



HELPMANN
Academy

2020
ANNUAL

The Helpmann Academy is the only organisation of its kind in Australia. We empower South Australia's most promising emerging creatives to realise their visions and build sustainable practices. We provide professional development opportunities including grants and awards, fellowships, mentorships, masterclasses and seminars, advisory services and international artist residencies, all tailored specifically for South Australia's higher education students, graduates and emerging artists.


The Helpmann Academy is a unique collaborative partnership, unifying the skills and resources of the state's universities. Since 1994 the Helpmann Academy has been supporting emerging creatives, promoting South Australia as a centre for excellence in creative education, and contributing to the artistic community of the state.


The Helpmann Academy acknowledges that we are on Kaurna Country, its sovereignty never ceded. We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide Plains and as the first and enduring storytellers of this land. We recognise and celebrate their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with this country and pay respect to the Kaurna Elders; past, present, and emerging.

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OUR VISION

For emerging creative practitioners to prosper, be valued and celebrated.

OUR PURPOSE

To empower South Australia's most promising emerging creatives to realise their visions and build sustainable practices. To foster a culture of recognition and appreciation for the challenges that emerging creatives face and build a supportive community around them.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe the arts are an essential part of society, and that the talented and dedicated emerging creatives we support are valuable contributors, who deserve to be encouraged and celebrated.

A career in the performing or visual arts is a tough road to tread. Helpmann's aim is to develop connections and pathways for successful and sustainable careers and walk alongside emerging creatives as they make the transition from study to professional practice.

We collaborate with a passionate community of partners, donors and cultural organisations to provide a unique and valuable program of professional development, fellowships, residencies, mentorships, grants, awards, masterclasses, seminars and 1-2-1 advice.

Together, we work to ensure artists are exposed to a range of opportunities and support, providing the best chance to develop their artistic identity and act as the principal driving force of their careers.

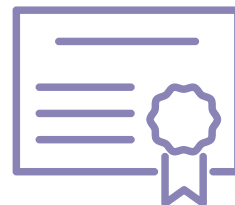
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2020



WE PROVIDED
OPPORTUNITIES AND
SUPPORT VALUED AT
OVER \$500,000



WE PRESENTED 60
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT AND
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



WE INTRODUCED 28
NEW PROGRAMS AND
AWARDS VALUED AT
OVER \$300,000



WE DEVELOPED 10
NEW PROGRAMS IN
DIRECT RESPONSE
TO COVID-19

WELCOME

2020 has been a year of great upheaval, change and challenge for our arts and greater community. It has also been a year of innovation, resilience and introspection.

For Helpmann, 2020 has been defined by our agile and creative response to the evolving needs of emerging artists due to the pandemic.

This year we launched 10 new programs in direct response to COVID-19, making use of the online space and local collaborations to continue to present emerging creatives with transformative opportunities. These programs were all created in response to the restrictions placed on the arts community due to the pandemic, with the view to continue to promote creativity and resilience among our states emerging creatives.

While 2020 has been a year of change, we are thankful that we were able to host our annual event, the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition at the beginning of the year. Now in its 25th year, the exhibition was opened by Scott Hicks, Film Director and Helpmann Academy Foundation Board Patron and featured 154 works by 27 of our state's top graduating artists. This exhibition was also a landmark event, with fashion design, illustration and animation students joining the mediums presented for the first time. Over two spectacular nights 18 South Australian emerging creatives were presented with over \$135,000 in awards and opportunities - including four new awards in 2020, the Nunn Dimos Foundation Award, the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Award, the ACE Open Residency Award, and the Jaquillard Award.

While COVID-19 restricted our usual international residencies roster, we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge Brianna Speight, who was announced as the 2020 British School at Rome (BSR) residency recipient at the VIP Vernissage of the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition. We would also like to acknowledge Eleanor Amor who was announced as the 2020 recipient of the EESAB Residency in Brittany, France at the same event. We are working with both artists to hopefully offer a resolution for these opportunities in 2021. We were thrilled to add a new local opportunity, the 215 Magill Studios Residency, which provided two emerging visual artists with a six-month rent-free studio space in the newly developed artistic hub. This program joins our George Street Studios Residency, which is going strong in its second year, providing four emerging creatives with a six-month rent-free studio at the dynamic space in 2020.

When the pandemic hit, Helpmann was quick to pivot many of our offerings into the online space to continue to provide meaningful opportunities for emerging creatives. This included building a strong webinar program designed to support artists with diversifying their output, building resilience and utilising social media. Between April 2020 and September 2020, we presented five webinars, including Social Media for Creatives, Mindfulness for Uncertain Times Webinar, Webinars & The Art of Online Engagement Bootcamp, Mindful Self Compassion Series, Social Advertising Creative Crash Course as well as our 30 Marketing Minutes program, providing tailored one-on-one marketing advice.

Another exciting development for 2020 was the introduction of the Helpmann Academy Home Alone Film Fest. Generously funded by the Nunn Dimos Foundation and supported by the City of Adelaide, the film fest was an online, short-film competition that called on eligible South Australian filmmakers to respond to the theme of 'creativity in isolation'. A panel of esteemed judges, including director of the Emmy award winning Nanette, Madeleine Parry, Adelaide Film Festival CEO/Creative Director Mat Kesting, award winning documentary director Maya Newell (*In My Blood It Runs*), acclaimed film/television director, producer and writer Richard Jasek, and multi-award winning director Scott Hicks awarded three emerging creatives with \$13,000 in cash prizes. The film fest has amassed over 50,000 views (and counting), via the Helpmann Academy Facebook page.

In response to COVID-19 we introduced...

- The Creative Relief Fund, supporting artists with quick relief grants of up to \$1,000
- The Creative Development Fund, supporting artists with grants of up to \$3,000 for new projects and professional development
- The Creative Investment Fund, supporting artists and collectives with grants of up to \$10,000 for transformational professional development opportunities
- The Creative Innovator Program, supporting emerging creative entrepreneurs to develop innovative arts businesses
- The online Home Alone Film Fest, providing \$13,000 in awards and generating over 50,000 views on Facebook
- A mindfulness and resilience webinar program
- A marketing and online engagement webinar series
- The Music Room online music masterclass series
- Our 30 Marketing Minutes program, providing tailored one-on-one marketing advice for emerging creatives
- The Dance Launchpad initiative

With the 2020 ilDance Professional Development Opportunity in Sweden placed on hold indefinitely due to COVID-19, Helpmann partnered with The Mill to create a new opportunity for emerging dancers called Dance Launchpad. This inaugural program, supported by Dance Hub SA and Flinders University, will nurture the ecology of dance in SA. Established artists will be commissioned to make new work and share their industry knowledge with one emerging dance artist annually. Flinders University graduate Jacinta (Jazz) Hriskin was the 2020 recipient of Dance Launchpad. Jazz worked alongside three local choreographers; Tobiah Booth Remmers, Lewis Major, Director Erin Fowler and videographer Chris Herzfeld/ Camlight Productions to create three short solo works and a professional showreel, for use as promotion nationally and internationally.

In July 2020 we received funding from the City of Adelaide to run a new series of masterclasses for musicians called The Music Room Masterclass Series. These online interactive masterclasses with notable music professionals aim to offer South Australian musicians the ability to gain or hone the skills they need to turn a creative practice into a viable and sustainable enterprise. In 2020 we hosted two online masterclasses, with notable trumpet player and singer/songwriter Harry James Angus (Cat Empire) and five-time ARIA award winning vocalist Katie Noonan (George).

Generously supported by a group of philanthropic partners and donors, and Arts South Australia, the Helpmann Academy Creative Stimulus Grants Scheme was developed as a holistic approach to the challenges faced by emerging creatives brought on by the restrictions needed to combat COVID-19. The four-part program aimed to support artists at different stages of recovery and in different financial positions, casting a wide net of support of over \$200,000. The program kicked off with the Creative Relief Fund, which supported artists with up to \$1,000 of quick relief. The second stage was the Creative Development Fund, which supported artists with grants of up to \$3,000 to kickstart new projects, research and develop ideas/ new works or build their skills, markets and creative practice. The third stage is the Creative Investment Fund, which will support artists or collectives with up to \$10,000 to participate in transformational professional and career defining opportunities. The fourth stage is the Creative Innovator Program, which will help emerging creative entrepreneurs and collectives to develop innovative and efficient arts businesses by matching them with creative mentors and industry leaders.

