



HELPMANN  
Academy

2021  
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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**The Helpmann Academy is a partnership between:**



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## Helpmann Academy Staff

**Jane MacFarlane**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Nadia Dolman**  
Program and Events Manager  
(until May 2021)

**Anna Fenech**  
Administration Coordinator

**Judith Halliday**  
Finance

**Becci Love**  
Program Manager

**Olivia Power**  
Marketing and Engagement Manager

**Mahalia Tanner**  
Communications and Development Coordinator

# 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 2021



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



WE PROVIDED  
OPPORTUNITIES AND  
SUPPORT TO OVER 600  
EMERGING CREATIVES



WE INTRODUCED SIX  
NEW PROGRAMS AND  
AWARDS



WE INTRODUCED OUR NEW  
LANDMARK INITIATIVE,  
THE HELPMANN ACADEMY  
CREATIVE INNOVATOR  
PROGRAM

# WELCOME

**Transformation and expansion were the themes of 2021 for the Helpmann Academy, as we welcomed new staff, launched an innovative new program and celebrated two new partnerships.**

As always, firmly at the forefront of our minds were the changing needs of our state's emerging creatives – as we adapted our programs and opportunities to better serve the next generation of artistic talent.

We are proud of the artists we have worked with in 2021, who have taken on the challenges of this year with incredible drive and resilience. Their dedication was infectious and pushed our small, but dynamic team to create new opportunities to help them realise their dreams.

2021 was about looking to the future and anticipating the tools and support needed by emerging artists to carve out their place in a rapidly changing industry. For Helpmann, that meant redefining our grants program, developing new partnerships, turning our attention to creative entrepreneurs, and taking on new staff members.

## Graduate Exhibition

At the start of the year, Helpmann heralded in a new era for one of our most beloved initiatives, the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition. The exhibition made the move to a new site, flagship contemporary art gallery ACE Open; providing participants with the added exposure and expertise of an internationally renowned brand. Despite COVID restrictions changing the delivery of our VIP Vernissage and Opening Night events, we were still able to celebrate the next generation of emerging talent in style with many of our supporters and friends. South Australian visual artists were presented with over \$65,000 in awards and opportunities at the 2021 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition Opening Night event on Friday, 29 January 2021. A total of 15 awards were presented, providing the recipients with funds to advance their practice, undertake interstate and local exhibiting opportunities and access mentorship and advisory services from established arts leaders.

## Creative Innovator Program

In a first of its kind, Helpmann awarded a group of emerging creatives from a range of creative disciplines with a place in the Creative Innovator Program. The unique program is a comprehensive initiative developed to assist creative entrepreneurs to launch their businesses. The program uses the techniques of the technology sector, where incubators, labs and accelerator programs help to foster new business ideas and applies them to the Creative Industries. Each participant received seed funding, one-on-one mentoring from an established arts practitioner, workshops and masterclasses delivered by leading business professionals, contact with a pool of industry experts and business advisors, access to a co-working workspace, as well as networking and pitching opportunities. The program culminated in Shark Tank style pitch event, with over \$55,000 in start-up funds available, thanks to Helpmann's community of generous donors and partners. The results of the pitches were announced by The South Australian Chief Entrepreneur, Andrew Nunn at a special event at Lot Fourteen on 27 October, 2021.

## Creative Investment Fellowships

Due to the evolving needs of emerging creatives in the wake of the pandemic, Helpmann reimaged our grants scheme to include extra rounds and more accessible funding. This included the adaptation of our Helpmann Fellowships into the Creative Investment Fellowships. Valued at up to \$10,000, the Helpmann Academy supported eight South Australian emerging creatives to undertake career defining opportunities in 2021. Supported by the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and a group of philanthropic partners and donors, these grants assisted the:

- mounting of a career defining exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art
- production of a 10-minute experimental drama film
- staging of a two-part project that applies a different digital format through collaboration with different genres of Korean artists
- development of a stage play that premiered at RUMPUS
- development of new silversmithing and jewellery work that launched at the Goldsmiths' Fair 2021 in London, UK.

