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Dr PJ Rose
artistic director

2010 has been a year of transformation and opportunity for No Strings Attached.

- NSA Patron Rolf de Heer has moved to Tasmania *See page 5*
- NSA performer and writer Kelly Vincent was elected to the SA Upper House and agreed to be NSA's new Patron *See page 5*
- We left our Nelson Street cottage in July to temporarily occupy the Banquet Room of the St Peters Town Hall *See back page*
- We toured Trapped to Vanuatu to make new friends and meet the founders of Wan Smolbag Theatre, Jo Dorras and Peter Walker *See page 3*
- Our 18-month pilot training program called Preparing the Garden graduated eight beautiful flowers in June *See page 6*
- We found an agreeable new venue for **connect!** our 7th annual disability showcase and party *See page 4*
- We partnered with Finucane & Smith to be part of the Salon de Dance in the 2010 Feast Festival *See this page*
- We've partnered with the Migration Museum of SA to present Trapped at the 2011 Fringe *See page 2*
- May 2011 be as full of blessings for all of you!

... news FLASH...



connect! 2010

heat / rain warning

*On the night before, if the weather bureau forecasts a **temperature over 35C° or rain** for Wednesday 1 December, **connect!** will be cancelled.*



The Adelaide cast of Salon de Dance, 17-21 November 2010, Feast Festival

front: Maude Davey, Emma J Hawkins, Kath Carmody

rear: Paul Cordeiro, Harriet Ritchie, Rachel High, Holly Durant, Sosina Wogayehu, Moira Finucane

NSA burlesque performers in a Feast for all senses

In June, director Maude Davey collaborated with NSA performers Rachel High and Emma J Hawkins to create two solos and one duet that would become part of the extravagant Salon de Dance in Adelaide's 2010 Feast Festival.

Conceived and created by Moira Finucane & Jackie Smith, Salon de Dance features an ever changing line up of extraordinary dancers and physical artistes including a Mistress of Grand Guignol, a whip-cracking juggler, and NSA performers.

Check out Moira Finucane's website (www.moirafinucane.com/) for a moody description of the seedy, magnificent, intimate dark dance hall that is the Salon de Dance.

On closing night in Adelaide, we had a full moon and full cabaret tables. The next day we received this email from a new fan:

I subscribe to the State theatre performances and last night eclipsed a year's worth of theatre going.... The inclusion of Emma and Rachel was particularly wonderful. So often people with a so-called disability are excluded from mainstream theatre and it was inspirational to see them perform as equals in this company. For them to celebrate themselves as physically as others did was initially confronting for me, but I would now like to thank them for their courage and dedication to performance.

Matt Byrne agreed in The Sunday Mail, *This is a construction of contrasting cabaret acts with constant surprises.... [The] most intriguing act came from No Strings Attached stars Rachel High and Emma J Hawkins, showing size and sensibility do matter.*

Moira Finucane has expressed interest in Emma and Rachel joining the cast of Carnival of Mysteries in 2011. The interest is mutual, so we'll keep you posted.

NSA's participation in Salon de Dance was supported by Community Arts Development, Arts SA

Trapped in the Adelaide Fringe, 2011

Two strangers are thrown together in violent circumstances. One has an accent. The other doesn't hear well. Where are they? And why?

Critics say: *'Beautiful and heart-wrenching.'* *'Convincingly played, claustrophobic, equal parts wit and drama.'* *'A fantastic piece of work.'* *'A tribute to the humanity of its creators.'* *'Relevant and timely.'*

devised and performed by Kym Mackenzie & Alirio Zavarce
written and directed by Alirio Zavarce
The Chapel at the Migration Museum, 15-27 February 2011
check the Fringe Guide for exact days & time



Trapped production photo, Vanuatu
Alirio Zavarce & Kym Mackenzie,



Awakenings Festival

Since 1998, NSA has been performing at Awakenings, the only annual regional disability arts festival in Australia. 2010 was the 15th annual Awakenings, and NSA attended with 20 performers and nine support staff. As usual, the entire town of Horsham gave over to arts activities by and for people with disabilities.

Mixed Doubles workshop members performed SCARS; members of the Men's Ensemble performed ANIMAL. You can see both performances at **connect!** on December 1st. *See page 4*

In addition to performing, seeing other groups perform, participating in workshops, browsing at arts markets, making new friends, and dancing at the Festival Ball, this year NSA got to participate in the making of Back to Back's The Democratic Set.