We would like to recognise the significant support of the Helpmann Academy Board of Governors, the Foundation Board, our partner institutions, staff and volunteers. Their passion and commitment to Helpmann and our community of creatives ensures that even in the most challenging of years, we have been able to continue to provide meaningful opportunities.

We also wish to thank you, our extended community of supporters. The importance of art has been the one constant in this unprecedented year, and we are humbled that you believe in its value as deeply as we do.



KAREN THOMAS
Chair
Helpmann Academy
Board of Governors



JANE MACFARLANE
Chief Executive Officer
Helpmann Academy

LACHLAN BARNETT

2019 NEIL CURNOW AWARD

2020 CREATIVE RELIEF FUND

2020 CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Helpmann Academy is thrilled to continue to build on our partnership with The Independent Arts Foundation through the Neil Curnow Award. Created through a generous bequest from late theatre great Neil Curnow, the award provides emerging theatre makers/actors with career defining professional development opportunities.

Flinders University graduate, Lachlan Barnett was the recipient of the award in 2019, opting to utilise the \$10,000 funding to travel to Cornwall in January 2020 to undergo a seven-week course at the Curious School of Puppetry. Thankfully Lachlan was able to complete the trip before COVID-19 restrictions came into effect, living out his dream of training under some of the world's best puppeteers at the renowned institution.

Some of the teaching calibre that Lachlan studied under included the puppetry masterminds behind *War Horse*, *Star Wars*, *Labyrinth* and *The Dark Crystal* – the very shows that ignited Lachlan's love of puppetry at a young age.

"I remember, as a weird little boy of 9, being shown an old VHS of Jim Henson's *The Dark Crystal* at my Auntie's house. As soon as I saw those Skeksis (reptilian bird-like puppets) gathering in the Sacred Chamber in the opening sequence, I was bewitched. I had to know how they worked, but I also wanted to believe that they were real living beings," Barnett says.

"My drive is to make a world that is a little bit more fun and a whole lot more inclusive. No one should feel like a freak. Art is great at preventing that."

"I think that's where my fascination with puppetry lies – the puzzle of working out the mechanics behind the puppeteer's magic in tension with a complete surrender to the existence of their imagined characters. In Cornwall I met the man who designed those puppets, Brian Froud. I guess you could say it was a full circle moment."

During the day, Lachlan was taught a range of techniques and puppet types, with a focus on the key aspects of performance, including components of rhythm, atmospheric impulse, scale and perspective, movement and character. In the evening he attended theatre shows, presentations, discussions and networking opportunities.

"I learnt how to use a marionette and how Henson puppeteers work on set. I puppeteered everything from a plastic bag to a 10-metre whale," says Barnett.

Back on home soil, Lachlan has already scored a gig as a puppeteer with leading Adelaide youth theatre organisation, Windmill Theatre Company. Combined with his continuing association with ActNow Theatre, this makes Lachlan well placed to be a representative for young people. A role he takes very seriously.

"My drive is to make a world that is a little bit more fun and a whole lot more inclusive. No one should feel like a freak. Art is great at preventing that."

In June 2020 Lachlan received a Helpmann Academy Creative Relief Fund grant to finish off the construction of a puppet for a web-series on preserving Australian ecology. Flora the Koala was crafted by props maker Marshall Tearle (*Mortal Combat*, *Escape from Pretoria*, *I Am Mother*), and made her debut on Instagram in August 2020.

The Creative Relief Fund provided Lachlan with a much-needed boost to get his project off the ground, after COVID-19 brought his burgeoning career to a halt.

"2020 was meant to be my biggest year yet. In a matter of days however, the pandemic caused a calendar full of puppetry tours to be wiped clean. Thanks to the Creative Relief Fund, I was able to commission a new puppet of my own. This vital equipment has allowed me to focus on creating content and diversified my practice while theatres remain closed."

"Taking inspiration from the satirical work of Barry Humphries, Gina Riley and Jane Turner, this project will be an opportunity for me to continue my development as a puppeteer and emerging artist by focusing on independent online content, while providing an insightful and humorous provocation to audiences for a greener Australia."

In the meantime, Lachlan is dreaming big about the future of puppets in Australian art.

"I want to see the artform on our main stages and on Australian screens. Puppetry creates one collective theatrical experience, where the consumer is just as active as the artist themselves. I think it is the most exciting storytelling medium I can think of. I want to create work that does this for all audiences. Why let kids have all the fun?"



Image: Lachlan Barnett and Flora, photo by Olivia Power.

CREATIVE STIMULUS GRANT SCHEME

In direct response to the challenges faced by creatives due to COVID-19, the Helpmann Academy launched a new funding program in June providing over \$200,000 in support to emerging South Australian creatives.

Generously supported by a group of philanthropic partners and donors, and Arts South Australia, the Helpmann Academy Creative Stimulus Grants Scheme was developed as a holistic approach to the new challenges faced by emerging creatives due to the pandemic. The four-part program aims to support artists at different stages of recovery and across a range of financial situations, casting a wide net of support of over \$200,000.

The program kicked off with the **Creative Relief Fund**, which supported artists with up to \$1,000 of quick relief. The funds enabled artists to purchase essential services or pay immediate costs, build digital skills and develop their audience.

The second stage was the **Creative Development Fund**, which supported artists with grants of up to \$3,000 to kickstart new projects, research and develop ideas/new works or build their skills, markets and creative practice.

The third stage was the **Creative Investment Fund**, which supported artists or collectives with up to \$10,000 to participate in transformational professional and career defining opportunities.

The fourth stage is the **Creative Innovator Program**. This program will help emerging creative entrepreneurs and collectives to develop innovative and efficient arts businesses by matching them with creative mentors and industry leaders.

“The Creative Relief Fund really helped me to keep making despite the loss of artistic opportunities and my day job. As a result, I’ve been able to create more innovative work than before.”

Danny Jarratt, Creative Relief Fund recipient

CREATIVE RELIEF FUND

In June, Helpmann awarded over \$20,000 to 25 emerging artists from a range of creative disciplines through the first stage of the Creative Stimulus Grants Scheme, the Creative Relief Fund. The fund was created to provide emerging artists with a quick injection of cash to help as they combatted the fallout from COVID-19.

Just a few of the needs met through the fund included the creation of a puppet for a web-series on preserving Australian ecology, studio rent relief for a number of artists, the creation of a website to help launch an online shop and essential equipment to diversify creative output.

One such artist supported by the fund was Danny Jarratt, who lost both creative opportunities and his part-time job at the outset of the pandemic. His grant went towards an essential upgrade on his computer to extend the work he does in the online space.

He said, “The Creative Relief Funding allowed me to upgrade my defunct and broken hardware in a time where I lost all my upcoming arts income and was terminated from my non-arts job. It has been an emotionally challenging time, however, having new hardware was extremely beneficial.”

Danny says that the funds and the upgrade gave him the confidence to diversify his skills and go for new opportunities.

“I have been exploring a program called ‘Processing’ and I have begun to recreate some older paintings through coding and turning them into interactive moments. These skills together with my existing abilities have given me the confidence to develop an interactive videogame/installation application for CurioCity, a citywide outdoor STEAM event in Brisbane in 2021. I am excited to see how coding develops more into my practice.”

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND

In October, Helpmann awarded over \$50,300 to 23 projects over a range of creative disciplines through the Creative Development Fund. The fund supported eligible creatives with grants of up to \$3,000 to kickstart new projects, research and develop ideas/new works or build skills, markets and creative practice.

One artist supported by the fund is Mary Angley, who will produce her show, *Grief Lightning: A Satire in 78 Slides*. *Grief Lightning* is a queer, feminist performance that is part-theatre, part-standup, and part PowerPoint presentation, designed to be performed both in-person and online during the 2021 Adelaide Fringe.

“As a young director and a recent graduate, Covid-19 has forced me to be adaptable and to rethink the ways in which I make art. The concept for *Grief Lightning: A Satire in 78 Slides* emerged directly from the conditions of COVID-19.”

“It’s safe to say that through Helpmann Academy, I’ll have the exciting opportunity to expand the scope of my career as an independent artist and theatre-maker. This grant will help my theatre company, *Paper Mouth Theatre*, to hit the ground running in 2021. I’ll get to explore how I can present work in both physical and digital mediums, while creating a show that blurs the line between them.”



Mary Angley performing her theatre work, *Grief Lightening: A Satire in 78 Slides (still)*.

CREATIVE INVESTMENT FUND

The Creative Investment Fund grants will provide the successful applicants (individual artists or collectives) with up to \$10,000 to participate in transformational professional and career defining opportunities. It aims to fund ambitious projects that propel the recipient's careers to the next level of professionalism.