## UKARIA & NSS

As an extension to our online music masterclasses, Helpmann joined forces with UKARIA Cultural Centre to host an intimate behind-the-scenes masterclass for Elder Conservatorium graduates with Paul Grabowsky and Vika Bull. In this unique event Paul and Vika worked one-on-one with a select group of vocal graduates in a once in a lifetime opportunity to receive guidance from two highly revered musicians. This music partnership was one of two new opportunities offered to University of Adelaide students and graduates in 2021, with Helpmann also partnering with Northern Sound System (NSS) to present SONGS – a one week song writing intensive that paired leading South Australian music producers with emerging original artists, and graduates from the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

## InReview

Another new partnership for 2021, and a foray into the written arts, the Helpmann Academy *InReview* Mentorship connects experienced arts writers with emerging voices, as part of a project to strengthen coverage of arts and culture in South Australia. *InReview* is a new sub-site of InDaily (Solstice Media) which publishes credible arts journalism and cultural commentary each week. The first recipient was Flinders University graduate Michelle Wakim, who worked with experienced writers Samela Harris and Katherine Tamiko Arguile to write a series of articles that were published over 10 weeks from July 2021. The program was so successful that Michelle was hired as a freelance contributor at the completion of her mentorship. A second recipient will be announced at the end of the year.

## Staff changes

Our programs weren't the only thing that had a shakeup in 2021, with Helpmann welcoming two new team members into the fold. First up was Anna Fenech who joined us as our Administration Coordinator in June. Anna worked as an arts administrator at JamFactory for over six years and was the studio manager for internationally renowned architectural studio, Snøhetta Australasia before taking on this role. We were also thrilled to welcome our new Program Manager, Becci Love from August. Becci has worked for arts and cultural organisations and festivals throughout Australia and the UK and came to us from an Associate Producer role at Illuminate Adelaide.

Our long serving Foundation Board Chair Peter Walker also announced he was stepping down from his role in 2021. Peter sat on our Foundation Board for an incredible 12 years (5 years as our Chair) and has been a passionate and engaged supporter of Helpmann and our programs during this time. Replacing Peter in the role of Foundation Board Chair is current Foundation Board member Chris Penny. Chris has been on the board since 2018, and is the Director of Ginn & Penny Insurance Brokers and a keen collector of contemporary art.

We would like to acknowledge the support and passion of the Helpmann Academy Board of Governors, the Foundation Board, staff, donors, volunteers and our partner institutions:

- The University of Adelaide
- University of South Australia
- Flinders University

Their drive and enthusiasm for Helpmann and our services enables us to continue to provide our states emerging creatives with career defining opportunities.

We also wish to thank our extended community of supporters. We like to think of you as our art loving family, working side-by-side with us to uplift the next generation of creative voices. We couldn't do it without you.



**HER HONOUR JUDGE  
KAREN THOMAS**  
Chair  
Helpmann Academy  
Board of Governors



**JANE MACFARLANE**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Helpmann Academy



# MARY ANGLEY AND JAMES WATSON

## 2020 HELPMANN ACADEMY CREATIVE INVESTMENT FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to a Helpmann Academy Creative Investment Fellowship, emerging independent theatre makers James Watson and Mary Angley were able to develop and debut their propaganda comedy, *The Triumph of Man*.

Adelaide independent theatre space, RUMPUS launched their 2021 season with the brand-new work, which examines how truth is constructed through art and media. A timely piece as we navigate these post pandemic times.

**"It (the play) uses this sort of fictional dictatorship where two actors are kidnapped and forced to make propaganda for a cruel dictator. It takes that scenario and uses it as a bit of a metaphor to explore the role that art and media play in constructing and maintaining unequal power relations,"** says Angley, the Director.

Watson reveals that he started writing the play as a homage to the medium of theatre and it quickly evolved from there.

**"It came out of a place of, firstly, wanting to celebrate theatre and something that really came from the heart and played with the medium a bit. And then as I was writing the story, all these themes of the battle between art and propaganda and why do we make what we make and who's influencing those sorts of messages, started coming through,"** says Watson.

**"Where does entertainment end and what's our responsibility as audience members?"**

To present the play to its fullest potential, Watson and Angley applied for a 2020 Helpmann Academy Creative Investment Fellowship. Supported by the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation, the Fellowships are valued at up to \$10,000 and assist in funding large works or significant professional development programs.

Angley says that the Fellowship, along with support from Arts South Australia, allowed them to not only present the play in its full intentionality, but also employ a number of creatives during a trying time for independent theatre.

**"It means we can pay our artists, which is really, really great. It means that we have the time and the space to really explore the work that we're putting on. It means we get to work with a lot of other fantastic emerging creatives. And it comes at a vital time both in our careers as emerging artists and as emerging artists coming out of a pandemic. So, that's been really essential,"** says Angley.

