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LPA focus on Federal election lead-up and 2016 Helpmann Awards

The last month has seen LPA staff focus a lot of time and resource on getting our message out regarding LPA's election priorities. Members will have seen a number of media releases, particularly our analysis of the impact of the Australia Council's recent four year funding announcement. We have also provided a tool kit for Members to use in the next few weeks as part of your lobbying activities.

Our attention has now moved to the local level where we are targeting a range of marginal and key seats nationally. We have contacted candidates from all major parties raising our concerns and encourage Members to do the same, as you deem appropriate for your company. It is important to raise our voice during this campaign and let our politicians know that we are a \$2.5 billion industry that employs 35 000 plus people across the country. We are calling on all major parties to commit to restoring \$72.8m to the Australia Council and to outline their plans for jobs and growth for the live performance industry.

We will shortly release a mid-election report card on where the major parties stand on support for our industry, including if they have an arts policy, a plan for jobs and growth plus an assessment of proposed initiatives against our list of priorities. Next week on Wednesday 8 June there is a national arts debate in Melbourne with Minister for the Arts Mitch Fifield, Shadow Minister for the Arts Mark Dreyfus and Adam Bandt, Arts spokesperson for the Greens, all participating. The debate will be mediated by Patricia Karvelas (ABC and Sky News) and live streamed 1-3pm. We will send tune in details shortly.

At the same time as we are lobbying on behalf of our Members, we are also preparing for the 2016 Helpmann Awards which are fast approaching. Over the next two weeks our eight Helpmann Award

The Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub is a new multi-purpose facility built by the Blue Mountains City Council to replace the old Springwood Civic Centre. The Australian Government contributed \$9.5 million to the construction of the facility.

Cameron Alan Kennedy t/a Kool Bario

Kool Bario was started by Cam Kennedy in 2012. With 10 years prior experience working with iconic venues like Tanks Art Centre, Barrier Reef Hotel and in Port Moresby, the Lamana Gold Club Cam Kennedy now splits time between Australia, PNG, Solomon Islands and Japan buying and selling shows as well as promoting concerts and events.

Flying Fruit Fly Foundation t/a Flying Fruit Circus

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is Australia's national youth circus, recognised as one of the world's leading youth arts companies. The company is dedicated to advancing and innovating the art form of circus, creating exciting emerging artists for the industry and acting as a leader for the youth circus sector and our regional community.

Michael Coppel Entertainments Pty Ltd

Michael Coppel Entertainments Pty Ltd is producing Fawltly Towers - Live. The production is touring Australia & New Zealand from August 2016.

Purplestage Pty Ltd

Purplestage is a boutique arts and entertainment management company based in Melbourne, Australia. Purplestage specialises in theatre producing, tour management, professional development, arts marketing and event management.

panels will meet to review the 800+ entries received for this year's awards. The nominees will be announced on Monday 20 June, 6pm (AEST) across the country. We encourage all Members and industry colleagues to join us at these events in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. Details will be provided shortly. Preparations are well underway for the main event on Monday 25 July at the Star Lyric Theatre in Sydney. Tickets are now on sale and I urge all Members to get online and book your seats to the show. The election will be over and it will be a great opportunity to celebrate our amazing talent and achievements over the past year.



FEDERAL ELECTION 2016: CALL TO ACTION

As you may have seen in a recent email, LPA seeks your help to get the live performance industry on the agenda during the Federal Election campaign. We ask that you do what you can and in ways that you feel appropriate to support the industry.

LPA has developed a suite of tools to help with your advocacy efforts that can be accessed [here](#).



THE NATIONAL ARTS DEBATE

The Wheeler Centre – Melbourne Wednesday June 8th, 2016 1.00pm – 3.00pm

ArtsPeak is organising a National Arts Election Debate in Melbourne on 8 June. The debate will bring the arts leaders of each of the major parties together to share their big ideas and respond to the burning questions of industry leaders and commentators from across the industry.

Patricia Karvelas (ABC and Sky news) will moderate a three cornered contest. Arts Minister Senator Mitch Fifield, Shadow Arts Minister Mark Dreyfus and Greens Arts Spokesperson, Adam Bandt are confirmed.

**Rachel Fothergill t/a
FXponential**

FXponential's objective is to advise on the production of new Australian works, across a multitude of genres: assisting emerging artists, performers, composers, directors, musicians and writers find the perfect place in which to apply their talents.

Musical Chairs



Adelaide Festival

Karen Bryant, Chief Executive of Adelaide Festival has stepped down from her position. Sandy Verschoor has been announced as the new Chief Executive.

**Black Swan Theatre
Company**

Clare Watson has been announced as the new Artistic Director of Black Swan Theatre Company and will assume her position in October.

Circa

Michael Lynch CBE AM has been appointed as the new chairman of Circa.

Creative Victoria

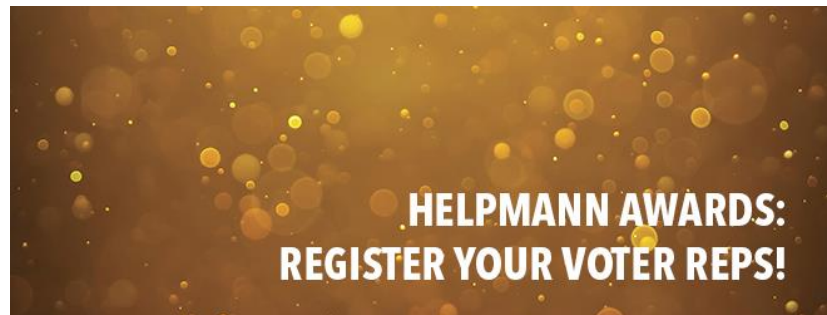
Director of Arts Sector Investment, Greg Andrews, will be leaving Creative Victoria in August.

