

Case study

Centre for Australasian Theatre

Details

What:

The Centre for Australasian Theatre (CfAT) is a professional theatre company based in Cairns, Far North Queensland. It has a long-term vision for quality intercultural and multi-arts theatre with regional relevance and international scope. CfAT is committed to art form innovation and successful project delivery through research, skills development, extended engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and dynamic collaboration between exceptional mature and emerging artists.

Funding supported two projects:

- creative development of *This Fleeting World* – a new, devised, intercultural and multi-arts performance to be produced in 2015
- *Cultural Cargo* - cultural exchange between the CfAT and DarahRough, West Java.

Programs included public workshops to extend the skills development of practitioners and audience outreach into regional and CALD communities.

When:

January to July 2014

Where:

Cairns and West Java, Indonesia



This Fleeting World - Work-in-progress presentation - 16/05/14 - Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns.

Key stats:

- 38 activities
- 1300 attendees
- 187 participants

Arts Queensland contribution:

\$60,000 – Projects and Programs Fund

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Links:

<https://vimeo.com/102452048>

<https://vimeo.com/102215869>

Outcomes

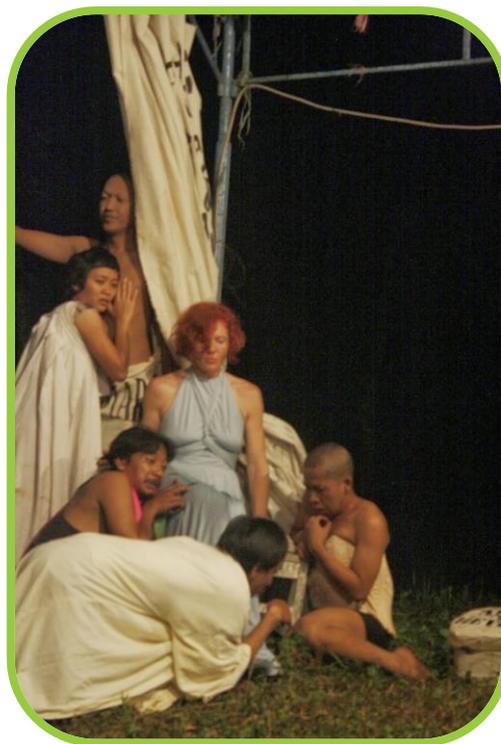
- The Centre for Contemporary Arts, Cairns has included CfAT in their Fresh Ground program for 2015.
- Successful creative development - *This Fleeting World* is ready for production in 2015 at the Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns. The Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts has offered venue space for its Brisbane premiere.
- Successful initiation of an important cultural/creative exchange project with DarahRouge Company in West Java, Indonesia.
"CfAT works in highly sensitive ways. To watch them work here in Bandung in March and April 2014 was amazing." (Cultural Cargo)
- Feedback from the workshops and presentations in West Java evidenced a clear appreciation of Queensland artists' contribution to artistic development in communities and amongst artists in Indonesia.
- A short new co-created work was realised as a starting point for *Cultural Cargo's* next phase of creative development.
- Development of CALD audiences through extended outreach, identification of CALD artists and database mapping of CALD communities and individuals.

"I had never experienced making theater in such a freeing a way. In the work here, the director usually just tells you what to do. Through this work I confronted the Javanese part of myself. It's a big question of identity." (Cultural Cargo)

Audience Feedback

"A lovely sense of ensemble, a real commitment to the project, great focus and intensity of performances and a great sense of joy in performing the piece. A wonderfully diverse group of people and skill set"

"Such amazing and striking costumes beautifully filling the stage with flowing cloth. Such immense moments filled with power and others offering reflection, insight and calm. A memorable journey of world travelers" (This Fleeting World)



Cultural Cargo – cultural exchange with DarahRough, West Java

Learnings and reflections

CfAT shared the following reflections and learnings:

Language still remains a challenging barrier. To deeply understand a different culture with its values requires continual translation between individuals. While the immediate shared space of theatre creation mediates difference through the common vocabulary of performance, complexities still remain.

Realising the objectives of CfAT's projects and program requires massive amounts of in-kind contribution from key creatives. This takes its toll on individuals and their families when unpaid work is juggled against the demands of livelihood requirements. We are currently searching for organizational funding and more volunteer support to off-set this strain.