Watson adds, **"This to date is the biggest production that I've put on in terms of professionalism, budget, number of people involved. That means a lot to me. It feels like I'm really growing and really progressing and really getting somewhere because you want to really break out of that space. Just being a university student, you want to start being able to call yourself a professional theatre maker."**

With Watson studying a Master of Fine Arts (Writing for Performance) at NIDA and in lockdown, and Angley residing in Adelaide – this work was a COVID-19 production in the purest form.

Despite the distance between the creative duo, they made it work with constant zoom meetings and by keeping their eye on the prize – that currently rare experience of gathering a group of people in a space to witness new art as it unfolds in real time.

**"I think that's what got me into the medium and what keeps me in the medium is just the absolute joy of making it and collaborating and, barring COVID, being in the room with people and really discussing it and putting it together,"** says Watson.

**"I like theatre because it's communal and I think that's really important, more than ever, at a time like this when creating communal theatrical experiences has been so challenged and tested."**



James Watson



Mary Angley, photo by Anna Fenech

"Helpmann is so important for that early stage, straight out of university when no one knows your name and you just need someone to take a chance on you. Helpmann, who are offering funding for emerging practitioners, play a huge role in those sorts of early projects in an artist's career."

**Mary Angley**

# AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

## HELPMANN ACADEMY'S LANGLEY AWARD FOR JAZZ

Valued at \$7,500, generously funded by K&S Langley Fund

**Eliza Dickson** (University of Adelaide)

Eliza will be using the award to record and produce her debut full-length album, working with LA based producer Drew Moore and a range of guest artists.

## HELPMANN AWARD FOR VOICE

Valued at \$10,000, generously funded by Dr Rob Lyons

**Jeremy Leone and Kelly Doddridge** (University of Adelaide)

Pop singer Jeremy Leone will be using his funds to help finance his first album, while jazz singer Kelly Doddridge will compose and direct a recording of a large group of jazz vocalists.

"Producing a full-length album is a milestone achievement in any musician's career, and the Helpmann Academy's Langley Award for Jazz will allow me to advance plans for my debut album with confidence. This record will showcase my development as an artist, demonstrating more involved, creative and unique work. I am excited that Helpmann and the K& S Langley Fund is supporting me to record and spread new sounds!"

**Eliza Dickson**



## HELPMANN ACADEMY CREATIVE INVESTMENT FELLOWSHIPS

Proudly supported by the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and valued at up to \$10,000, the Creative Investment Fellowships fund opportunities of significance, unique to the applicant, that will develop their artistic practice in meaningful and vital ways, empowering them to take the next step in their career development.

### 2020

**Sam Gold** (University of South Australia) undertook a mentorship to aid in mounting a career defining major interstate exhibition, the Museum of Contemporary Art's *Primavera 2021: Young Australian Artists*.

**Tamara Hardman** (Flinders University) received funding to produce, shoot and edit a 10-minute experimental drama film about love, memory and truth in a dying world.

**Jonathan Kim** (University of South Australia) devised a two-stage project that applied a different digital format through collaboration with different genres of Korean artists – with an aim to promote creative idea exchange and connection during the pandemic.

**James Watson, Mary Angley, Reggie Parker and Lachie Campbell** (Flinders University, University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide) staged a production of their original work *The Triumph of Man* at Rumpus Theatre in 2021.

**Marissa Ziesing** (University South Australia) received funding to support the development of new silversmithing and jewellery work to be launched at the renowned Goldsmiths' Fair 2021 in London, UK.





Sam Gold photo by Thomas McCammon

"I've been wanting to shift to firing in gas kilns, not electric, as a long-term goal within my practice. Thanks to the Creative Investment Fellowship, I was able to focus on making the work, firing with a supportive team, building a relationship with a leading art professional in my field and investing in my practice in a major way. This mentorship is significant because I literally could not have achieved the physical, creative and professional outcomes without it."

**Sam Gold**



Mark Curtis and The Flannelettes (Michael Hutchinson, Bonnie Aué and Mark Curtis) photo supplied by artist.

#### 2021 Creative Investment Fellowships

**Mark Curtis, Bonnie Aué and Michael Hutchinson** (University of Adelaide) received funding to release their first album with the band Mark Curtis and the Flannelettes.

**Lily Drummond and Madison Siegertsz** (Flinders University) received funding to produce their short film Points of Sail with a team of emerging and professional practitioners.

**Bryce Kraehenbuehl** (Flinders University) received funding to undertake a 12-month mentorship with Super 8 lab owner and experimental filmmaker Richard Tuohy.