These funds can be used for activities such as national or international professional development (i.e. specialist training and internships), develop new markets and audiences for original work, opportunities to showcase significant creative outcomes, development of new creative work, or offer significant and inspirational opportunities for professional development and to expand industry networks. Recipients were not known at time of printing.

CREATIVE INNOVATOR PROGRAM

The Creative Innovator Program is designed to assist emerging creative entrepreneurs and collectives to develop innovative and efficient arts businesses through a holistic approach post COVID-19. Program participants (individuals or small groups) will work with Helpmann Academy over a 6-month period to take their artistic enterprise to the next level. This unique intensive program seeks to fill a gap in the market for artists who struggle to find project funding and capacity building, ultimately growing the SA sector.

Program participants will be guided on how to develop a successful business plan and strategy, refine their pitch, and test or demonstrate their idea or product to develop audiences. Participants will work with creative mentors and have access to corporate advisors. They will undertake a series of masterclasses with a focus on entrepreneurship, 1-2-1 advice and assistance. This collective support will ensure they are provided with the very best opportunity to thrive. At the completion of the program, participants will have the opportunity to pitch for seed funding to enable them to develop their idea to market. Participants were not known at time of printing.

CREATIVE RELIEF FUND RECIPIENTS

Kathryn Adams
Eleanor Amor
Lachlan Barnett
Nerida Bell
Steven Bellosguardo
Lewis But-Husaim
Neville Cichon
Anastasia Comelli
Lisa Furno
Abby Hampton
Jamie Hornsby
Danny Jarratt
Simone Linder-Patton
Alice Marsh
Jennifer Matthews
Chloe Noble
Adam Ovadia
Emile Pearson
Nat Penney
Izabella Shaw
Brianna Speight
Sofia Torchia
Nelya Valamanesh
Stella Vanska
Ella-Maude Wilson

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND RECIPIENTS

Mary Angley
Lachlan Barnett
Renee Bell (on behalf of Flinders University graduating visual arts students)
Josh Belperio
Kate Bohunnis
Felicity Boyd
Tim Carlier
Emma Cuppleditch
Erin Daniell
Connor Fogarty
Tamara Hardman
Jamie Hornsby
Daniel Isler (on behalf of University of Adelaide graduating Jazz students)
Danny Jarratt
Jonathan Kim
Bryce Kraehenbuehl
Georgia Laity (on behalf of Flinders University graduating Drama students)
Kiah Lanagan
Philippa McAuliffe
Oliver Russell-von Bujdoss (on behalf of University of South Australia graduating Illustration & Animation students)
Asha Southcombe (on behalf of University of South Australia graduating Visual Arts students)
Isobel Stolinski (on behalf of Flinders University graduating Dance students)
Fraser Whitehead



Felicity Boyd photo by Jakub Hrab.

PARTNER PROFILE

JAMES & DIANA RAMSAY FOUNDATION

The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation was established in 2008 to continue the philanthropic legacy of James and Diana Ramsay, whose incredible contributions to the arts and medical research date back to the 1970's.

"I think it's important to support an organisation like the Helpmann Academy because it's important that people champion the artists, particularly at grass roots and an emerging level. Helpmann has so many unique programs, they make a huge impact on the lives of the emerging creatives."

Kerry de Lorme

The purpose of the Foundation is to continue to foster excellence in the arts and medical research and to support programs for youth, who through personal circumstances will benefit from empowerment to build strong foundations for life.

In the arts, the Foundation is committed to supporting high quality arts programs to encourage a robust arts sector and increase its accessibility. It is this commitment that facilitated the ongoing partnership between the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and the Helpmann Academy with the establishment of the Helpmann Fellowship program in 2017.

Valued at up to \$20,000 each, the Fellowships fund projects of significance, supporting early career artists to realise their visions and build sustainable practices, shaping their future and empowering them to transform the cultural landscape. Since launching in 2017, the Helpmann Fellowships have enabled ten outstanding emerging creatives to pursue career-defining professional development opportunities overseas and interstate.

In addition to the Helpmann Fellowship program, the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation has also contributed significantly to Helpmann Academy's 2020 Creative Stimulus Grant Scheme in response to COVID-19, as well as providing crucial core administrative support.

For the Helpmann Academy and the emerging artists we work with, the partnership with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation has been transformative. Through the Fellowship program, Helpmann has been able to provide South Australian artists with vital funding to extend their practices and broaden their horizons as well as enable them to share their experiences with the wider South Australian arts community. For the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, it is an opportunity to support artists directly, at a grass roots level.

Kerry de Lorme, Executive Director of the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation says that the Foundation chose to work with the Helpmann Academy because it was an opportunity to contribute to professional development opportunities and career pathways that would help artists contribute to a robust arts sector in South Australia.

Kerry says **"It's important to support emerging creatives because they don't have the same career pathways as other professions. Perhaps by giving their career a bit of fertilizer at the right time, we'll empower them, we'll give them the validation they need – or just the permission and freedom to keep going."**

This philosophy is at the heart of Helpmann Academy's mission and it is the shared commitment to the future of the arts sector that makes the partnership between the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and the Helpmann Academy so special. In the words of Diana Ramsay AO herself "Without the arts you are nowhere, you have nothing."

Kerry de Lorme echoes this sentiment, **"I think the arts play an important role in our society. Arts surround us in every way and people probably don't realise. It's in the clothes we wear, in the design. It could be in the books we read, the music we listen to, the films we see. And all of this would be non-existent if creatives weren't supported and encouraged. I think being creative takes a lot of courage."**

"I can say from my personal experience that offering a creative person an opportunity to have some professional development at the right time has been incredibly rewarding, I look forward to watching them grow."

The Helpmann Academy is incredibly proud of our partnership with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation. It is humbling to think that the generosity of James and Diana Ramsay and their belief in the importance of the arts has enabled so many artists to fulfill their potential and feel supported and validated. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this commendable legacy.



Kerry de Lorme with Natalia Sledz (2019 Helpmann Fellowship recipient). Photo by Harry Allwood.

2020 GRADUATE EXHIBITION

Since its first incarnation in 1995, the Helpmann 'Grad Show' has grown to become one of Adelaide's most loved annual exhibitions. A highlight on the calendar of contemporary art lovers, collectors, and practitioners, the event brings together graduates from Flinders University, and the University of South Australia, including Masters and PhD Candidates.

In 2020 a panel of industry leaders selected 27 artists, working across an array of mediums, to represent the new crop of South Australian contemporary art talent. Running for over three weeks, the exhibition was generously supported by major event partner, City Rural Insurance and attracted over 2,500 attendees including local, interstate and international visitors, and school groups.

Kicking off opening celebrations was the ever-popular VIP Vernissage event, providing an exclusive opportunity for art lovers to view and purchase works before the opening night. Guests enjoyed champagne and fine food as they mingled and spoke with the artists about their work, processes and inspiration.

On opening night of the exhibition, we welcomed renowned filmmaker Scott Hicks as our special keynote speaker, and presented 16 awards, valued at over \$60,000. The awards were judged by an independent panel of industry leaders who identified the outstanding work and immense potential of the award recipients.



2020 Graduate Exhibition Award recipients,
photo by Russell Millard.

"Being a part of the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition was an incredible opportunity straight out of university. From beginning to end we were treated like professionals and learnt many hands-on skills that are needed going into the arts world. The exhibition is a great platform for exposing graduates work to a large audience early on in our career. I feel really fortunate and eternally grateful for the experience."

Kate Oakenfold, recipient of the ACE Open Residency Award and Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Award



Attendees at the 2020 Graduate Exhibition
VIP Vernissage admire work by Lily Pook-Ryan.

The following awards were presented as part of the 2020 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition

The Hill Smith / University of South Australia Postgraduate Award

Recognising the achievements of a Masters or PhD Candidate and valued at \$10,000 cash, this valuable award was presented to Kate Little from the University of South Australia.

Undergraduate Award for Excellence Supported by Roger and Helen Salkeld

Valued at \$7,500 cash and awarded to University of South Australia graduate Truc Truong.

City of Adelaide Award

With his work being acquired as part of the City of Adelaide's art collection, Seiichi Kobayashi (University of South Australia graduate) was selected as the recipient of this award valued at \$7,500 cash.

Linden New Art Award

Flinders University graduate Anna Revesz was awarded the Linden New Art Award. Valued at \$6,250 cash and in-kind support, Anna had the opportunity to hold a three-week exhibition at Linden New Art in Melbourne.

