



Awesome News Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of AWESOME News. As the name implies all our news will be, well...AWESOME! As you are no doubt aware the 2006 AWESOME International Arts Festival For Bright Young Things is fast approaching. This year Team AWESOME have pulled out all the stops to bring you the coolest selection of contemporary arts events in the CBD from Friday 17 to Sunday 26 November.

We will be keeping you in the loop in the coming weeks with AWESOME News. Breaking stories, interviews with the artists and the lowdown on what AWESOME have been up to.

We hope you enjoy the read and we look forward to your feedback.

The AWESOME Team

With A Little Help From My Friends: AWESOME Takes Out State Volunteer Prize

It takes a huge effort to co-ordinate an Arts Festival as successful as AWESOME year after year, but not many people might know that AWESOME's success relies on the dedication of volunteers.

Each year AWESOME enlists the help of a team of 50 volunteers, known as the 'AWESOME Angels', who are involved in a wide variety of responsibilities – whether it be marketing or administration in the lead up to the Festival, or event management, tour guiding or catering during the Festival.

Providing work experience, opportunities to interact with a creative Perth community and the public, as well as to meet talented artists and performers from all over the world (and have a lot of fun in between!) the AWESOME volunteer programme is one of the most well co-ordinated in the State.

In fact, so successful is the 'AWESOME Angels' programme that AWESOME Arts Australia (now in its 11th year) was recently awarded the title of 2006 WA State Winner in the National Australia Bank Volunteer Awards.

The NAB Awards honour not-for-profit organizations who demonstrate best practice in their management of volunteer workforces, and thusways their contribution to improving the quality of life in their communitites. AWESOME was independently chosen out of over 1, 200 community groups, nominated across seven categories, to take out the WA State Division award in the Art and Culture category.

AWESOME's volunteer programme is now set to go from strength to strength, with the \$7,000 prize money to go towards providing additional volunteer training resources, and rewards. Says Carol Brearley, General Manager of AWESOME Arts Australia: "Eighty per cent of our events at the festival are free – and this would not be possible without our volunteers. We rely on the dedication of our volunteers to deliver our programme of activities so successfully...winning the 2006 NAB Volunteer Award will allow us to further recognize the terrific job done by our 'AWESOME Angels',".

Becoming an 'AWESOME Angel' is a rewarding experience that can be enjoyed by young and old alike, with volunteers ranging from art students to social retirees. The professionalism of the programme can be attributed to its highly structured training and induction sessions, as well as a thorough organization of logistics, so that all volunteers know their exact responsibilities during the event, particularly important when considering that AWESOME's festival programme extends to multiple performances and exhibitions at venues across Northbridge and the Perth CBD.

However the uniqueness of AWESOME's volunteer programme lies in the fact that it ensures individual volunteers get the most out of their AWESOME experience, says Brearley: "We try to match the volunteers to roles they enjoy and that meet their own objectives. For the younger volunteers it's often about gaining work experience and meeting the artists, while for the older ones it's often about interacting with others."

VOLUNTEER NOW!!!

Trashing the Traditional: The Theatre of The Suitcase Royale



"We have always been surrounded by junk," say self-described insatiable scavengers The Suitcase Royale, "...it seemed logical that we use it to tell our stories,". Fresh from sell-out performances at the Canadian Fringe Circuit and the Melbourne International Arts Festival, "junkyard theatre" trio The Suitcase Royale (comprising Melbourne performance artists Joseph O'Farrell, Miles O'Neil and Glen Walton) will be hitting Perth shores in November, bringing their brand-new show "Felix Listens to the World" as part of the 2006 AWESOME Arts International Festival for Bright Young Things.

Described by one reviewer as "Wallace and Gromit meets Samuel Beckett with elements of David Lynch", with their crazy kerbside collection of found props, these multi-talented fringe artists literally "make theatre", cobbling together all manner of theatrical style and form to create imaginative and interactive stories about love, life and all the debris in between.

Performing everywhere and anywhere, whether it be tents or sheds, attics or basements, the seamless and fast-paced performance of The Suitcase Royale knows no bounds, say the trio "We performed at the Falls Music Festival last January, that was insane, theatre at one am in the morning!". Originally beginning as a band, the group still maintain an audience-based approach to their shows: "We try to make something we would like to see on stage, and something we have fun doing,".