**Amelie Peters** (University of Adelaide) will use her fellowship to promote her show Retail Reality at Fringe World Perth and the Adelaide Fringe in 2022.

**Kira Yang, Aiden Wang, Nicole Rammesh, Jack Doherty and Liliana Franco** (University of Adelaide) received funding to support development, marketing, and presentation of a new original work, Not Your Average Asian Girl (NYAAG), a multi-disciplinary comedy cabaret, for the Adelaide Fringe 2022.



# 2021 HELPMANN ACADEMY GRADUATE EXHIBITION

South Australian emerging visual artists were presented with over \$65,000 in awards at the 2021 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition Opening Night event at ACE Open on Friday 29 January 2021.



The 2021 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition Award winners, photo by Russell Millard

**The University of South Australia / Helpmann Academy Postgraduate Award (\$10,000 cash)**

**Tricia Ross** (University of South Australia PhD candidate)

**The Undergraduate Award for Excellence supported by Roger and Helen Salkeld (\$7,500 cash)**

**Meng Zhang** (University of South Australia)

**The City of Adelaide Award (\$7,500 cash)**

**Jessica Stephens** (University of South Australia)

**The Hill Smith Art Advisory Award (valued at \$7,000)**

**Stephanie Doddridge** (University of South Australia)

**The Linden New Art Award (valued at \$6,620, including a \$500 cash award)**

**Ellis Moseley** (Flinders University)

**The Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Award (\$5,000 cash)**

**Isobel Davies** (Flinders University)

**The City Rural Insurance / Helpmann Travel Award (\$5,000 cash)**

**Amber Cronin** (University of South Australia)

**The Lang / McKee Award (\$5,000 cash)**

**Alicia Butt** (Flinders University)

**The Jaquillard Award (\$3,000 cash)**

**Stephanie Doddridge** (University of South Australia)

**The McHugh Award (\$3,000 cash)**

**Ashley Bartsch** (University of South Australia)

**The JamFactory Award (valued at \$2,500, including a \$500 cash award)**

**Martha Dimitriou** (University of South Australia)

**The Peter Walker / Helpmann Advancement Award (\$1,000 cash)**

**Ellis Moseley** (Flinders University)

**The Royal South Australian Society of the Arts & Friends Award (\$1,000 cash)**

**Maiko Pettman** (Flinders University)

"I think the Helpmann Academy is very important for artists, especially artists who have just graduated. Helpmann builds a very important platform for us and connects us with the art community."

**Meng Zhang**

**The SALA Award (valued at \$1,000 including a \$530 cash award)**

**Jessa Kloeden** (Flinders University)

**The David Hayden Professional Development Award (\$750 cash)**

**Asha Southcombe** (University of South Australia)

**The Helpmann Academy People's Choice Award (\$250 cash each)**

**Taylor Parham** (University of South Australia Masters Candidate) and

**Martha Dimitriou** (University of South Australia Honours)

"I felt so honoured to be selected for the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition after completing my graduate year in 2020. Having my work in the exhibition gave me experience, exposure, helped me build relationships and further opportunities which have propelled my profile as an emerging artist. I was also lucky to be awarded the Hill Smith Art Advisory Award and the Jaquillard Exhibition Award which have been invaluable in supporting the development and exhibition of new work"

**Stephanie Doddridge**



# ANNA REVESZ

2020 LINDEN NEW ART AWARD

2020 ELEVATE MENTORSHIP

2021 PRAXIS ARTSPACE RESIDENCY

2021 215 MAGILL STUDIOS RESIDENCY

After graduating from Flinders University in 2020, emerging photographer Anna Revesz entered the art world during a time of great uncertainty. Despite this, Anna has achieved amazing milestones at the beginning of her career. This includes launching her first solo (and interstate) show, diversifying her practice into installation and sculpture, networking with a range of creative practitioners at two local residencies and being mentored by an industry giant.

Anna's 2020 kicked off with the Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition, where she landed the Linden New Art Award (valued at \$6,250). Through the award Anna was provided with a 3-week exhibition at Linden New Art in Melbourne, through its Linden Projects Space program.

**"One of the big things about landing a spot in the Graduate Exhibition was it really gave me the encouragement and the knowledge that people were interested in my work and my ideas, and they were up to scratch. Then of course, winning the Linden New Art Award was a major thing that really helped me move forward with my practice as well."**

The exhibition was put on hold until May 2021 due to travel restrictions, but the changed timeframe was a blessing in disguise with Anna successfully landing a studio space at Bowden contemporary art gallery, praxis ARTSPACE through Helpmann to create the work and a mentorship with revered artist Hossein Valamanesh through the Helpmann Academy Elevate Mentorship program.

