



TANTRUM

Tantrum Youth Arts
2017 Annual Report



2017 Annual Report

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Tantrum Youth Arts

Vision, Values and Objectives

Our Vision

Tantrum brings young people, emerging artists and professional artists together to create bold and captivating performances, which challenge and provoke thoughts, create change and inspire new perspectives.

We aspire to maintain our position as the leading professional youth arts company in the Hunter region and continue our work through strong partnerships with our local community.

Our Values

Our values underpin our work and help us articulate our process.

Collaboration

Our projects are created collaboratively by young people, emerging and professional artists with input from young people and emerging artists throughout the creative process.

Our projects develop, promote and provide links between young people, emerging artists and professional artists. This offers opportunities, experiences and networks that will develop them personally, creatively and professionally.

Our projects are created in partnership with community organisations, arts organisations, cultural institutions, businesses, schools and service providers that support our vision.

Inclusion

We provide a safe space for risk-taking and creative exploration through inclusive arts practice. This style of participation builds invaluable life skills and empowerment for our artists.

We ensure our programs are accessible for all young people and emerging artists regardless of cultural, social, economic background and ability.

We create new exciting productions with an emphasis on teamwork and collaboration, promoting respect and equality.

Excellence

Tantrum's creative processes are innovative, contemporary and exciting, and relevant to our community, artists and participants.

Our creative outcomes and productions take risks and challenge our participants and audiences while also being meaningful and inclusive.

Our projects make a valuable contribution to the cultural fabric of the Hunter region through the creation and promotion of new work and generating opportunities for emerging artists.

Our Objectives

To create innovative and dynamic new performance works.

To engage with our local communities through partnerships and place.

To support young, emerging and professional theatre artists in our region.



Chair's Report

Samantha Wilcox

With new premises, a high performing team and a dynamic and strong, motivated board, Tantrum continued to deliver innovative and engaging works with young and emerging artists throughout 2017.

Favourites such as the workshop programs, emerging artist initiative Trajectory and the annual Hissyfest were complemented by the stunning site-specific performance *Mapping the Lake*. A collaboration with Lake Macquarie Art Gallery, *Mapping the Lake* engaged performers from eight years to twenty-two years in a fun and moving piece about sense of place in a changing environment.

A renewed focus on organisational sustainability led to a series of business development sessions attended by staff and board members. Initiatives arising from these sessions included internal process improvements to increase productivity, the development of a membership program and a survey seeking feedback on Tantrum's identity and engagement. Survey responses were refreshing; with respondents identifying strongly with Tantrum's core vision, valuing Tantrum for its collaborative, innovative, inclusive, excellent and relevant productions and programs.

While there is no doubt Tantrum, like other performing and community arts organisations will continue to face funding challenges, the strength and passion displayed by every staff member working collectively provides a solid foundation for future resilience and growth.

Tantrum's 40th birthday celebrations in 2016 reinforced the strong connection the company has with the Newcastle community.



Participants, staff and artistic directors - past and present – carry the torch for this impressive youth arts organisation. Our greatest hope is that we ignite this flame in new audiences, partnering organisations and supporters. We need all the love we can get - and will give it back threefold through an enduring commitment to collaborative practice, young people and emerging artists and our wonderful audiences.

Samantha Willcox
Chair, Tantrum

Artistic Director's Report

Lucy Shepherd

2017 was another huge year for Tantrum with a program bursting with new ideas and new forms of expression as articulated by young and emerging artists.

Mapping the Lake saw a team of eighty young and emerging artists collaboratively devise an enchantingly original piece of site-specific theatre on the grounds and foreshore of Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery. The project brought the community together with Tantrum partnering with Valentine Public school, Toronto High school, participants of the Art Gallery's Youth Art Program, elders from the gallery's Aboriginal Reference Group, Ngarrama Productions, and the Lake Macquarie Council's Youth Advisory Council, to tell contemporary stories of place, belonging and environment in an innovative theatrical mapping of community, connecting people and place.

Our second major production of the year *HOME* was presented in collaboration with PACT. It saw us bring Newcastle born theatre maker Janie Gibson back to Newcastle to lead Tantrum's Trajectory Ensemble in a series of process driven performance making workshops. This rigorous training resulted in the collaborative creation of *HOME*, a new work that sought to define this concept in all its complexities and did so by presenting multiple personal perspectives on the subject. Audiences were moved by the ensemble's raw energy and unnerving honesty, which allowed them to understand this concept as much more than a place but a state of being, a significant piece of each person's unique identity puzzle. The professionalism and commitment displayed by the ensemble throughout the entire process was outstanding, as was the support

from PACT during our Sydney tour to their venue, a first for many of the ensemble members.