Check out the Awakenings website for more information,
www.awakeningsfestival.com.au/festival_program.html

Transport & accommodation supported by Disability SA, Department for Families & Communities

Trapped on a Pacific Island, 2010



Vanuatu workshop participants, 8-18 September 2010

Vanuatu comprises 83 islands, each with its own distinct language and culture. For ten days in September, NSA was the guest of Wan Smolbag Theatre (WSB) in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The NSA team included actor-director Alirio Zavarce, performer Kym Mackenzie, tour manager Sasha Zahra (Creative Producer, 2011 Adelaide Fringe) and artistic director PJ Rose.

In addition to six performances of *Trapped* for several hundred general public and high school audiences, NSA facilitated five days of intense drama workshops with 20+ members of local disability communities including VSDP (Vanuatu Society for Disabled People), DPA (Disability Promotion Advocacy) and WSB.

All were keen to create plays from their own stories, eager to alter public perceptions of disability and advocate for better services and more accessible facilities. Our residency concluded with a public presentation of original scenes that local participants developed during the week.

WSB has been performing in the South Pacific for over 20 years. Check out the full scope of their work at www.wansmolbag.org/

Supported by Arts SA, Loose Canon Art Services, and the open arms of everyone associated with WSB.



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connect!

The Campbelltown Council welcomes **connect!** performers, volunteers and audience members to The Gums recreation area in Tranmere. It's a beautiful flat parkland with plenty of tall trees to provide dappled shade all over the grounds.

Accessible loos and plenty of accessible parking will make the day a pleasure.

Special thanks to former Campbelltown Councillor (and former NSA member) Jane Muras for advocating for more disability focused events in the Campbelltown Council.

Supported by Disability SA, the City of Campbelltown, and a multitude of volunteers



wed 1 dec 2010

connect!

7th annual disability arts showcase
celebrating death-defying feats of imagination

it's a party!

Wednesday 1 December 2010 11am to 2pm
NEW VENUE The Gums TRANMERE
Shakespeare Avenue between Moore St and Birkinshaw
accessible parking, accessible loos

LIVE drama **raucous rock 'n roll** **cool trees** **hot BBQ**

hat prizes for most creative, most colourful, most practical, funniest, etc
raffle prizes lots of them

entry \$5 carers free

Rsvp by 26 November 2010 so we don't run out of BBQ
8363 5970 or pj@nostringsattached.org.au

   

 P.J. Rose, Artistic Director
No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability
transforming lives through theatre
Patron Hon Kelly Vincent
66 Nelson Street Stepney South Australia 5069 

connect!

Patronage

Thank you filmmaker Rolf de Heer

From one director to another

My partner Molly speaks of communities, communities of all shape and size and purpose. She makes the point that really successful communities are often made that way through the efforts of a single person. It's not that there aren't other people in that community making major contribution, but without that single remarkable person, the community would probably fade and ultimately perish unless another such remarkable individual stepped forward.

When I attended the recent annual general meeting of No Strings Attached, I was reminded of Molly's dictum. It's not that I hadn't known this about No Strings, but what I saw once more was a community, a community of people with purpose and compassion and love and laughter. It was a wonderful community to be part of.

I also saw, once again, that single remarkable person, that person whose particular form of purpose and compassion and love and laughter permeates this community, drives it, enables it to be the community that it is. That person is, of course, PJ Rose, the person who managed to convince me to become the patron of No Strings Attached.

Regretfully over the years, I've had precious little time to give to outside causes. Regretfully, I haven't been as present a patron of No Strings as I would have liked to have been. But most regretfully, this has meant that I've had less to do with this community's singularly remarkable person than I might have done. I would have been the richer for it.

I am now preparing to move interstate (to the southern-most regions of Tasmania, in fact) and it seems to me appropriate that another patron be found, one that can perhaps play a greater part in this community I so admire. But don't get anyone too good...one of these days PJ will hang up her boots as artistic director, and you'll be wanting to ask her to be the ultimate of patrons.

Rolf de Heer
24 June 2010



Rolf de Heer and PJ Rose, 2006

Welcome Hon Kelly Vincent, MLC



Taking up this new role as Patron of No Strings Attached is very exciting for me and, I hope, for all NSA members.