The Suitcase Royale employ a completely "hands on" method to their madness, controlling the whole theatrical process, from scripting to sound design, live on stage - a huge feat that's not without its stresses! Recall the trio: "We were performing our show, "Chronicles of a Sleepless Moon", in a big tent once. Because it was our first show of the festival, we were in quite a hurry setting up. The show involved a butcher character, who had to hold a massive cleaver. There's this point in the show when the

butcher has to bring down the cleaver and yell out "Dead!", except when he did it he brought down the cleaver onto a live extension chord. A massive spark flew across the room and the power went out! But people didn't even freak out because they thought it was part of the performance! Needless to say, the show went on, albeit in the dark for a while..."

Perth audiences can expect equal amounts of spontaneity and fun when AWESOME welcomes "Felix Listens to the World", a slightly bent yet breathtaking look at what it means to have your heart broken. "It's one of the hardest shows to describe," say the boys, "but we sometimes call it a claustrophobic fairy tale". It's a case of love refused (literally!) as we follow Felix Louis Belljar, afloat in the ocean on a suitcase, hopelessly lost yet writing letter after letter to his sweetheart Rose, who has sailed away in a teacup. Watch the three performers alternate between acting the role of Felix, using everything from lamps and typewriters to gramophones and film projectors to enact Felix's absurd, poetic journey.

Winner of Best Performance at the Melbourne Fringe and Playbox 3D Festivals, settle amongst the cushions and be instructed by the boys to "Please turn off all links to the real world", as you witness the extraordinary chaos of The Suitcase Royale's "Felix Listens to the World" during the 2006 AWESOME Arts International Festival for Bright Young Things.

Details:

COST: \$9.90, bookings through BOCS

DATES: Saturday 18 & 25, Monday 20 - Friday 24 November

TIMES: Monday - Friday 10:00am and 12:30pm, Saturdays 1.00pm & 4.00pm

WHERE: The Powerbox @ The Artrage Bakery Complex, 233 James St Northbridge

BOOK NOW!!!

Eat Your Art Out!

Sticky, yummy, messy, crazy, colourful and heaps of fun. Create beautiful works of art out of the contents of your fridge and pantry cupboard and never look at a slice of bread the same way again.

Creative Food Box is a visual feast for the senses, an amazing paint box of foods, culminating in a mind-blowing main course of vivid sculptural creations. AWESOME guarantees 100% hands-on fun, the outcomes of Creative Food Box are limited only by your imagination!

Creative Food Box is the first joint project of AWESOME and supporting sponsor Ultimo Catering. As well as providing the raw materials for all the workshops Ultimo will also be providing tasty treats at all AWESOME Festival functions in November.

All food stuffs and materials provided. Suitable for ages 6 - 15

COST: \$10 per person per workshop.

DATES: Tuesday 3rd Oct – Friday 6th Oct & Mon 9th Oct – Fri 13th Oct.

TIMES: 10am – 12pm

WHERE: 214 William St, Northbridge.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!!!

Tel. 9485 0560

www.awesomearts.com

amanda@awesomearts.com

On Your Bike!



AWESOME artists are once again chewing up gravel in regional WA! This year, the Smarter than Smoking Creative Challenge proudly presents BIKE LAB, by Jon Denaro and Bec Juniper. And early reports couldn't be more glowing. As Kane from Newman community sums it up: "Bike Lab is the best thing I've done. I'd like to thank AWESOME for sending Bike Lab to Newman because it's an awesome experience!"

BIKE LAB is a giant sized meccano style kit that recycles old bikes so that kids can design and build giant kinetic sculptures. The constructions are so cunning they can power small mechanical devices like juicers and blenders. Included in the kit are computer cut plates and lugs, pulleys and motors, gears, linkages, nuts and bolts,

shiny chrome tools - all you could possibly need to make the most amazing, fully functioning inventions ever seen! The colour coding and design of each piece also reinforce numeracy and literacy skills.

The Bike Lab trail began when Labbettes visited the Goldfields for a month in August where BHP Billiton NickelWest sponsored four communities. Kings of the road in Kalgoorlie/Boulder and Leonora were artists Michael Wise and Louise Snook. Next stop, Leinster and Wiluna, with artists Jon Denaro, Ben Stone and Nicky Stone going toe to toe with more kids, contraptions and creativity than they thought possible. In the words of a slightly dazed and crazed Jon "I just told the schools and the kids to bring it on...and they did!"