Tantrum was also blown away by the passion and commitment displayed by our Trajectory Residency artists and the high quality work they presented at Crack Theatre Festival. Now in its second year, the Trajectory Residency program was offered to three emerging artists, giving them the time and space to test and explore a creative idea of their pitching. Each of the selected artists articulated their ideas strongly and brought together a creative team to undertake a first stage creative development of a new work with the support of Tantrum. This included partnering them with professional industry mentors to challenge and support their creative risk taking. The outcomes were exceptional, providing a fertile ground for Tantrum to select an artist for our first co-production opportunity in 2018.



2017 was also a year of fresh beginnings. We moved to new premises in January, providing the company with office and rehearsal space in Merewether. This caused minimal disruption, with workshop attendance taking an initial hit but rebuilding throughout the year. Tantrum successfully received a Stronger Communities grant from the Australian Government Department of Industry Innovation and Science to upgrade the facilities. Work commenced in late 2017 and will be completed in 2018, supplying us with new amenities and a power upgrade. It's Tantrum's hope that we can provide affordable rehearsal space and offer an alternative performance space to local emerging artists as a result.

Existing staff officially took on new challenges in 2017 with myself as Artistic Director, Tamara Gazzard as Company Producer, and James Chapman as Associate Director. We welcomed Amy Morris to the team as our Emerging Teaching Artist and farewelled Teaching Artist Samantha Sutton. Phil Sharp also joined the team as our Administration and Accounts Officer replacing Tristram Baumber.

A rejuvenated board saw Samantha Willcox step into the role of Chair, and new board directors Jorjia Gillis , Kris Kafer, Sally Ebert and Melanie Smith replaced outgoing directors; Christopher Saunders, Tristram Baumber, Connie Plesko and Allysha Merrett.

Midway through the year Tantrum conducted an Audience Engagement Survey and we were humbled by the results that aligned our audience's perception with our vision. The community recognised, and most importantly valued Tantrum's role in giving young people a voice and platform to express themselves through the creation of original, high quality, innovative and engaging theatre.



The survey results were reassuring, communicating that our branding and perception were aligned. Tantrum's commitment to making new work collaboratively with young and emerging artists sets us apart from other local theatre companies and aligns us with the greater arts sector.

Having been with the company since 2012, it's great to see community interest and sector support for Tantrum grow and to see us recognised and valued for what we do best. Newcastle is a city of change with Tantrum at the forefront of a growing appreciation and interest in the process of making and receiving new work. We endeavour to develop this audience into the future.

Lucy Shepherd
Artistic Director / CEO

2017 Major Projects

Mapping the Lake

tantrum youth arts presents:

MAPPING THE LAKE

an immersive theatrical adventure!

in partnership with
lake macquarie city art gallery

Mapping the Lake

Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery (LMCAG)

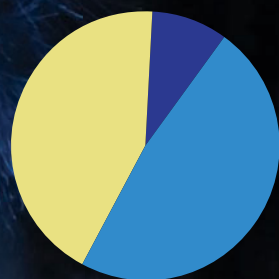
28-30 April 2017

Mapping the Lake was a new, immersive, outdoor, theatrical adventure that was performed six times on the lakeside grounds of Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery's Sculpture Park. Over 80 young people collaborated with professional artists from Tantrum, LMCAG, and Ngarrama Productions to tell their stories, with Tantrum undergoing two in-school residencies with Valentine Public School and Toronto High School.

Mapping the Lake was developed in partnership with Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, and in consultation with Council's Youth Advisory Council (LMYAC) and the gallery's Aboriginal reference Group (ARG).

Mapping the Lake used multiple art forms to tell diverse stories of young people living in Lake Macquarie including: visual theatre, physical theatre, verbatim theatre, visual art, video and sculpture. Six outdoor sites were activated through performance and the audience used a map to navigate from site to site, unlocking stories of environmental, personal, cultural, and recreational significance. The production concluded with an immersive finale inviting the audience to make their mark by placing a flag next to a suburb/landmark on our large map of Lake Macquarie installation. Audience members shared hopes, dreams, reflections, memories and facts with us. *Mapping the Lake* was a beautiful theatrical mapping of community, it explored identity, and connected people through place.