Both as a young artist with a disability and as someone whose artistic and personal growth has benefited from first-hand experience with No Strings Attached, it is my great honour to now be able to 'officially' call myself something I have in fact already considered myself since November 2004: your friend, colleague, supporter and, now, patron.

Love, Kelly



Preparing the Garden, seedlings and gardeners

L-R: Stephen Sheehan, Jo Zealand, Catherine Fitzgerald, Ad'm Martin, Duncan Luke, Rachel High, Kathryn Hall, PJ Rose, Abner Bradley, Seb Carboncini, Matt Shillcock, Donna Schliwa, Steve Noonan, Farhad Noori, Kym Mackenzie

how did our Garden grow?

Our 18-month pilot training project was called Preparing the Garden, and eight seedlings bloomed at the end of June. But graduation did not stop their continuing growth. With Jo Zealand and Seb Carboncini to fertilise their comedy skills, seven performed at a thoroughly entertaining showcase at the end of October; it was called A Touch of Compost. If you missed it, they're performing again at Character Jam on Thursday, 2 December 2010 at Higher Ground (9-15 Light Square ADELAIDE).

And cross-pollination continues:

- **Ad'm Martin** has been an active member of the Feast Forums Committee.
- **Donna Schliwa** joined Cracking Up, a comedy workshop initiative of Mental Health Week, and she'll be in the next Character Jam.
- **Duncan Luke** has become a support tutor for NSA's Mixed Doubles drama workshop.
- **Kathryn Hall** went to Short Film Bootcamp with the Media Resource Centre and created A Poignant Film shown at the Mullet Youth Arts Festival in October. Kathryn is also support tutor for three weekly Northlink drama workshops.
- **Kym Mackenzie** performed Trapped in Vanuatu, assisted in the Vanuatu drama workshops and is a regular support tutor for NSA's Mixed Doubles drama workshop.
- **Matt Shillcock** performed with Restless Dance Theatre in their November production called Next of Kin.
- **Rachel High** performed with the ensemble cast of Salon de Dance in Feast (November).

new faces



Administrator Jenny Reagen

Welcome Jennifer Pearl Reagen, part-time administrator. You'll meet Jenny at **connect!** or when you call. You'll find a fuller bio at www.nostringsattached.org.au/jenny-reagen.html



Board Member Miep Bosch

Miep retired from the ANZ at the end of June 2010, and joined the NSA Board in July. In November, she organised a delightful Melbourne Cup luncheon at Rain Modern Asian Bistro on The Parade in Norwood. Not only was it delicious fun for all who came, Miep cleared over \$3,000 in her first fund raising effort as an NSA Board member. Thank you Miep!



Board Member Mary Taylor

Mary's professional skills in areas of governance, policy, human resources and management developed while employed in leadership roles at Uni SA. To top it off, in her spare time, Mary enjoys theatre, opera, music and dance.



Board Member Alexis West

Alexis has been a tutor with NSA's Tracking Culture workshop for many years. She is also a playwright, film writer and poet. In October, Her poem PRISON won the 2010 Mental Health Week Open Your Mind Poetry Competition, Indigenous & Multicultural category. Congratulations!



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No Strings Attached is based in Kaurna Country.

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains, and we honour their living culture, their continuing relationship with this land, and their unique role in the life of this region.

Supporters & Community Partners



Government of South Australia
Arts SA



Government of South Australia
Department for Families and Communities



City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters



Making the most of life



CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL



LOOSE CANON

SHADIADesign

NSA's temporary location

bus stop #6 on Payneham Road

While the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters renovates our cottage at 66 Nelson Street, STEPNEY, we have a wonderful temporary home until mid-April 2011.

Banquet Room, St Peters Town Hall

101 Payneham Road
corner Payneham Road and St Peters St, ST PETERS

The Banquet Room is attached to the rear of the Town Hall, just around the corner on St Peters Street. You'll see the NSA yellow banner in the large glass entryway.

Because Council is also re-landscaping the Dunstone Grove and Linde Reserve behind our cottage, **connect!** (our 7th annual disability arts party) is also in a new location in 2010. *See page 4*

Relocation supported by Arts SA and the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters



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