Lang / McKee Award

Valued at \$5,000 cash, the Lang / McKee Award was presented to University of South Australia graduate Amber Cronin.

City Rural Insurance / Helpmann Travel Award

Providing \$5,000 cash to support travel opportunities, the City Rural Insurance / Helpmann Travel Award was presented to Anika Gardner from Flinders University.

NEW Nunn Dimos Foundation Award

New in 2020, University of South Australia graduate Dainis Zaikis was awarded this \$5,000 cash award.

NEW Bendigo And Adelaide Bank Award

New in 2020, and valued at \$5,000 cash, this award recognising an emerging female artist, was awarded to Flinders University graduate Kate Oakenfold.

NEW ACE Open Residency Award

New in 2020, and valued at \$3,750, Kate Oakenfold (Flinders University graduate) was awarded a 12-month studio residency at ACE Open, South Australia's flagship contemporary art space.

NEW Jaquillard Exhibition Award

Awarded to assist with the elements of framing, mounting or logistics of an exhibition, this award was new in 2020 is valued at \$3,000 cash and was awarded to Flinders University graduate Brooke Mitchell.

JamFactory Award

Presented to an artist working in ceramics, glass or jewellery and valued at \$2,500 cash and in-kind, this award includes a mentorship with the relevant senior creative staff at JamFactory, and an opportunity to have work on consignment in JamFactory's retail store for 12 months. This award went to University of South Australia graduate Frances Rogers.

David Hayden Professional Development Award

Valued at \$1,000 cash, Caitlin Lang from Flinders University was awarded the David Hayden Professional Development Award for the purpose of purchasing materials.

Peter Walker / Helpmann Advancement Award

Erin Daniell (Flinders University graduate) was selected as the recipient of this \$1,000 cash award.

Royal South Australian Society of Arts Award

Valued at \$1,000 cash, the RSASA Award went to Chelsea Materne from Flinders University.

SALA Award

Presented to an artist who will benefit from exhibiting their work at SALA, University of South Australia graduate Wilson Adams received this \$1,000 award which included premium registration for the 2020 SALA Festival.

Helpmann Academy People's Choice Award

Valued at \$500 cash, this award is voted for by visitors to the exhibition and was presented to PhD candidate from University of South Australia, Kate Little.



Truc Truong, photo by Sarah Sturm.

KATE OAKENFOLD

2020 BENDIGO AND ADELAIDE BANK AWARD 2020 ACE OPEN RESIDENCY AWARD

From a career as a professional cricket player to full-time artist, emerging sculptor Kate Oakenfold has taken every opportunity that has come her way.

Kate began the year by exhibiting alongside 26 of South Australia's most promising emerging creatives at the 2020 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition.

"Being a part of the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition was an incredible opportunity straight out of university. From beginning to end we were treated like professionals and learnt many hands-on skills that are needed going into the arts world. The exhibition is a great platform for exposing graduates work to a large audience early on in our career. I feel really fortunate and eternally grateful for the experience."

Kate's commanding work *Totem Grove* was sold to a high-profile arts collector at the Vernissage event, and also landed her two awards on opening night – the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Award and the ACE Open Residency Award.

Kate says that both these awards have helped to keep her career moving forward as the arts community navigated the pandemic.

"I have to pinch myself sometimes knowing I have a studio space at South Australia's flagship contemporary gallery (ACE Open). I wake up every morning excited to get into the studio and feel grounded and settled in the knowledge that I have a funded studio for the next year, a time in which I can knuckle down and make the most of the opportunity."

"I am also so grateful for the Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Award, which has supported my practice and helped me through the toughest part of the COVID-19 outbreak. On top of that, they (Bendigo and Adelaide Bank) have displayed my work (*Totem Grove*) in the foyer of their city branch, exposing it to a wider audience."

In a year of reduced options, Kate is thrilled to be working alongside a group of driven, and passionate artists at ACE Open – where she is able to learn new skills and expand her practice, thanks to their comprehensive professional development program.

"Making the transition from studying to pursuing my career as an artist has been so much easier with the support and guidance from the incredible artistic staff at ACE Open. I am one of five artists in the studio, we all get along excellently and enjoy bouncing ideas off one another."

"We have plenty of professional development opportunities including; studio visits from Australian and international curators, visiting artists and mentorship by ACE Open artistic staff, I'm keen to get involved as much as I can. I have also been fortunate enough to work with the ACE Open exhibition install team for their exhibition, *If the future is to be worth anything: 2020 SA Artist survey*, where I gained vital skills and knowledge that links directly with my practice."

Looking to her future, Kate is building a large body of work for upcoming exhibitions, while also chipping away at commissions and prizes she had previously lined up.

"I want to use this opportunity to create as much as I can. By the end of my time at ACE Open, my aim is to have a large body of work for future exhibitions, a firm grip on running an arts business and a better understanding of myself and my arts practice moving into the future."



Kate Oakenfold photo by Sofia Calado.

"The Helpmann Academy has played a HUGE role in my artistic career. I wouldn't be in the position I'm in now without their ongoing faith and support. The team at Helpmann have been amazingly supportive and I can't thank them enough for what they have done for me, we are so fortunate to have an organisation like them in South Australia."



Kate Oakenfold's work Totem Grove at the 2020 Graduate Exhibition, photo by Sarah Sturm.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, COMMISSIONS

In 2020, the Helpmann Academy presented a number of Awards and Fellowships, providing recognition and financial support to artists working in varied artforms. Receiving a Helpmann Academy award not only provides vital validation and encouragement but affords artists the opportunity to broaden their practice through travel, inspiration, experience and learning, or the purchase of essential equipment.

Helpmann Fellowships

Now in their fourth year, and generously supported by the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, the Helpmann Fellowships were awarded to two exceptional artists in 2020. Valued at up to \$20,000 each, this pivotal support allows the Fellows to undertake various tailored professional development programs.

Awarded to Flinders University graduates, Anastasia Comelli (Filmmaker), and Alexis Luke (Theatre maker), the 2020 Fellowships were awarded shortly before the onset of Covid-19. As both artists' programs included international travel, the Helpmann Academy worked closely with the artists to re-develop their programs and continue to support their professional development. Helpmann looks forward to seeing both Anastasia and Alexis tackle the challenges facing artists post pandemic with great flexibility and determination and can't wait to see what they achieve.

"I'm over the moon and am very thankful for this opportunity that Helpmann and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation has awarded me with. I've wanted to undertake a fellowship through Helpmann for the longest time and now I am able to develop my practice and expand my knowledge as a director. This Fellowship will allow me to take my love of directing to a professional level and give me the skills required for a lifelong career in directing and film production processes."

Anastasia Comelli, 2020 Helpmann Fellowship recipient

2020 Adelaide Fringe South Australian Graduate Award

In partnership with the Adelaide Fringe, Helpmann provided the South Australian Graduate Award, valued at \$1,000. This new award supported an artist or group of artists featured in the 2020 Adelaide Fringe, who were graduates from one of Helpmann's partner institutions. The award went to visual arts exhibition, *Material Girls*, at praxis Art Space featuring artists Kate Bohunnis, Sam Gold, and Anna Gore.

Home Alone Film Fest Awards

The Home Alone Film Fest was created in response to the need for artists to continue creating while South Australia was in the midst of COVID-19 stay at home orders. Emerging filmmakers were given the opportunity to produce a short film that depicted their thoughts, feelings, stories, and shared experiences of navigating the imposed restrictions. Generously funded by the Nunn Dimos Foundation, the online Film Fest awarded three prizes with a total value of \$13,000 to Lucy Gale, Joseph Häxan, and Josh Belperio. Read more about this program on page 18.

Dance Launchpad

New in 2020, Dance Launchpad, presented in partnership with The Mill, was born out of the need to adapt the ILDance Professional Development Opportunity. Previously this award provided an emerging dancer with the opportunity to train, perform and tour with a professional dance company in Sweden. Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 meant this program couldn't take place in 2020, therefore Helpmann and The Mill re-developed this exciting opportunity, awarded to Flinders University graduate Jacinta (Jazz) Hriskin.

Jazz worked with three exceptional South Australian choreographers, who each developed a dance work specifically for her. The three pieces were professionally filmed by renowned dance filmmaker and photographer Chris Herzfeld and edited to provide Jazz with a high quality showreel of her work. Read more about Jazz Hriskin on page 28.