Audience: 421



48%

of audience members who completed feedback surveys were from the Newcastle LGA

43%

of audience members who completed feedback surveys were from Lake Macquarie LGA

9%

of audience members who completed feedback surveys were from the Central Coast, Upper Hunter, Maitland / Cessnock or Port Stephens

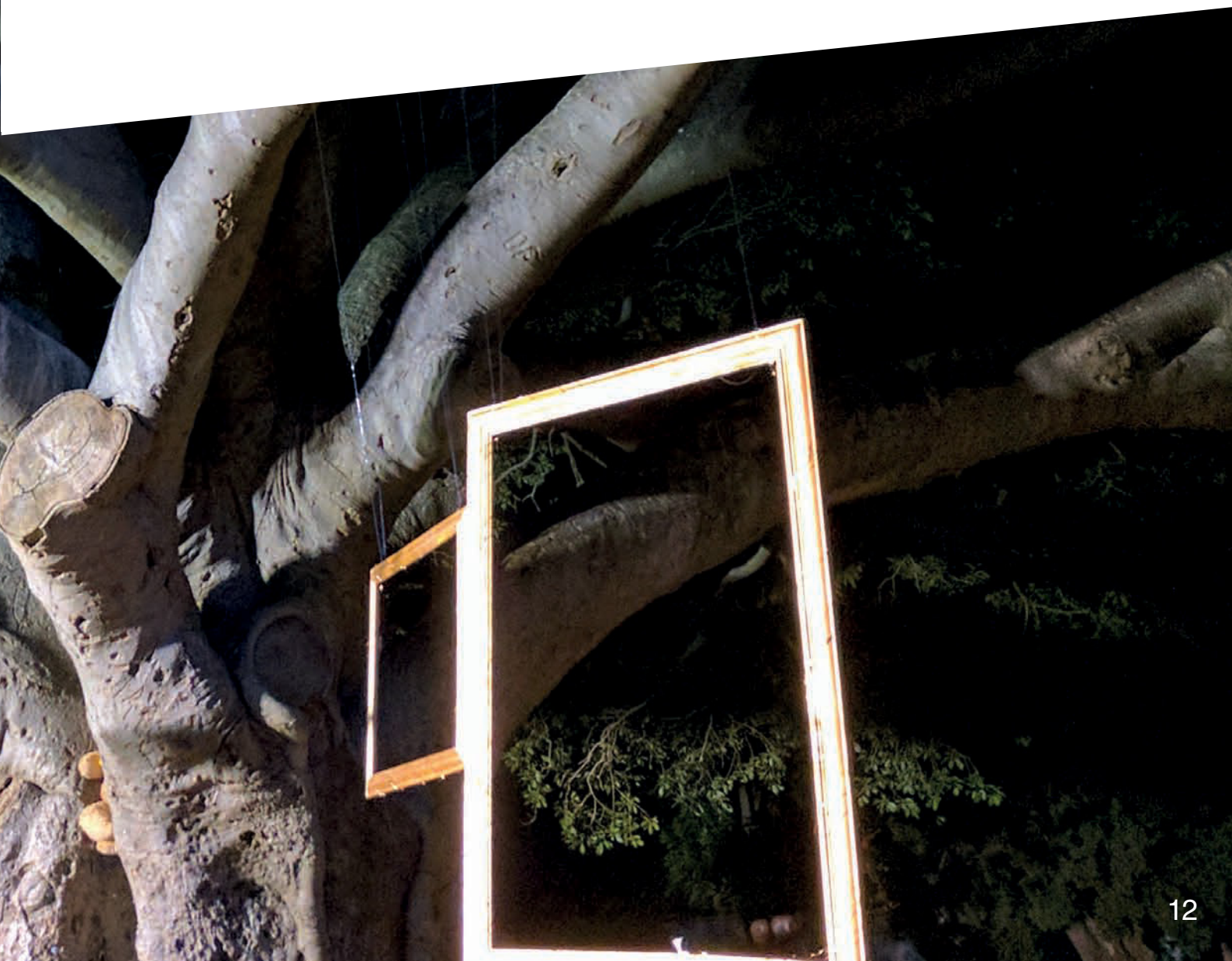
“Great idea, great performance, great venue. It’s wonderful to see something different that has been created by young people.”

A photograph of a person with long hair, wearing a yellow sweater and dark pants, sitting on a thick, light-colored tree branch. The person is holding a book or tablet. The background is dark, and the scene is illuminated by spotlights. Several geometric, metallic-looking frames are suspended in the air around the person. The top of the image has a bright pink header.

“Innovative work like this allows participants to explore multiple levels of creativity whilst developing key skills in art-making and collaborative practice.”