Darwin Festival

Felix Preval leaves Melbourne Fringe to join Darwin Festival as the Head of Programming.

The event is currently fully booked. To join the waiting list, [click here](#).

The debate will also be live streamed – details soon.



Entries are in and it's not long until we announce this year's Helpmann Award Nominees.

In the building excitement to the nominee announcement on Monday 20 June, don't forget to register your organisation's five voter reps who will vote for the 2016 Helpmann Award Recipients.

Every vote counts so don't delay! Voter reps must be registered by **5:00pm Monday 6 June**.

Follow our easy step-by-step guide on how to register voter reps or contact the fabulous Fiona Spitzkowsky on 03 8614 2000 or via [e-mail](#).



The Department of Immigration and Border Protection has sent an email to key stakeholders advising that they are having difficulty with the number of late applications that are being lodged. 420 Visa applications must be sent to LPA in hardcopy at least 6-8 weeks in advance for ETA countries and 8-10 weeks for non-ETA countries or where there are applicants with criminal convictions. **Applications received after this time may not be accepted and visa approvals cannot be guaranteed.** Please also ensure you are using the most current forms. See [Circular 03-16](#) for more information.

Expressions Dance Company

Libby Lincoln steps down as CEO of Expressions Dance Company in July.

Regional Arts Victoria

Justin Murphy joins Regional Arts Victoria in the role of Manager, Performing Arts Touring as Kane Forbes leaves the organisation after nine years.

The Last Great Hunt

Sean Walsh has been appointed as the new Creative Producer of The Last Great Hunt.

Urban Theatre Projects

Antonia Seymour is leaving Urban Theatre Projects to take up the role of General Manager of Arts on Tour for 12 months while Heather Dransfield is on maternity leave.

Perth Theatre Trust

Culture and the Arts Minister John Day announced a new board appointment for the Perth Theatre Trust (PTT). Julian Donaldson, has been appointed to the Perth Theatre Trust board for three years. Mr Donaldson was the previous general manager of the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF).

Barking Gecko Theatre Company

Western Australia's youth theatre organisation, Barking Gecko Theatre Company, is set to become a resident company at Perth's performing arts venue, the State Theatre Centre of WA, from July 1, 2016.

COMPLETE THE NATIONAL ARTS AND DISABILITY STRATEGY EVALUATION SURVEY

LPA encourages Members to complete the Ministry for the Arts' Survey on the effectiveness of the National Arts and Disability Strategy for the 2013 – 2015 period. The results from this Survey will inform the Ministry's evaluation of the Strategy.

The survey will be open until 5pm on 17 June 2016. Further information and a link to complete the survey can be found [here](#).

The Strategy is an initiative of the Meeting of Cultural Ministers from federal, state and territory governments, and aims to increase participation and access to the arts for people with a disability.

LPA is currently updating our guide on disability access. Members will be informed when this Guide becomes available.

Should you have any queries please [email](#) LPA Policy Advisor Holly Crain or call 03 8614 2000.

FEDERAL AND STATE BUDGETS 2016-17

LPA has provided a summary of the 2016-17 federal and state Budgets released to date, available below:

- [Federal](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

REPORT FROM INQUIRY INTO LIVE PRODUCTION TO RURAL AND REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications and the Arts has released a report entitled “Arts and the news to rural and regional Australia” following its Inquiry into broadcasting, online content and live production to rural and regional Australia.

The report includes several recommendations for improving access to the arts as follows:

- continuing funding for Australia’s major performing arts companies
- recognising the dynamic and changing nature of the arts in grants programs
- encouraging the educative role of performing arts companies
- maintaining adequate funding for the Australia Council for the Arts’ Playing Australia program
- retaining National Touring Status arrangements and extending them to additional performing arts companies
- encouraging and formalising mentoring arrangements between performing arts companies and rural and regional communities
- evaluating and promoting the new Catalyst - Australian Arts and Culture Fund
- considering funding and support for digital innovation in the delivery of the arts, and
- opening up the eligibility for the Catalyst fund to include funding for competitions and eisteddfods.

LPA will update Members with the Federal Government’s response to this report when it becomes available.

A full copy of the report can be found [here](#).

VENUE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Ross Cunningham, Executive Director of Programming at QPAC on receiving the 2016 Venue Professional of the Year Award presented at this year’s Venue Management Association Award ceremony.

THE A TO Z OF ARTS MANAGEMENT: REFLECTIONS ON THEORY AND REALITY

After years of managing arts and cultural organisations, Ann Tonks has written a book, *The A to Z of Arts Management: Reflections on Theory and Reality*.

Ann was Executive Director of Melbourne Theatre Company for nearly 20 years and through many of these years she also taught arts management and was on the boards of dance, opera and membership services organisations. Ann has used her experience as an arts and media manager, board member and academic to put together her reflections on the theory and practice of arts management in a book published by Tilde University Press.

Ann hopes that the book will be read not only by students of arts and cultural management but also by current managers and board members.

Purchase your copy [here](#)

WA AUDIENCES MOURN LOSS OF MASTER PUPPETEER

Australia has lost a great theatrical talent with the passing of former Spare Parts Puppet Theatre artistic director Noriko Nishimoto.

Culture and the Arts Minister John Day said Ms Nishimoto was one of the nation's foremost puppeteers.

"Noriko was considered a master of the art, both in Australia and internationally, with more than 45 years in the industry," Mr Day said. "Noriko's career was driven by her passion for puppetry and her enduring legacy will be the generations of performers and students who learned from her brilliance."

We extend our sincerest condolences to Noriko's family, friends and colleagues.

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Level 1, 15-17 Queen Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000
Australia

Ph: +61 3 8614 2000