Helpmann Academy Award for Voice

The inaugural Award for Voice, supported by Rob Lyons, was valued at \$8,000 and awarded to an emerging vocalist to undertake professional development opportunities in 2020. Jazz vocalist, and University of Adelaide graduate Erin McKellar was selected as the recipient from a pool of competitive applications. Erin will utilise the funding to write and release a solo album. The project will not only allow her to develop her skills as a songwriter, but also enable her to expand her knowledge of producing. Read more about Erin McKellar on page 24.

Helpmann Academy's Langley Award for Jazz

New in 2020, and valued at \$7,500, Helpmann Academy's Langley Award for Jazz provides an outstanding early career jazz musician with the opportunity to undertake pivotal career development; accelerating them towards their goal of a sustainable jazz career. The inaugural winner was University of Adelaide graduate and drummer Alexander Flood, who plans to write, record and release a full-length album. This award was generously supported by the K&S Langley Fund.

Neil Curnow Award

Presented in partnership with the Independent Arts Foundation, the Neil Curnow Award was valued at \$7,000 in 2020; the 16th year of this prestigious award. The award supports an emerging actor or theatre maker to undertake professional development programs interstate or overseas and is instrumental in helping emerging creatives take the next steps in their career. The recipient of the 2020 Neil Curnow Award was not known at the time of publication. Read more about 2019 Neil Curnow Award recipient, Lachlan Barnett on page 4.

Hilton Adelaide Emerging Artist Commission

The Hilton Adelaide Emerging Artist Commission was again offered in 2020, following the success of the inaugural commission in 2018.

After a competitive submission process, the \$25,000 commission was awarded to University of South Australia graduate Steven Bellosguardo, giving him an invaluable opportunity to create a site specific, contemporary public artwork for the hotel's foyer. For an emerging artist like Steven, the opportunity to have a work featured in a prominent Adelaide location provides invaluable career development and exposure. The skills and experience Steven developed throughout the process will inform his work for years to come and having his work celebrated in such a way, will continually introduce his art practice to a new audience.

Installation of the work was delayed as The Hilton Adelaide navigated their way through COVID-19 restrictions, but all partners were thrilled when the work was installed in October, just as the hotel re-opened their doors to welcome visitors back into the space. Read more about Steven Bellosguardo on page 16.



Alexander Flood, photo by David Resce, Pink Sun Productions.

SA Power Networks Sub-Station Public Art Project

Helpmann Academy's long-term partner SA Power Networks continue to support emerging artists through new and exciting opportunities. In 2020, together with support from the City of Adelaide and Arts South Australia, they commissioned a work to be created specifically for their Sub-Station building on the corner of Hindley and George Streets in Adelaide's west end. Three artists were selected to develop a work that would contribute to the cultural vitality of the area and celebrate SA Power Networks' enduring support of SA's emerging artists. Steven Bellosguardo (University of South Australia), Kate Oakenfold (Flinders University), and Frances Rogers (University of South Australia), came together to develop and create an exciting work that celebrates an iconic piece of South Australian history; The Hills Hoist. The work is due to be installed on-site in late 2020, and the opportunity has provided the artists with exceptional professional development, experience, and visibility for their artistry.

2020 Jazz Awards

Although we weren't able to gather together for our annual *Night of Jazz* at The Hilton Adelaide this year, we were thrilled to partner with the Elder Conservatorium of Music in late October to host an intimate concert at the Scott Theatre; celebrating the outstanding achievements of their graduating musicians. In addition to the Langley Award for Jazz, we also presented five awards that acknowledged the achievements of an exciting group of emerging jazz artists. Two main awards valued at \$5,000 each and supported by The Lang Foundation, and David McKee AO and Pam McKee, were presented to Morgan Fletcher (Top Honours Award), and Jason McMahon (Top Undergraduate Award). Helpmann also awarded three Achievement Awards, valued at \$1,000 each, to Giacomo Guttilla, Sadie Humphrey, and Daniel Isler.

STEVEN BELLOSGUARDO

2020 HILTON ADELAIDE EMERGING ARTIST COMMISSION

2020 GEORGE STREET STUDIOS RESIDENCY

2020 CREATIVE RELIEF FUND

2020 HELPMANN ACADEMY SUBSTATION PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Having already made his mark on South Australia's public spaces with large scale installations at the Adelaide Airport (*Flight Paths*, 2019) and on the corner of Morphett and Hindley Street (*Donkaay*, 2017), Steven Bellosguardo created two ambitious new public works through the Helpmann Academy in 2020.

For the 2020 Hilton Adelaide Emerging Artist Commission, the University of South Australia graduate created a new three-dimensional work, *Henri, Yvonne and the Golden Dove*, installed on the ground floor of the Hilton Adelaide – among one of the most trafficked foyers in the CBD.

An initiative of the Helpmann Academy and the Hilton Adelaide, the commission (valued at \$25,000) was designed to grant an early-career artist a prominent, city-centre platform to create a significant new work. For Steven, the opportunity allowed him to venture into new creative territory.

"The Hilton Commission has been a great opportunity to expand my practice, from professionally working with a client through to creating a work that is both new and exciting to my practice. The commission required a wall-mounted sculptural artwork, and these parameters created a new thread in my practice, investigating the intersection between painting and sculpture."

"This has led to learning new skills and techniques within my practice, creating the potential and desire to create further wall-mounted sculptures in the future. I have also learnt to project manage and liaise with multiple parties throughout the process, creating a strong foundation for future projects with clients."

"The Helpmann Academy has granted me opportunities that have developed my professional practice extensively these past four years. Through Helpmann's generous programs I have travelled to New York to carry out an artist residency, created multiple commissions, attended and facilitated workshops, received grants, and had the opportunity to grow my practice as an emerging artist. This has created a strong foundation for my future and career in the arts. We're incredibly lucky in SA to have access to such an incredible organisation."

On top of learning new skills and building his professional networks, Steven is also looking forward to his work being viewed by a whole new audience.

"As an emerging artist, it's incredibly important to exhibit work and build an audience for your practice. This commission creates a platform to do just that, offering great exposure to a local, national, and international audience through the hotel's visitors, potentially opening doors to new clients, projects, and opportunities in the future."

Much of the design for this work has been conceptualised and executed during the George Street Studios residency that Steven was awarded through Helpmann in August 2020.

Steven says that after years of working solo, sharing a space with an array of talented craftspeople has already had a significant impact on his practice.

"Within days of being at George Street, I had learnt new technical processes that have upgraded my skill set and will greatly benefit my future practice. The studio is full of artists and makers with a collective knowledge that I have not yet encountered, an extraordinary bunch of skilled craftspeople willing to shed light and share insights into becoming a better maker. Every time I visit the studios, I learn something new."

Steven is taking those lessons into his latest project, the Helpmann Academy Substation Public Art Project presented in collaboration with SA Power Networks, and in partnership with Arts South Australia and the City of Adelaide.

Due for completion in late 2020/ early 2021, three emerging creatives will work alongside an established mentor (Louise Haselton, sculptor/installation artist) to create a new public artwork at the site of the SA Power Networks substation in the West End.



Henri, Yvonne and the Golden Dove by Steven Bellosguardo in the Hilton Adelaide foyer, photo by Reuben Gore.

“It’s exciting to be working on the SA Power Networks project, it’s a prominent location on Hindley St, and the site is within my old campus. This is my first collaborative project for the public realm and I’m working alongside two other emerging artists, Frances Rogers and Kate Oakenfold. For all of us, this is our first public commission in the CBD, and so we hope to make a contemporary work that the West End of Adelaide can be proud of.”

Ambitious public sculptural works around Adelaide are something of a family tradition for Bellosguardo, with his grandfather Bert Flugelman responsible for perhaps the single most iconic piece of public art in Adelaide, *The Spheres*, or the ‘Mall’s Balls’.

It was actually Steven’s grandfather who gave him the push to start his journey as a sculptor.

“I trained as a stonemason which became my pathway to the arts, after four years of making structures from stone, I wanted to create works that were driven by my own desire and curiosities.”

“I also had a little nudge from my grandfather, who tasked me with my first sculpture which definitely sparked an interest in that direction. Some years later I enrolled at art school with the University of South Australia and the rest is history.”



Steven Bellosguardo in his studio, photo by Olivia Power.

HOME ALONE FILM FEST

In response to the restrictions placed on the film industry in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Helpmann Academy joined forces with the Nunn Dimos Foundation to launch a new program, the Helpmann Academy Home Alone Film Fest. Presented in partnership with the City of Adelaide, the film fest was an online, short-film competition that invited eligible South Australian creatives to respond to the theme of 'creativity in isolation', as they navigated living and creating through the pandemic.