“I think it’s important for young people to be seeing theatre - particularly new devised work that is performed, written and produced by other young people.”

“It was such an innovative and engaging way of presenting the material. It is such a fabulous thing to see such a diverse range of young people working together to create new performances and artworks. It really brings the community together!”



Participants / Cast / Crew

Storytellers: Meghan Mills, Asha Osbone, Taylor Reece, Douglas Archibald, Summer Kelso

Ensemble Cast: Shannon Daley, James Groves, Gill Marrable, Luka McCallum, Ronan O'Donoghue, Pippi Shaw, Anastasia Squair, Keagan Vowels, Will Vowels, Bronte Ryan Webster, Tazmyne Luschwitz, Douglas Archibald, Selena Archibald, Alexandra Mangano, Violet Leonard, Zoe Rivers-Beard, Alicia Jayne Waters, Georgia Roddenby, Paige Mannweiler, Bella Davis, Toronto High School (Isabella Bate, Kristian Butler, Hannah Brown, Amelia Coleman, Paigan Cappeller, Rosannah Davidson-Taig, Georgia Driscoll, Victoria Ellis, Paris Forbes, Ebony Greig, Cameron Heaton, Brayden Jenkins, Gina Lawrence, Shae-Lee McDonald, Flynn Wilkinson, Bailey Ackling-Beecham)

Sculpture & map installation: Lake Macquarie City Arts Gallery Art Zone and Art Studio participants – Rachel Sophiaclelki, Claire Camilleri, Jake Ferguson, Charli Rooker, James Drake, Waverly Mears, Abby Liu, Laura Hogan, Joel Thomas, Lachlan Hemson

Flower installation: Valentine Public School - Ruby Mould, Harry Hudson, Xander Turner, Ivy Fernando, Darcy Smyth, Alexis Masens, Caiden Ayerst, Amber Owen, Zachary Gunn, Rachel Bove, Stefan Pretorius, Danielle Marsh, Ava Kitchen, Ben Griffin, Natalie Hopkins-Hernando, Cooper Jones, Damon Rayment, Bella Bond, Imogen Bennett, Will Thornton

Directors: Lucy Shepherd (Production Director, Site 1, Site 2, Site 6), Lizzie Doyle (Site 3), James Chapman (Site 5)

Artists: Alice Ropata (Flower Installation), Jo O'Toole and John Cliff (Sculpture and Map Installation)

Teachers: Tracey Adams-Jones, Greg Battle and Corinne Lavis

Site Managers and Crew: Engil Rego, Mitchell Brazier, Jack Keeping, Steph Storr, Emma Cusack, Alexis D'Amico, Athena Nicolas, Aislinn De Wit, Carina Annechino, Ella Kelly-Hooper, Isabell De Laurentis, Nicholas Simpson, Sam Deakin, Heathcliff Stubleby, Brianna Porter, Maxine Mueller

