

THEATRE NETWORK (VIC) - WHAT WE DID FOR YOU IN 2015

TNV's Advocacy – Representing your issues to government, media and funding bodies.

- ⇒ During 2015 TNV worked with ArtsPeak and Feral Arts leading the **#freethearts campaign**. TNV chaired a sector meeting with Labor leaders and lobbied cross-bench senators to call for a Senate Inquiry, with ArtsPeak we formally called for the Inquiry, we rallied the sector to write submissions, we kept the sector informed, we supported companies and artists who presented at the hearings, we worked with media, and we gathered data and evidence to support our case. Along with changes to the NPEA and the return of \$8mil p/a, our sector is smarter, stronger and more united. We now have more work to do to secure the future of the Australia Council, and have the funding restored to 2013 levels.
- ⇒ Victorian **Creative Industries Strategy** – TNV lobbied for a performing arts representative and an Arts Industry Council representative to be included in the Expert Reference Group. We wrote a submission outlining the need for capacity building for the small to medium and independent sectors, and pursued this throughout the year, through the consultation workshops, meetings with Taskforce members and Reference Group members, and through meetings with Minister Martin Foley. The Taskforce Report is now public, and TNV will ensure that throughout 2016, we support a budget bid for funding to support the new Creative Industries Strategy.
- ⇒ Since the establishment of Victorian **Organisations Investment Program** (a model now adopted by Department of Culture and the Arts WA), TNV has been calling for changes. During 2015 we were involved in consultation by Creative Victoria and the Minister's office leading to significant changes – including elimination of the categories (lead, established, developing), elimination of the unwieldy assessment framework, a minimum funding amount introduced (\$60k p/a) and a simplification of the application process.

TNV's Events – Developing the sector and connecting you to others.

- ⇒ In January TNV produced the 4th **Australian Theatre Forum – ATF2015: Making It**, held in Sydney as part of the Sydney Festival. In partnership with the TNV team, Curator David Williams and Producer Simon Wellington turned the curatorial brief into a highly successful, widely celebrated forum for 400 theatre makers and theatre professionals. The Forum was sold out a month early, and was lauded for placing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts at the centre of the conversations. The extensive documentation, in partnership with AustralianPlays.org, extended the reach of the forum.
- ⇒ TNV produced the **6th Annual Victorian Theatre Forum – Champions of Change**. With interstate speakers and delegates, this event is becoming an important day of debate and reconsideration of our collective futures. The highlights were the interconnections panel with Nicola Gunn, Matt Lutton, Rachael Maza and Leticia Caceres, and the keynote by Cathy Hunt and Julian Meyrick (see below).
- ⇒ In 2015, we continued our successful partnership with **Currency House**: in May we produced an industry seminar at the ABC studios in Southbank, launching Katharine Brisbane's platform paper, *The Arts and the Common Good*, with Katharine interviewed by Michael Cathcart. The interview was recorded and aired on Radio National *Books and Arts*. In November we launched Cathy Hunt's platform paper, *Paying the Piper – There Has to be a Better Way*, as the keynote address at the Victorian Theatre Forum, with Cathy in conversation with Julian Meyrick.

TNV's Communications - Keeping you informed and passing on the gossip...

- ⇒ We sent 11 monthly e-news bulletins (February to December). We work hard to keep our e-news concise, relevant and interesting, and we continue to receive praise and feedback that it is people's

favourite e-news. One of the most popular e-news segments, Industry Gossip, advised of **128 industry movements** during 2015.

- ⇒ We also sent 8 special invitations to TNV's or our partners' events, including a **complimentary ticket offer** for members to see Black Diggers on ANZAC Day, with compliments of Arts Centre Melbourne.
- ⇒ We have **2989 followers on twitter**, and we send out members' info and events as well as other relevant opportunities.
- ⇒ We sent **9 Advocacy Briefings** to members with updates regarding federal budget changes, Senate Inquiry, NPEA program, #freethearts updates, and for Victorian members, updates regarding the Victorian Creative Industries Strategy.

TNV's Research and Action-based Learning – Building knowledge and sharing it.

- ⇒ We researched and published **TNV's 2015 Small to Medium Salary Survey Report**, the fourth in the series. The report shows slower salary increases between 2013 and 2015 than previous years, fewer planned increases in the coming year, and widespread uncertainty about maintaining positions due to funding cuts.
- ⇒ TNV has worked in partnership with **Deakin University's Arts and Cultural Management** program since 2012. In 2015, with the winding up of the three-year Arts Participation Incubator, TNV was offered a position on the Board of the Arts and Cultural Management program. The key work in 2015 was an internal review of the ACM discipline, and the new Sue Nattrass Scholarship program.
- ⇒ In 2015 we ran a **peer-learning program** in partnership with ArtsHouse and Regional Arts Victoria, funded by the City of Melbourne. Three circles of peers (41 artists in total) meet for four afternoons, over four months on the topics: Circle 1. Sustaining the Sector: new landscape, new leadership; Circle 2. New Gen Theatre. Circle 3. The Creative Case for Cultural Diversity in the performing arts. The peers continue to be in contact with each other and collaborations have been instigated.
- ⇒ In October we co-produced the annual **Touring Workshop** in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria and Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres, at the Plenty Ranges Arts Centre. The workshop provides training for emerging artists and companies wishing to tour. Delegates' highlight was the presentation by the Australia Council's Amanda Coombes, on Building Audiences for Indigenous work.

TNV's Leadership – Ensuring that the arts industry is fairer for artists and companies.

- ⇒ The TNV Director's role as a Board Member of Australian Performing Arts Centres Association (APACA), and a Councillor on the Performing Arts Touring Alliance (PATA) ensured that the small to medium producing sector had a strong presence and voice. **APACA's inaugural Performing Arts Exchange (PAX)** was very successful, with survey results indicating that the majority of attendees, including 36% who were artists or producers, would like a similar event each year.
- ⇒ During 2015 TNV's staff and Board undertook a five-year strategic planning process. A significant decision to come out of the planning, is to pursue our role as the national service organisation for the small to medium and independent performing arts sectors. This will include a **name change to Theatre Network Australia**, with more consultation and legal work to be done in 2016.
- ⇒ In 2015, TNV staff were involved in many other **industry events and activities**; as a panellist and a session MC for Showcase Victoria; consulting advisor and planner for the Green Room Awards Association; invited speaker for Fringe Forum on Networks and Business Partnerships; Facilitator for Village Festival; producer and facilitator of a sector consultation session for the City of Melbourne's Meat Market.