he enjoyed a highly successful international opera career as well as a successful career as an actor, director and writer. Lyndon made his professional debut as a singer in 1976 as Sid in *Albert Herring* with The Australian Opera at the Sydney Opera House. Other notable performances include the title role in the Australian premiere of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* for the State Opera of South Australia and *El Cimarron* at the Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Barossa and Darwin (Guitar) Festivals.

In 1993, Lyndon Terracini founded Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA), which has developed into one of the most important performing arts organisations in regional Australia and was awarded the Myer Foundation Group Award in 2002. Lyndon was appointed Artistic Director and CEO of the Queensland Music Festival in July 2000 and directed the 2001, 2003 and 2005 Festivals. He was appointed Artistic Director / CEO of The Brisbane Festival in 2005 and Artistic Director / CEO of Major Brisbane Festivals in November 2007.

Dr Noris Ioannou, Executive Director, Nexus Multicultural Arts and Chair, Kultour (Keynote Address Chair):

Greek Cypriot-born Dr Noris Ioannou is a cultural historian and author of seven major books on Australian art history and folk culture. A graduate of Flinders University and the University of Adelaide, Noris has had numerous articles published in Australian and overseas journals, and was visual arts critic for the *The Advertiser* newspaper for 15 years. A recipient of an Australia Council Fellowship, his professional experience includes a Writer-in-Residency at the Canberra School of Art, Honorary Fellow in History at Flinders University, and regular guest lecturer in Cultural Tourism and Applied History at the University of Adelaide and Flinders University. Noris has also curated a dozen visual art exhibitions. He has sat on the Civic Trust of South Australia Board, been a Peer Advisor for the Australia Council, a Member of the State Heritage Authority and past President of the Association of Professional Historians SA. A 1996 Churchill Fellow, he is currently on the Churchill Fellowship Selection Committee.

Christian (Bong) Ramilo, Executive Officer, Darwin Community Arts (Session One Speaker):

Bong Ramilo has been a cultural activist for more than thirty years, both in the Philippines where he was born and in Australia, his adopted home since 1986. As a practitioner and advocate for Cultural Action and Theatre of the Oppressed in the 1990s, he worked closely with migrant and indigenous communities around Australia. He was awarded an Australia Council Fellowship (2000-2002) to explore community cultural development and new technologies. In 2006, he was appointed Executive Officer of Brown's Mart, one of the oldest community arts organisations in Australia, with the specific aim of redeveloping it into a grassroots arts development organisation. He has since led the physical move of the organisation – renamed Darwin Community Arts in 2008 – from the city centre to Malak in the heart of Darwin's northern suburbs, and has pioneered innovations such as the Malak Telecentro (a community-based internet access centre).

Mirna Heruc, Manager, Art & Heritage Collections at The University of Adelaide and former CEO, Nexus Multicultural Arts (Session One Speaker):

Mirna Heruc was born in Zagreb, Croatia and migrated to Australia in 1979. She trained as an anthropologist and teacher, studying at the University of Adelaide. In 2004, Mirna was appointed as Art & Heritage Collections Manager at The University of Adelaide, a new position with responsibility for the visual arts, a wide range of other collections and public cultural activities. Prior to this, Mirna was Executive Director of Nexus Multicultural Arts from 1996-2004, organising visual and performing arts programs and engaging in multicultural advocacy. She is an active Board member of the Contemporary Arts Centre of South Australia and Museums Australia (SA branch).

Douglas Gautier, CEO and Artistic Director, The Adelaide Festival Centre (Session One Speaker):

Douglas Gautier began his career at the State Theatre Company of South Australia. In 1976 he was awarded an English-speaking Union and SA State Government Scholarship to study Media and Theatre Arts at the Bristol Old Vic and the BBC, which he then joined as a music and arts producer in 1977. Recruited by Radio Television Hong Kong in 1979, he was subsequently appointed head of their music arts channel. In 1986 he was appointed Head of Concert Music (Planning) for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Returning to Hong Kong, Douglas was appointed Deputy Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourist Board, where he was active in fostering links between the tourism and cultural sectors. He was appointed as Executive Director of the Hong Kong Arts Festival in 2002. Since arriving at the Adelaide Festival Centre, Douglas has initiated a major 'program-led' approach to double audiences over five years. This has included two new annual events – The Adelaide International Guitar Festival and OzAsia, showcasing of cultural links between Australia and the Asian region.

Justin Macdonnell, Executive Director, Anzarts Institute (Session One Chair):

Justin Macdonnell has been employed in arts management, producing and consultancy for forty years. He has been Projects Manager for The Australian Opera, General Manager of the State Opera of SA and Director of the National Opera of New Zealand. He has also been Program Director of the Sydney Festival and Executive Director of CAPP (Confederation of Australian Professional Performing Arts). As principal of Macdonnell Promotions (1986-2003), he was one of Australia's leading arts management consultants to both the public and private sectors. From 1992, through the Australia-Latin America Foundation, he ran an extensive cultural exchange network between Australia and countries in that region. He has also produced and directed Australian festivals in Indonesia, Singapore, Brazil and Mexico. Macdonnell is a poet and librettist and the author of two major works on arts policy. He became Executive Director of the Anzarts Institute in January 2008.