The result was a selection of stories told by filmmakers, composers, visual artists, animators and actors. The 17 shortlisted films were judged by an esteemed panel of industry leaders that included director of the Emmy award winning *Nanette*, Madeleine Parry, Adelaide Film Festival CEO/Creative Director Mat Kesting, award winning documentary director Maya Newell (*In My Blood It Runs*), acclaimed film/television director, producer and writer Richard Jasek (*Making a Mark*), and multi-award winning director Scott Hicks (*Highly Strung*, *Shine*).

Emerging filmmaker and Flinders University graduate Lucy Gale was awarded the top prize of \$7,000 for her stop motion short *A Very Lockdown Birthday*, which the judges called an "honest, well executed reflection of the experience of COVID-19 in Australia."

"It's really rewarding to receive recognition for something I spent so many hours working on in the storage room of my house. I treated this project as my full-time job; it's meant I have stayed really productive and been able to learn and grow during coronavirus despite losing my other work. The prize really doubles down on these positives and I feel extremely motivated to keep creating."

Lucy Gale, winner of the Helpmann Academy Home Alone Film Fest.

Gale revealed that the film was a semi-autobiographical account of her own birthday in lockdown. **"I was planning to go to a music festival for my April birthday and that obviously wasn't on the cards. With the new restrictions, I wanted to reframe my situation as a positive opportunity. I knew I wanted to upskill in the stop motion animation space and was struck by the potential it had to tell a visual story. Your imagination is your only limitation,"** Gale says.

"It also transformed my universe as making the project was such a great distraction from lockdown, as I was concentrating on learning and growing rather than the restrictions in the community. I wanted to make something that could make people smile and remind everyone how you can make the best of a bad situation if you approach a problem with creative innovation."



A Very Lockdown Birthday
by Lucy Gale (still).

Lucy plans to use the funds from her prize to update the equipment and software she uses for the other projects she is working on in isolation, including a dramedy web-series and an experimental documentary web-series about dreams.

“It’s really rewarding to receive recognition for something I spent so many hours working on in the storage room of my house. I treated this project as my full-time job; it’s meant I have stayed really productive and been able to learn and grow during coronavirus despite losing my other work. The prize really doubles down on these positives and I feel extremely motivated to keep creating,” said Gale.



Tolf by Joseph Häxan (still).

Gale was joined by visual artist and University of South Australia graduate, Joseph Häxan, whose atmospheric film *Tolf* took out the Judge’s Commendation prize (valued at \$3,000). A starkly different film to Gale’s, *Tolf* paints a darker perspective on the effect of isolation on the human spirit.

“I was so flattered that the judges recognised the merits of telling a story about isolation that isn’t perhaps so obviously a response to the current pandemic. I think the level of competition also highlighted just how differently people have experienced the isolation of quarantine and the value of different voices telling stories from the same starting point,” says Häxan.

Häxan’s film follows the story of Alexander Tolf, a man whose loneliness starts to transform him in strange and unsettling ways.

“I made the film with the goal of capturing a mood of isolation and lonesomeness, rather than trying to tell a story about it. Being lonely is something almost all of us have experienced at one point, but most are lucky to be rescued from it by friends or family, or just through being a member of society in one way or another,” says Häxan.

“I liked thinking about a person who hadn’t been so lucky and had let being alone shape every facet of their life. The idea that someone like that could be totally forgotten and left to their own devices, to whatever end; that interested me.”

Composer and University of Adelaide graduate Josh Belperio was awarded the People’s Choice Award (valued at \$3,000), with his moving musical piece *In Time* – which received the most reactions and over 23K views at the time of writing, from an audience that stretched from Australia to the far corners of the world.

TAMARA HARDMAN

2018 ELEVATE MENTORSHIP

2019 REGULAR GRANT

2020 CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Emerging filmmaker and Flinders University graduate Tamara Hardman produced her most ambitious project to date in early 2020 after undertaking a Helpmann Academy Elevate Mentorship with Closer Productions Writer, Matthew Cormack in 2019 and landing a 2019 Helpmann Academy Regular Grant.

It all started with a director attachment in 2018 with Sophie Hyde of Closer Productions, which saw Tamara travel with the Closer team to Dublin to shoot the 2019 co-produced feature film *Animals*. It was a formative experience for the emerging director that helped her to shape her own directing style, while also showing her what a film set environment can be like when helmed by women.

"I think I've been spoiled because I've only ever been on Closer sets. Because of Closer and Sophie (Hyde) I haven't felt the gendered kind of nature of our industry, because at the top level there's also Bec (Rebecca Summerton, Producer), and all the men that they surround themselves with are excellent," said Hardman.

"She [Hyde] always spoke about it being okay to not know exactly what you want and to ask people and to be a bit vulnerable as a director. I like surrounding myself with the experts in their field, like the cinematographer or the designer – I want them to back me, but I also want to hear what they have to say," said Hardman.

"My film wouldn't have happened without the support from Helpmann. The mentorship especially, because as well as giving me access to Matt Cormack as a mentor, it also gave me a deadline and a goal. Then having the production support through the grant allowed us to get more funding, which enabled us to take a bigger step in the production."

Realising she needed to build her own expertise in the field of scriptwriting in order to develop her next project, Tamara undertook a Helpmann Academy Elevate Mentorship with another Closer member, screenwriter Matthew Cormack (*52 Tuesdays*, *F*cking Adelaide* and *The Hunting*), at the beginning of 2019. Over the year they worked on the character development and script for her short film, *Everything ALL AT ONCE* – a sci-fi drama set in a dystopian alternate reality that explores climate anxiety and the way that teenagers use irony, nihilism and humour to deal with it.

"I wanted to learn from a professional and have a writing mentor like I had a directing mentor. It's simple, but the screenplay is everything. I could be the best director ever, but if the screenplay sucks, then the film's going to suck. So, I knew I needed to spend a lot of time and energy on the screenplay if I was going to make a better film," said Hardman.

"It was incredible. I would never have made the film that I made without him (Cormack). He was just so generous with his time, but also it was so lovely to be able to talk to another writer, especially one so experienced. I just felt that I could share anything with him because he 'got it'."

Tamara then received a 2019 Helpmann Academy regular grant to produce and direct the fifteen-minute short between January and March 2020 with a team of professional and emerging practitioners. She said that the Helpmann Academy grant process helped her to solidify her ideas with her cast and crew and assisted in attracting collaborators to the project.

"A goal and a deadline as a freelance artist are so important to keep you motivated and keep your head above water. Even just the act of applying for grants I find really helpful and important because it forces you to organise your thoughts, and even if you're not successful, so much of that information is so helpful," said Hardman.

Tamara has high hopes for the short, with the film making its debut at the Adelaide Film Festival in October 2020. She also hopes to submit to Sundance Film Festival and SXSW (South by Southwest) Festival. As for her long-term future as a filmmaker in South Australia, thanks to Closer she feels pretty positive about her options.

"At the moment, it feels fairly in reach for me, I think because I'm so lucky to be working with Closer, but also there's a lot happening in the film industry at the moment in South Australia. It's cheap enough to live and only work part-time, so you have time and space to create."



Tamara Hardman on set of *Everything ALL AT ONCE*, photo by Morgan Sette.

MASTERCLASSES AND WEBINARS

In early 2020 it quickly became clear that due to COVID-19 restrictions we would need to change the way we delivered our popular Activate Seminar and Cultivate Masterclass series. It was also clear that creatives were going to need targeted support to overcome the challenges they were facing. We responded by transitioning our seminar series to an online webinar series and addressing the immediate needs of artists. With a focus on resilience and wellbeing, online audience engagement and building community, we were able to connect artists with each other, industry experts and eminent established artists.

Public Art Management Three-part workshop

January

We partnered with Guildhouse to present a series of workshops with project management expert and arts consultant Jill Gael on developing skills in managing public art projects. Over three focused and intimate sessions, Jill guided participants through the essential phases of project management, focusing specifically on how to develop and deliver a public art project for local government or private commission. South Australian artists Hossein Valamanesh, Steven Bellosguardo, and Tony Rosella also presented about their experiences, and provided tips on what it takes to successfully deliver a project on time and on budget.

Masterclass with Tim Minchin

February

In partnership with the Adelaide Festival and University of Adelaide, we were thrilled to offer graduates from the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Music (Popular Music) the opportunity to attend an exclusive Q&A with Tim Minchin, hosted by Neil Armfield. This was a rare opportunity to hear from a seasoned performer, composer, actor and Tony Award Winner in an intimate and informative setting.