AWESOME Community Development Manager Simon Malcolm took the lab to the Pilbara where he and Jon Denaro made a truck stop at Karratha's Millars Well Primary School, a visit made possible by Woodside Energy Ltd.

Next up the newbies!!! The Bike Lab crew changed over once more and remote Pilbara community Punmu at the Rawa Community School hosted Bec Juniper, Luke Davey and AWESOME staffer Amanda Premici; and the Newman YMCA sponsored a visit to the Newman Primary School. As Amanda wistfully says on the Challenge website "We have so many wonderful and lasting memories from there..." And Luke, if you don't know already, is responsible for the great bike lab bots listed on the website under a curious pseudonym alee_anne (hint: say it out loud) - so we all get to play with the bike bits while the labettes are in the outer reaches of the galaxy. The "rangers" aka redheads Jahne Rees and Julian Staddon have taken it from there into the Gascoyne and the Great Southern. Cecile Williams and Paul Roe will wind Bike Lab up but more on these 4 visits later.

We couldn't be more pleased with the pics that tell a great story of creativity, happy kids, gorgeous scenery and exhausted artists. (What age is it where you no longer have energy to run full pelt everywhere you go?) But it's all there for you to enjoy, trawl through "talk" and "see" on www.awesomearts.com/creativechallenge to get the full rub.

Best news of all is that BIKE LAB will be in Perth for the AWESOME Festival so us folks back here get a chance to build stuff too. And AWESOME artists will be cherry picking the best of the ideas from the WA communities to build one giant sculpture that will be a centre piece for this year's Challenge at the Festival. Can't wait!

Making Life AWESOME For Everyone

Every year in November the amazing Awesome Festival comes to Western Australia, bringing an extraordinary range of events to a bunch of bright-eyed young people. Constantly challenging our perception of 'art', and introducing us to its most innovative and exciting possibilities, Awesome is an experience that no young person can afford to miss.

However, despite the fact that 80% of the Awesome program is free to everyone, with ticketed events and workshops already heavily subsidized, unfortunately some young West Australians are still prevented from accessing the Awesome programme.

That's why this year AWESOME is extremely excited to introduce "AWESOME-for-All" (AFA), a new community partnership program that has been developed to assist organisations who work with young people disadvantaged physically, economically, culturally or geographically, to participate in the annual festival and its workshops. The program operates through the generosity of businesses and individuals who make a tax-deductible donation to assist one or a group of young people to participate in AWESOME.

Whilst Awesome already has a number of great projects in place to help everyone enjoy in the festivities (for example "The Creative Challenge Project", which brings a slice of the Awesome pie to the geographically disadvantaged by way of setting up artists residencies in remote WA communities) AFA presents a more formalised and structured approach, which includes having a full time member of the Awesome staff, Amanda Premici, dedicated to organising AFA. Says Premici: "Having a full time member of staff working on AFA is a necessity, as contact needs to be made with various organizations and relationships developed, as well as applying for funding for the project." . When asked what inspired the introduction of AFA to Awesome's already numerous projects, Premici suggests a creative, all-inclusive artistic community ideal: "Young disadvantaged people may feel unimportant, excluded and peripheral to the arts, and AWESOME is interested in addressing this and providing the young people with a valuable connection to the arts and the arts community. It also provides them with an opportunity to develop their own creative ability in a non-judgemental environment."

The organisations AFA will be working in association with are those that provide support to children in care, those who are at risk of being removed from their families, those in foster care, seriously ill and hospitalised children, children from culturally, socially and geographically disadvantaged areas and those living with physical and mental disabilities. The support and community co-operation with these groups means AFA will be able to immediately make an extremely positive impact, with the "potential to increase confidence, pride, creativity, awareness in the arts and engagement with the community."

This year, AFA offers the 'Awesome Day Out' to the young people under the care of these organizations, with participants being taken out for a day of exciting and all-encompassing Awesome festival fun, care of AFA. The day includes a theatre performance by the Suitcase Royale, a film screening, a workshop and guided tour, and to literally 'top' it all off a free Awesome t-shirt for each participant.

The benefits of the Awesome Day Out, and the implementation of the AFA programme, are manifold, with Premici suggesting that the program will "give young people a day out to participate in activities and experiences they may not usually have access to,". AFA thusways offers the opportunity to engage and develop with renowned and talented international and local artists in workshops, as well as develop new support networks and friends - opening up an Awesome world of possibility for young and disadvantaged Western Australians.