Aaron Seeto, Director, Gallery 4A (Session Two Speaker):

Aaron Seeto is Director at Gallery 4A: Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, located in an historic building in Sydney's Chinatown. 4A is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists' Association Inc and was established in 1996. 4A is dedicated to presenting contemporary Asian art in Australia and promoting a greater understanding of diverse cultures through the arts. The gallery presents a continuous exhibition program supplemented with talks, seminars and public projects. Through its contemporary art program, 4A aims to develop creative and productive partnerships between artists, organisations and the community.

Candy Bowers, Performer and Social Activist (Session Two Speaker):

Candy Bowers is a writer, hip hop artist, social innovator, actor, director, arts worker, theatre maker, lyricist and social activist. In 2008 she was awarded the British Council for the Arts Realise Your Dream Award. Since graduating from the prestigious acting course at NIDA in 2001, Candy has toured Australia and overseas to Edinburgh Fringe Festival with her award-winning hip hop comedy act SISTA SHE. Career highlights include performing at the Sydney Opera House, Brisbane Powerhouse and Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and starring in *SHE TV* on Foxtel's Channel V. Candy is currently adapting Shakespeare's *As You Like It* into a hip hop theatre show for the Bell Shakespeare Company's Mind's Eye program.

Fotis Kapetopoulos, Director, Kape Communications (Session Two Speaker):

Since 2007, Fotis Kapetopoulos has been the English Editor of *Neos Kosmos*, Australia's leading Greek newspaper. His company, Kape Communications, hosts speaking tours by arts marketing leaders such as Donna Walker-Kuhne, America's leading multicultural marketing specialist, Dr Richard Kurin, Director of National Programs from the Smithsonian Institution Washington DC and Donna Williams, the multicultural marketing director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. Fotis was recently commissioned by the Australia Council to write *Who Goes There? Multicultural Arts Marketing Case Studies* and *Adjust Your View: A Multicultural Arts Marketing Toolkit*.

Cecelia Cmielewski, Manager, Cultural Engagement Initiatives, Community Partnerships, Australia Council for the Arts (Session Two Speaker):

Cecelia Cmielewski is the Manager of Cultural Engagement Initiatives in the Community Partnerships section of the Australia Council for the Arts. Cecelia has made significant contributions to the strategic development and capacity building of the Australian creative sector, particularly through her involvement in policy research and analysis, for the Australia Council for the Arts and the Arts in a Multicultural Australia 2000 and 2005 policies. She currently manages the Cultural Engagement Framework of the Australia Council.

Caroline Stacey, Artistic Director and CEO, The Street Theatre (Session Two Chair):

Caroline Stacey completed her Master of Theatre Arts (Directing) at the University of Newcastle. The current Artistic Director of The Street Theatre in the ACT, Caroline previously lectured in drama and stagecraft at the Victorian College of the Arts Opera School, and was the Artistic Director of the Castlemaine State Festival, one of Australia's major regional multi-arts festivals. She has directed a diverse portfolio of theatre, opera and music, including *Il filosofo di campagna (The Country Philosopher)* for Stopera in 2003 and *Jane Eyre* in 2005, both recipients of Canberra Critics Circle Awards. Other opera and music credits include: *Pimpinone* (West Australian Opera); *The English Eccentrics*, *L'enfant et les sortilèges* (Melbourne International Festival of the Arts); *Lakme* (Canterbury Opera); *Madame Butterfly*, *The Magic Flute* (Melbourne Opera); *Medea* (Adelaide Symphony Orchestra); *The Tender Land* (Operalive); *La Bohème* (EMO); *Carmen* (Hunter Opera); *The Mikado* (Victorian Gilbert & Sullivan Society) and *Chess* (Ballarat Light Opera Company).

Greg Clarke, Director, Adelaide Fringe 2011 (Session Three Speaker):

Greg Clarke was recently appointed as Director of Adelaide Fringe for 2011, 2012 and 2013. Over the past 20 years, Greg has worked as an artist and performer and in many roles behind the scenes as a producer, director and entrepreneur. In the early 1990s, as Manager at Sydney's acclaimed Belvoir St Theatre, Greg presented more than 20 productions a year of independent theatre, contemporary dance, cabaret and comedy. Highlights included William Yang's *Sadness*, *Dance Camp* and the Sydney Asian Theatre Festival.