Grant Writing Seminar

March

In partnership with Carclew we presented a grant writing seminar at the Fringe Club. This seminar provided handy tips and tricks to South Australian creatives on how to summarise their project, respond to criteria, conquer the budget section, and make a selection panel take notice.

Mindfulness for Uncertain Times

April/May

Developed in response to the anxiety that artists were facing due to COVID-19 and held over four intimate sessions, the Mindfulness for Uncertain Times webinars delved into mindfulness and deepening community. Participants explored practices such as responding rather than reacting, dissolving suffering and stress and building community. Hosted by educator, psychotherapist and leadership development specialist Joanna Giannes, these online sessions helped artists to connect with each other and build resilience in the face of uncertainty.

Social Media for Creatives

April

In this online webinar hosted by Alicia Wakeling, Head of Marketing at Freerange Future, emerging creatives learnt about the importance of investing time into their social media presence to build their creative business. The need to build a compelling online presence has always been important for artists in the modern age, but with COVID-19 changing the ways we connect to one another, it's become an essential skill in 2020.

"Joanna created a space full of care, and curiosity in our sessions. Meeting with Joanna and fellow artists became the highlight of my week during isolation. Each participant was incredibly generous in sharing their feelings and personal experiences. The sessions were intimate and created a strong sense of community. This program gave me new insight into mindfulness techniques tailored specifically to the challenges that artists face. I can't thank Joanna enough for giving her time to us and facilitating our conversations with such care and professionalism."

Mindfulness for Uncertain Times participant

"Valli Morphett's delivery at the Webinars and the Art of Online Engagement Bootcamp was exemplary. By combining humour, relevant examples, useful take-away combined with an informal but highly focused presentation she captured and held my attention throughout. True learning took place in both sessions and I came away inspired."

Webinars and the Art of Online Engagement participant

"This webinar was a real "eye-opener" for me. It has given me a much clearer picture of how to do social media advertising and how to make it more targeted and therefore more effective. Alicia is a very knowledgeable presenter and by showing us very specific examples, it has given me much more confidence to try it for myself."

Social Advertising Creative Crash Course participant

Webinars and the Art of Online Engagement Bootcamp

May

Hosted by Valli Morphett, Director of Design Jam, this two session bootcamp was designed to build webinar and live streaming delivery skills and prepare creatives for the world of online engagement. Over two 90 minute sessions Valli provided expert insights into how webinar and online based engagement can add value to a creative practice.

Mindful Self Compassion

May/June

Due to popular demand we invited Joanna Giannes to present another mindfulness webinar series designed to help artists address wellbeing and mental health concerns. Over four intimate sessions, Psychotherapist Joanna Giannes worked with a small group of creatives online in a program that delved into mindfulness, compassion and self-compassion. The sessions included guided meditations, self-compassion exercises and tips for participants to strengthen their practice and build resilience.

Social Advertising Creative Crash Course

June

Hosted by Alicia Wakeling from Freerange Future, this webinar gave participants an overview of how to use social media advertising to build an audience for their creative practice. Using real life examples from two local creative practitioners, Alicia demonstrated the actions of setting up a campaign in the backend of Facebook whilst explaining the process and available options to ensure the best outcomes and return on investment.

Write on the Money

August

Together with Carclew, we presented this webinar for creatives applying for grants with either Carclew, Helpmann Academy or both. This was a practical, informative session to help artists secure support to get their projects off the ground and included insights from a panel of emerging artists.

Harry James Angus Online Masterclass

August

Presented in partnership with the University of Adelaide with support from the City of Adelaide, this was our first online music masterclass. We were delighted to offer an opportunity to hear from the enigmatic Harry James Angus - vocalist and trumpet player, best known for his work with the Cat Empire. Harry dialed in from Melbourne to an audience of general public and Elder Conservatorium students, and shared in-depth discussion about his writing and creative process as well as live performances. Harry also observed performances from Elder Conservatorium students and provided feedback and encouragement.

"This was such a brilliant masterclass! Harry was such an engaging presenter with an absolute wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to share. Really immediately applicable tips and ideas too. A wonderful experience!"

Harry James Angus online masterclass participant

30 Marketing Minutes

September

Alicia Wakeling, Head of Marketing at Freerange Future provided 30-minute one-on-one marketing consultations. In these personalised sessions, Alicia worked with individual artists and gave advice on branding, advertising, online audience engagement and much more. This was an opportunity for participants to focus on their own marketing goals and challenges and receive detailed, expert guidance.

Performing Arts Industry Consultations

October

Helpmann's Performing Arts Industry Consultations program connected emerging creatives with industry leaders who generously donated their time and offered their expertise to assist the next crop of performing arts talent. Facilitating candid and productive conversations around mounting a show, audience development, writing, and working in the creative industries, these consultations provided unparalleled insight and guidance to emerging creative practitioners taking the next steps in their career.

ERIN MCKELLAR

2020 HELPMANN ACADEMY AWARD FOR VOICE

"I've always been across Helpmann and I've always been amazed at how it's supported and benefited such a diverse range of creatives. Helpmann does an incredible job of showcasing the local talent and the voices that wouldn't necessarily be heard on all platforms."

In 2020 the Helpmann Academy was thrilled to announce the creation of a brand-new award for vocalists, the Helpmann Academy Award for Voice.

Generously funded by Dr Rob Lyons, the award is valued at \$8,000 and was developed to support emerging vocalists to undertake a self-directed and tailored program to advance their burgeoning career.

The inaugural recipient, emerging vocalist and University of Adelaide graduate Erin McKellar used the funds to take the next step in her career, the production of her first solo EP. Erin enlisted the help of a mentor for this project, engaging the expertise of seasoned multi-instrumentalist, composer and producer Harrison Wood.

An accomplished vocalist in her own right, Erin has spent the years since graduating from the Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) program at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium as the primary songwriter and vocal producer for Australian girl-band sensation G-Nation. But thanks to the Helpmann Academy Award for Voice, Erin says she is now able to focus on her own musical aspirations.

"Whilst I've spent many years working in the music industry as a songwriter, vocal coach and artist developer, I haven't yet pursued my own artistic endeavours. Now, with a clear musical sound, artistic vision and strong sense of artistry I'm really excited to share my music with the outside world."

"I'm hopeful that releasing my music will open further doors to pursue my performance career as a solo artist as well as continuing to work alongside established songwriters and musicians."

Erin was inspired to focus on her own career trajectory after COVID-19 placed restrictions on her usual creative work and forced her to reassess what steps she wanted to take next.

"COVID-19 has been a strange and damaging situation particularly for those in the creative industry. There has been a lot of uncertainty for working artists and music professionals, which made me re-evaluate where I see the trajectory of my career going. I've used the extra time with isolation to work on creative passion projects particularly writing for myself and planning how I will approach the creation of my EP."

She adds that without the financial support of the Helpmann Academy Award for Voice, her aspirations would've been difficult to pull off.

"In such uncertain times it is hard to navigate how to turn ideas into reality particularly from a financial perspective. Receiving this award actually made this dream feasible and within arm's reach. It also served as a huge encourager and provides a support team throughout my creative development."

Punters will be able to sample new music from Erin, with her first single slated to come out in November, followed by the full EP in February 2021.



Erin McKellar, photo courtesy of the artist.

RESIDENCIES AND MENTORSHIPS

For an emerging artist, a residency provides multi-layered professional development and can be a crucial step forward in their burgeoning career. When most people think about artist residencies, they imagine artists travelling to inspirational places around the world, but sadly in 2020 this was not an option. However, a local studio residency can also provide meaningful professional development, the space to create work and focus on their practice, and a community of fellow artists to learn from and collaborate with. Helpmann has been consistently building on the local studio residencies we offer, and in 2020 provided 7 artists with rent-free studios in a number of creative spaces.

215 Magill Studios Residency

A new residency in 2020, 215 Magill Studios is an exciting new artist hub in Adelaide's eastern suburbs. Generously supported by the studio's founder and director Mark Jones, this residency in a specially renovated space, provided two artists with a studio from July-December 2020. Ceramicist Nerida Bell (Flinders University), and jeweller Georgia Scott-Mills (University of South Australia) were each awarded a space for the creation of new work, experimentation with new techniques, and the development of new ideas. 215 Magill Studios is dedicated to providing spaces that support and encourage artists to push their practice into new and exciting areas.