Production Designers: Kayla Crowe, Kaswyn Hunt

Sound Designer: Huw Jones

Make-up Artist: Clare Spitzkowski

Videographer & Editor (Site 4):
Ngarrama Productions, Brian Joyce

Technical Manager: Lyndon Buckley and Nik Lyons

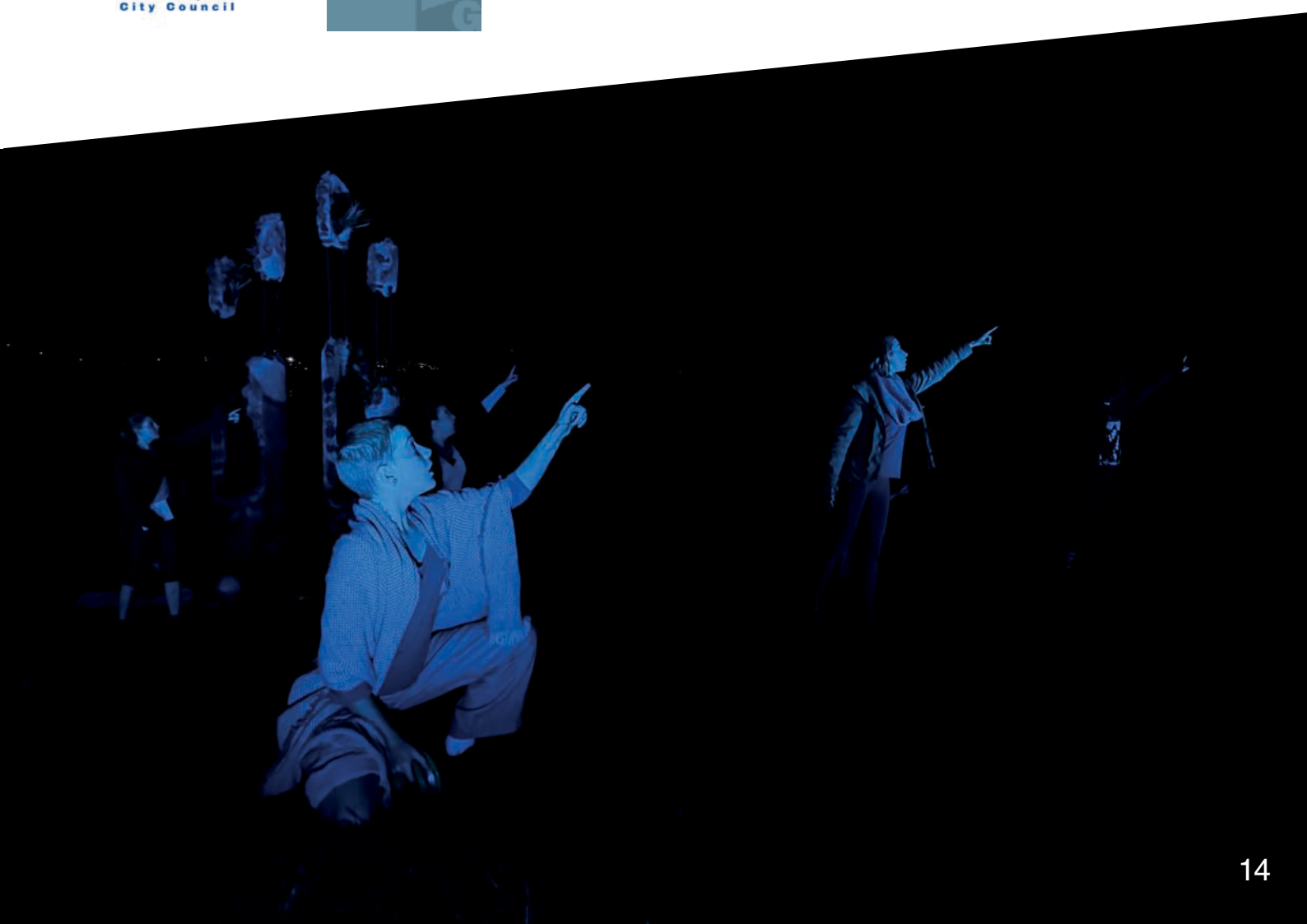
Promotional Design and Illustration: Eryn Leggatt

Additional support:
Mirroma, LMCAG Aboriginal Reference Group, Rod Smith

TANTRUM



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Arts, Screen & Culture



2017 Major Projects

HOME



HOME

PACT, Sydney, 4 - 7 October 2017

Civic Playhouse, Newcastle, 11 - 14 October 2017

HOME was a new theatre work created by Janie Gibson and Tantrum's 2017 Trajectory Ensemble. Eleven committed emerging artists were selected to form the Ensemble and underwent a year-long series of intensive theatre making workshops. *HOME* was the performance outcome of the Ensemble and used original poetry, fiction, songs, and music in a personal exploration of what it means to feel at home; in the world, in your country, in your suburb and in yourself.

Huw Jones joined the creative team as sound designer, and provided a live accompanying soundtrack to the work, featuring original compositions by some of the ensemble members.

Tantrum presented *HOME* in collaboration with PACT with the work premiering in Sydney before coming home for a season in Newcastle.

The commitment shown by the Ensemble throughout the year was outstanding, with all positively reflecting on the experience and how it increased their knowledge of developing a professional career in the arts. *HOME* was received warmly by audiences, with the cast receiving a standing ovation on opening night in Newcastle.

Audience

PACT, Sydney: 140

Civic Theatre Playhouse, Newcastle: 496

Participants / Cast / Crew

Director: Janie Gibson

Created and Performed by:

Sara Barlow, Clare Todorovitch, Phoebe Turnbull, Roger Ly, Thomas Lonsdale, Meghan Mills, Rosie Scanlon, Meg O'Hara, Taylor Reece, Stephanie Rochet, Alexandra Rose

Dramaturg and Designer: Lucy Shepherd

Sound Designer: Huw Jones

Lighting Designer / Technical Manager: Steven Stuart

Stage Manager: Amy Morris

Producer: Tamara Gazzard

Promotional Design and Photography: Eryn Leggatt

stage. I feel inspired and rejuvenated after watching this. Brilliant writing, performances and a story that hits you in the guts. Bravo.”