As Senior Producer at Sydney Opera House from 2001 to 2007, Greg programmed and produced theatre, contemporary dance, film festivals, art exhibitions and concerts including the acclaimed annual Message Sticks Indigenous Arts Festival. From 2007 to 2008 Greg took on the role of Dance Programme Manager with the Australia Council, where he developed strategies to support the development of dance in Australia. In his most recent position, as Head of Events with the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, he staged large-scale free outdoor music, dance and circus festivals, including Darling Harbour's New Year's Eve firework displays and *Fire Water*, the inaugural winter festival of food, fire and spectacle at The Rocks.

Karl Telfer, Kurna Cultural Bearer, Visual Artist and Community Leader (Session Three Speaker):

Karl Telfer was the Spirit Festival 2008 / 2009 Artistic Director. The Spirit Festival celebrates Indigenous music, art and culture by bringing together local and national Aboriginal artists. Karl is internationally recognised as a cultural ambassador and has been invited to perform and participate around the world including in the UK, USA, France, Spain, Japan and Germany. For over 6 years, Karl has been working on the Tracking Project - an international project bringing Indigenous knowledge from around the world together in ceremonies and central discussions about cultural exchange, cultural renewal, sustainability and the natural environment. Karl is the founder of the Paitya Dance Group in Adelaide, which entwines Kurna knowledge and culture with present experience, including working with the Kurna language, stories and song. He believes Aboriginal youth need 'rights of passage' in today's society, as well as support to understand and identify with their cultures.

Khaled Sabsabi, Visual Artist & Creative Producer, Casula Powerhouse (Session Three Speaker):

Khaled Sabsabi is an artist and community arts practitioner who specialises in sound, video, installation and music. Khaled migrated to Australia in 1978 and settled in Western Sydney, where he has worked with communities since the late 1980s to create and develop arts programs and projects that explore people and places from broad social, political and ideological spectrums. Khaled has been a recipient of an Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship and has presented solo exhibitions in Sydney at Campbelltown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse, Gallery 4A and Mori Gallery. He has also exhibited in major group exhibitions including *Making It New: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art* at Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, *Out of Place* at Kunstverein Tiergarten, Berlin, *Integration, Assimilation and a fair go for ALL* at Sydney's Gallery 4A, *Soft Power: Asian Attitudes* at Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art in Shanghai, *ASIA - EUROPE Mediations* at National Gallery Poland and *Interdigitate* at The Moving Image Centre, Auckland.

Kath Pappas, Freelance Dance Producer and Consultant (Session Three Speaker):

Kath Pappas was Director of Ausdance Victoria - the Victorian state office of Australia's dance support and advocacy network - from 2003 to June 2009, having previously been the organisation's Administrator (from 1999 to 2002). During her directorship, Kath led a major period of strategic development and growth, and developed and produced a range of major sector development initiatives, projects, festivals and events. She established and produced Terrain Multicultural Contemporary Dance Festival, in partnership with Jill Morgan at Multicultural Arts Victoria, in 2006 and 2008. Indigenous dance development in Victoria was also a focus, with multiple initiatives in this sphere.

Since leaving Ausdance, Kath has focused her practice around freelance producing and consulting. In 2010, Kath has taken on the role of producer for Tony Yap Company, the only culturally diverse company funded by the Australia Council Dance Board, and is working with a range of artists on projects, including Indigenous choreographer / puppeteer Jacob Boehme, and Chinese-Australian Redspan Dance Company. Kath is creative producer of the 2010 Australian Dance Awards, event producer of the National Dance Forum (March 2011) and, as a consultant, is creating a dance action plan for ArtPlay and Signal in the City of Melbourne. She is also a Board member of Next Wave and Arts Access Victoria.

Magdalena Moreno, CEO, Kultour (Session Three Chair):

Chilean-born, Melbourne-based creative producer Magdalena Moreno undertook an ethics research fellowship in Paris as the 1999 recipient of the Keith and Elisabeth Murdoch Fellowship after graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts. She has presented at several local and international symposia on themes relating to networks, cross-cultural arts projects and partnerships, and public art in Latin America. Magdalena was the Manager of the South Project from the project's inception in 2004 and inaugural Director from 2007 to 2009. In April 2009, she was appointed CEO at Kultour and has led the design and implementation of its new structure and direction. She is a 2008 Fellow of Asialink's Leaders Program at the University of Melbourne. Her current appointments include: Public Art Advisory Panel for the City of Melbourne, Advisory Committee for RMIT School of Art, Steering Committee for the International Network of Foundations and Cultural Networks for Transnational Cooperation Board Member of the Arts Industry Council (Victoria) and Chair of the South Project.

Nexus Multicultural Arts is supported by the South Australian Government through Arts SA, and by the Australia Council through Council's Strategic Initiative for Arts in a Multicultural Australia. Nexus is proud to be sponsored by Anvers Wines, Coopers Brewery, Concept Collections and Printak.