ACE Open Residency

Adelaide's flagship contemporary art space, ACE Open, also houses a number of studio spaces and again partnered with Helpmann Academy to provide a city-based studio to an emerging artist. The residency was awarded to sculpture artist and Flinders University graduate Kate Oakenfold. The diverse artistic community at ACE provides the opportunity for meaningful collaboration and career development, with the guidance and support of ACE Open's curatorial team. ACE Open being forced to close down in the midst of Covid-19 restrictions meant Kate could not access her studio for a period of time during the year, but through their passion and generosity, the team have extended Kate's residency to the end of 2021. Read more about Kate Oakenfold on page 12.

George Street Studios Residency

George Street Studios in Thebarton is home to South Australia's most renowned public art practitioners and designer/makers. In 2020, four artists were each awarded a six-month studio space. University of South Australia graduates Steven Bellosguardo, Danny Jarratt, Frances Rogers, and Izabella Shaw had the opportunity to base their practice within this community of professional artists. With access to specialist equipment, expert guidance and advice from other residents, as well as a new network of suppliers and services, George Street can be a transformative period for an artist's practice and allows for purposeful development.

International Residencies

With 2020 throwing a spanner in the works, we have had to put our program of international residencies on hold. Our long running residencies in India and China were sadly not able to be offered in 2020, but we hope to be able to get back to providing these experiences to artists soon. The established British School at Rome Residency (BSR) and a new residency, EESAB in Brittany, France were awarded to artists in early 2020, with travel scheduled for the middle of the year. Brianna Speight (University of South Australia), was awarded the opportunity to attend BSR, and University of South Australia graduate Eleanor Amor was selected as the inaugural EESAB recipient. We are working closely with both artists and the residencies to ensure their opportunities can be undertaken in the not too distant future.



Frances Rogers at George Street Studios, photo by Olivia Power.

"Within days of being at George Street, I had learnt new technical processes that have upgraded my skill set and will greatly benefit my future practice. The studio is full of artists and makers with a collective knowledge that I have not yet encountered, an extraordinary bunch of skilled craftspeople willing to shed light and share insights into becoming a better maker. Every time I visit the studios, I learn something new."

Steven Bellosguardo, George Street Studios Residency recipient

Project Curator - 2021 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition

Offered for the first time in 2020, this is a unique opportunity for an emerging curator to take on the role of Project Curator for Helpmann Academy's 2021 Graduate Exhibition under the mentorship of Patrice Sharkey, Artistic Director, ACE Open.

The role supports the mentee to gain hands-on experience working on a high-profile exhibition that brings together graduating artists working in many mediums. From designing the exhibition layout, working with artists, and installation/de-installation, this significant opportunity allows the successful artist to further develop or kick-start their curatorial career. The recipient was not known at the time of printing.

Elevate Mentorship Program

The Elevate Mentorship program is one of Helpmann's longest running programs and continues to provide specialist professional development, by pairing emerging creatives with industry leaders to broaden their creative practice and support their next steps.

Valued at up to \$3,000, mentorships are tailored to an emerging artist's needs and goals – ensuring they receive guidance or training unique to their current practice.

Mentorships awarded for 2020:

- Neville Cichon – the emerging photographer, and graduate from the University of South Australia identified photographer Che Chorley as his mentor. Neville selected Che specifically for his experience in aqua and landscape photography. Covid-19 restrictions halted the progress of the mentorship, but Neville and Che recommenced in late 2020.
- Olivia Dryden – the Adelaide College of the Arts graduate, and jeweller's practice is based in taxidermy. Recognising the need to further her skill set with training not available in Australia, Olivia was awarded the opportunity to be mentored by Polly Morgan, a leader in the field based in London. As Olivia was unable to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions, her plans are currently on hold.

- Alice Marsh – The theatre maker and Flinders University graduate was successful in securing a mentorship with Caroline Dunphy, an established theatre maker, physical performer, and director. The virtual nature of the original mentorship meant Alice and Caroline could continue to work together during the pandemic, but they did pivot the focus of her mentorship to concentrate on 3 pathways for developing/improving her practise within the given circumstances.
- Chelsea McGuinness – The University of Adelaide graduate, and vocalist undertook a mentorship with renowned vocal coach Naomi Eyres. Naomi specialises in the Estill method of vocal training; a method in which Chelsea was testing in for her certification. With Naomi based in Melbourne, Chelsea was unable to travel for in-person coaching but did adapt her lessons to be conducted virtually. We congratulate Chelsea for since completing her certification.

The Elevate Mentorship Program is supported by a generous group of donors. If you would like to support an emerging artist to undertake a transformative mentorship, please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

Thanks to following donors for their generous contribution to our Elevate Mentorship Program.

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JAZZ HRISKIN

2020 DANCE LAUNCHPAD

With many of Helpmann's core opportunities affected by restrictions imposed due to COVID-19, we needed to pivot some of our offerings into new professional development opportunities for emerging creatives. One such program is Dance Launchpad, created in 2020 and presented in partnership with The Mill.

This inaugural program, supported by Dance Hub SA, Flinders University and Cirkidz/Tobiah Booth Remmers seeks to nurture the ecology of dance in South Australia. Established artists are commissioned to choreograph new work, and mentor/collaborate with one emerging dance artist annually – with a result of three new visual works for the participant's professional showreel.

Flinders University graduate Jacinta (Jazz) Hriskin was the 2020 recipient of Dance Launchpad, which saw her working with three local choreographers; Tobiah Booth Remmers, Lewis Major, Erin Fowler, and videographer Chris Herzfeld/Camlight Productions.

Jazz says that the experience was a very welcome opportunity in a year marred by cancellations.

"It was such a release to be in a studio space and indulge myself in a creative environment. It was a relief to be able to have some professional development this year, as I assumed the whole year would be put on hold due to the pandemic."

After graduating in December in 2019, the budding dancer/choreographer had high hopes of a jam-packed year of opportunities to fine tune her craft. Instead she was met with roadblocks and an industry brought to a halt. But like many other emerging creatives, Jazz took the changes in her stride and looked to the positives.

"My home became my creative space. I felt a need to adapt to life at home and create a space for myself to move. Also, many artists and companies have shared classes online this year, so I have been able to virtually move with people I had never expected to be in such close contact with. It's been a bittersweet result."

Dance Launchpad was an opportunity for Jazz to work alongside three choreographers on some challenging and visually arresting dance pieces, while also gleaning something from their creative process.

"I learnt so much from Dance Launchpad! It was incredible to work with three different choreographers in such a short amount of time and actually produce a result from each. It was interesting to experience how the choreographers would begin the creative process. They each came from places of imagery, concept or movement."

The experience created connections that Jazz will be able to continue to build on as she starts her career as a dancer.

"Having a one on one experience with each choreographer also allowed me to develop a relationship with everyone. We learnt about each other and I learnt a lot about the behind the scenes knowledge needed for surviving and pursuing a career as a freelance dance artist."

Due to positive feedback from Jazz about the professional outcomes of Dance Launchpad, Helpmann Academy and The Mill will continue to offer this opportunity beyond 2020.

"Organisations like Helpmann Academy are valuable in providing the stepping stones for artists. They offer more than just financial support. Their support ventures into professional advice in terms of communicating with other artists and understanding the business side of representing yourself as an artist. They also open the lines for networking and collaborating with other artists within the community."



OUR PARTNERS

2020 was a rough year and those working in the creative and entertainment industries were some of the hardest hit. Feedback from many of the artists that we work with indicated that the year has been incredibly difficult. With exhibitions, tours, performances, workshops, residencies and projects cancelled, as well as loss of other employment, it's not hard to understand why some creatives feel like they will struggle to bounce back.

With the support of our partners, we are working hard to ensure that those at the beginning of their creative journey make it through to the other side of this year. Amongst the disruption, there has been wonderful examples of our community coming together to offer incredible support and encouragement. We have been inspired by the generosity and flexibility of our partners as we have all navigated our way through 2020.

It is our shared belief that the arts are essential and that the key to ensuring South Australia's creative future is to support artists at the beginning of their careers that unites our community. This belief has never been more urgent. It is because of our partnerships with like-minded organisations and individuals that the Helpmann Academy is able to provide crucial support to emerging creatives during this time.

We feel incredibly privileged to be able to connect our partners with programs and initiatives that they care about and can be proud of. We strive to understand and meet each partner's individual objectives whilst offering South Australian creatives the best opportunities to develop sustainable careers. Together, we make a significant difference in the lives of emerging artists, and it has never felt more important.

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