“THANK YOU! Honestly, that was one of the best things I’ve seen on a stage.”





“Leaving the program I found I had a new confidence in myself and an appreciation for the industry and those in it. I can’t rate the experience highly enough.”



TANTRUM PACT



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture



Australian Government





“It was just magical watching all those young artists shine with the opportunity that you have given them. Continuing to nurture amazing passionate emerging artists just reinforces how critical you are for the community of Newcastle and the Hunter.”

2017 Other Projects

Trajectory: Emerging Artists Initiative

Trajectory: Emerging Artists Initiative

In its second year, Tantrum's emerging artists initiative Trajectory continued to provide clear and supported pathways for emerging artists in the region to develop professional careers. Trajectory is made possible through multi-year funding from the Ian Potter Foundation and Australia Council for the Arts.

Alongside the development of *HOME* through the Trajectory Ensemble, Tantrum offered three residencies as part of the Trajectory Residency program and a series of masterclasses through the Trajectory Masterclass program.

Trajectory Residency

Residencies were offered to emerging artists through a formal pitching process. Three artists were selected and matched with industry mentors to realise a first stage creative development showing at Crack Theatre Festival. Selected artists were: Alex Travers (mentor: Emily Ayoub), Stephanie Rochet (mentor: Sean Bacon), and Allison Van Gaal (mentor: Lucas Stibbard).

Tantrum provided residency artists with studio and office space, mentoring, administrative and marketing support, assistance with grant writing, access to wifi, printing, use of sound/lighting/projection and assistance with networking and pursuing professional development opportunities through our relationships with Crack, Octapod and PACT.

The outcomes presented were outstanding, attracting full houses at Watt Street Gallery.

The developed works were:

***AMOR* by Stephanie Rochet:**

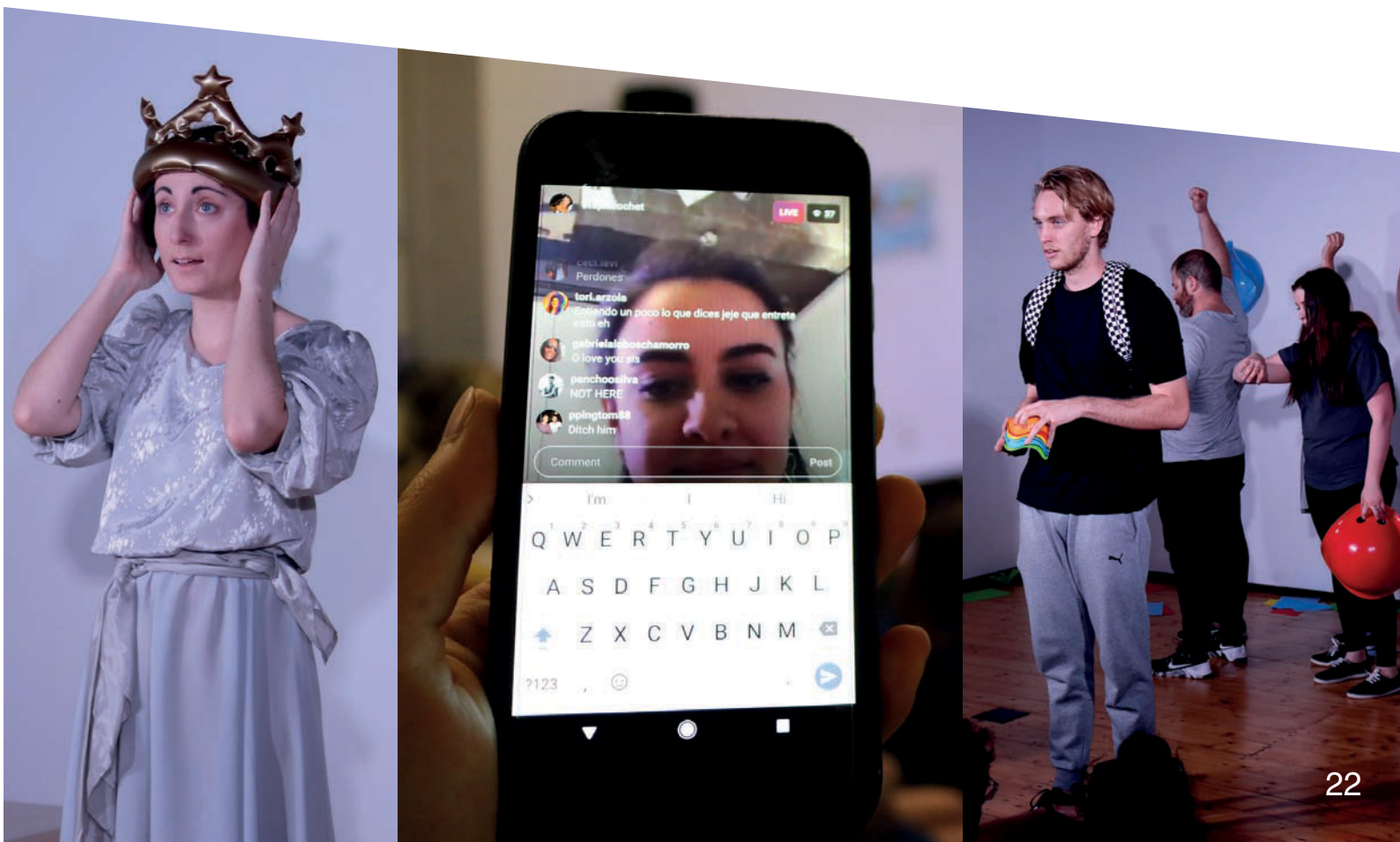
A love story about two Chileans separated by 13,000km. They use the world of technology and instantaneity to make their long distance relationship work.

***Sleep, Perchance to Dream* by Alex Travers:**

Ophelia loves a man driven mad. As she sleeps an alternate landscape filled with desire, child's play and revealing vignettes come to life.

***Welcome* by Allison Van Gaal:**

A boy in a world that doesn't accept difference. A complex mind searching for connection with people, patterns and community. Who needs to shift? Him or us?



Trajectory Masterclass

Tantrum's Trajectory Masterclass brings established, professional artists and industry leaders to Newcastle to provide high quality professional development and training for emerging artists and current practitioners. In 2017 Tantrum delivered five masterclasses offering professional development across a range of artistic practices.

We started the year with a sold-out Acting Masterclass with the cast of Belvoir's production of *Jasper Jones*, delivered in partnership with the Civic Theatre Newcastle. Participants joined actors Matilda Ridgway, Kate Box, Tom Conroy and Harry Tseng on the Civic stage to explore the process involved in bringing an adaptation to life, and career development and pathways for young actors seeking a professional career.

Next Melbourne-based director, and past Tantrum Artistic Director, Leticia Caceres hosted a Directing Masterclass, exploring the craft of directing text-based theatre. Michael Sieders presented a Producing Masterclass, demonstrating how to turn creative ideas into reality. Lucas Stibbard led a Devising Collaborative Theatre Masterclass, and we finished the year with a Grant Writing Masterclass with Tantrum's very own producer, Tamara Gazzard. Trajectory Masterclasses are open to the general public, and are offered to Trajectory Ensemble and Residency artists at a discounted rate.



“Participating in the Trajectory programs has been fantastic. I’ve learned so much about taking my creative work to the next level.”



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2017 Other Projects

Hissyfest

Hissyfest

Civic Theatre Playhouse

10-11 November 2017

Tantrum's annual short play festival for emerging artists celebrated its fifth year, and introduced a new program - *Hissyfest Writers Lab*. Following an application process, four emerging writers were selected to participate in free writing workshops with professional playwright Vanessa Bates. Following the lab, writers were invited to submit their short plays to be part of the festival. Participants had a great experience being mentored by Vanessa, and the works developed were of a high standard, elevating the overall experience of the festival.

The theme in 2017 was *Hot + Cold* giving Tantrum's Associate Director James Chapman the opportunity to curate the evening according to theme. Over fifty emerging and independent artists were involved in the festival as writers, directors, actors and crew. A special fifth birthday celebration was held in the foyer following opening night, inviting *Hissyfest* alumni from the past five years to join us in a slice of cake.

Hissyfest demonstrates Tantrum's ongoing commitment to the professional development of emerging artists in Newcastle.



2017 Other Projects

Opening Doors

Opening Doors

Tantrum worked hard to secure project funding to enable our innovative educational performance *Opening Doors* to continue to tour to schools in NSW. We were successful in securing funding from the Greater Charitable Foundation in August 2017 and began a comprehensive creative redevelopment of the existing script that saw writer Tamara Gazzard work with dramaturg Erin Taylor over a number of months to produce a fully revised and extended script. With this funding the work will tour to twenty schools across NSW in 2018.

Fundraising & Donations

Fundraising & Donations

Tantrum held two fundraisers in 2017: an end of Term One Easter Party and 2018 Season Launch at the end of the year. The events had pleasing turnout and raised some funds but their greatest strength was building a sense of community around Tantrum. Workshops and production participants attended, emerging artists performed, and local businesses donated small gifts as prizes.

In 2017 Tantrum received \$6504 through donations and made \$1763 through fundraisers. Tantrum attracted 30 donors in 2017, more than double the number of donors in 2016. Community support for Tantrum continues to rise.

Performance and Networking Opportunities

Outburst Outfit

Outburst Outfit was spearheaded by Tantrum's Emerging Teaching Artist Amy Morris, and is a super fun live improvisation night. Young and emerging artists 16 years and over were recruited and trained weekly with Amy over the period of a month before performing to a live audience. The outfit was made up of 8 performers and the event attracted 30 audience members. The night was a great success, providing a pathway for those who have finished our after-school creative drama workshop program, as well as attracting brand new interest from new participants to the company. We look forward to holding another *Outburst Outfit* event in 2018.

Culture Club

Culture Club is a social and creative event facilitated by a different local creative practitioner every six months. The goal of *Culture Club* is to provide emerging practitioners with a relaxed, supportive and fun space to test creative ideas. The session can take any form; a play reading, conversation, workshop or experimentation. Expressions of interest are sought and the opportunity is driven by the participants. In 2017 we hosted two *Culture Club* events, and hope to expand the reach and interest in the future, creating a network of people interested in developing new work in Newcastle.

2017 Other Projects

Workshops

Workshops

After school Creative Drama

Tantrum continued to deliver a comprehensive and fully inclusive after-school Creative Drama Workshop Program for ages 5-21 at our new premises in Merewether. Despite experiencing a small dip in enrolments in Term One, Tantrum was able to re-build workshop numbers over the year seeing over 250 young people engaging with our program throughout 2017. Tantrum's End of Year Showcase was themed Just in Time and was performed at the Civic Theatre Playhouse, Friday 8 December. A series of new, innovative, and fun short works were presented, collaboratively devised around the concept of time. The audience was taken to the past, catapulted into the future and were given a whole new perspective on the present.

Service Delivery

Tantrum expanded its workshop offerings in 2017 by offering service delivery workshops to pre-schools following the cessation of our partnership with Newcastle Region Library mid-year due to council funding cuts to deliver *Stories Come Alive*. We also offered holiday workshops in the July school holidays at our new venue, and responded to customised enquiries from schools and community groups to deliver one-off experiences in improvisation, group devising and performance skills.

Our relationship with Arts Upper Hunter continued seeing us deliver *Play in a Day* workshops to schools in Mount Pleasant, Sandy Hollow and Scone. Our relationship with NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) also continued, seeing us deliver the creative component to the *Love Bites* program teaching 15 -17 year olds about healthy relationships. We also continued to hold the Newcastle *Class Clowns* heat for the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival*, seeking the Hunter's funniest teen.

It's Tantrum's hope to expand interest in our service delivery workshops in order to produce more earnings for the company.



2017 Financial Report

Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Financial Year Ended 31 December 2017

		2017 \$	2016 \$
Grant & workshop income	2	236,459	286,397
Other income	2	49,892	45,630
Artist fees, salaries and employee benefits		(203,777)	(239,924)
Depreciation expense	3	(1,126)	(1,334)
Administration expenses		(20,887)	(24,611)
Occupancy expenses		(16,480)	(5,451)
Audit of the financial report	3	(2,292)	(2,299)
Other production costs		(37,843)	(59,783)
Sundry expenses		(3,671)	(2,052)
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		<u>275</u>	<u>(3,427)</u>
Income tax expense	1(c)	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>275</u>	<u>(3,427)</u>
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>275</u>	<u>(3,427)</u>

Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd.

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2017

		2017 \$	2016 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		151,976	104,454
Trade and other receivables	4	2,385	4,335
Other current assets	5	3,708	10,643
Total current assets		<u>158,068</u>	<u>119,431</u>
Non-current assets			
Plant & equipment	6	1,500	2,824
Total non-current assets		<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,824</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>159,568</u></u>	<u><u>122,256</u></u>
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	24,375	22,375
Other liabilities	8	123,786	85,000
Employee entitlements	9	7,427	11,176
Total current liabilities		<u>155,588</u>	<u>118,551</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u><u>155,588</u></u>	<u><u>118,551</u></u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>3,980</u></u>	<u><u>3,705</u></u>
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	10	3,980	3,705
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>3,980</u></u>	<u><u>3,705</u></u>