**"I didn't even honestly think that it was possible to have Hossein as a mentor, but Helpmann made it happen. And it was really exciting to be able to learn from someone that's so experienced and has been in the industry for so long."**



Anna Revesz, photo by Sarah Sturm

Conducted over six months, the mentorship took place between Hossein's studio and Anna's workroom at praxis ARTSPACE. Anna was attracted to a mentorship with Hossein as she wanted to expand her practice into installation (adding sculptural works alongside her photographs), as well as gaining a stronger understanding of how to maintain momentum throughout her arts career.

**"I learned a lot from his (Hossein's) process and approach to creating work. He has this way of working with materials where you just trust in the materials you use and embrace and adapt to any changes or problems that might occur throughout the processes of making. Just this idea of letting go and letting those materials guide you, I think really helped me with the way I work."**

Having a dedicated workspace at praxis ARTSPACE, provided Anna with the structure and creative environment to focus on the challenging task of developing her first solo exhibition.

**"It's been really good to have that separation between a home and work life because I think as an artist that's not always possible. I feel really lucky to be able to experience that because it really has allowed me to stay a lot more focused and stick to schedules."**

Anna also said that having access to a range of studio residents working across varied mediums meant that she was able to explore new approaches to her own work. Perspectives that came in handy as she branched out into foreign materials and methods.

**"Being around different artists and makers that work across totally different mediums, has given me a new perspective and has made me consider possible new approaches to my own work. And I've slowly started to expand my practice into other materials and feel more confident doing so, because I know that I have access to these different artists that I know will help me if I ask for it."**



"In the current pandemic climate emerging artists really need this kind of support to be able to even think about a sustainable career. It's a really hard time to be starting an arts career. But Helpmann makes you feel that what you're doing is vital and is necessary, and there is this support that is available to you, and it really helps you to keep going."



Anna Revesz and Hossein Valamanesh, photo by Sarah Sturm

After months of preparation and with the support of the Helpmann Academy, Hossein and the Linden New Art team, Anna launched Architecture of Memory on 13 May until 18 July 2021. The exhibition featured a mixture of inhouse and digital activations due to restrictions in Victoria – but provided Anna with an insight into the different ways to launch an exhibition post COVID-19.

**"I vaguely knew what to expect from talking to people, but it still was a super daunting task for me. So having guidance from someone like Hossein made it a lot less daunting, because he just broke it down to these achievable steps and helped me understand the practical, logistical side of things. In the end it went really well!"**

After an eventful couple of years launching her career during a public health crisis, Anna is reflective on the support she has received from Helpmann.

**"I'm not sure what I would've done without these opportunities. My first year out of uni was in 2020 when it all kind of started. These opportunities have really helped me to keep building on my practice and to gain exposure, and they've given me structure as well and good timelines to stick to, all things that are difficult to do during the pandemic. I'm incredibly grateful to have had access to all those opportunities."**

# 2021 HELPMANN ACADEMY JAZZ AWARDS

Eight emerging jazz musicians were presented with \$27,500 in awards at *A Night of Jazz with Harry James Angus*, Helpmann Academy's annual Jazz Awards event that honours outstanding musicians from The University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music.



Harry James Angus on stage, photo by Russell Millard



**Helpmann Academy's Langley Award  
for Jazz**

\$7,500 | supported by K&S Langley Fund  
**Eliza Dickson**

**Helpmann Academy Top Honours Award**

\$5,000 | supported by The Lang  
Foundation  
**Morgan Fletcher**

**Helpmann Academy Top Undergraduate  
Award**

\$5,000 | supported by David McKee AO &  
Pam McKee  
**Corey McNulty**

**Helpmann Academy Award for  
Outstanding Drummer**

\$2,000 | supported by DankPods  
**Miles Farnan**

**Helpmann Academy Award for  
Outstanding Trombonist**

\$2,000 | supported by the Helpmann  
Academy  
**Jasmine Ferguson**

**Helpmann Academy Award for  
Outstanding Vocalist**

\$2,000 | supported by Dr Rob Lyons  
**Emma Simpson-Smith**

**Helpmann Academy Award for  
Outstanding Trumpet Player**

\$2,000 | supported by the Helpmann  
Academy  
**Harrison Smith**

**Helpmann Academy Award for  
Outstanding Bassist**

\$2,000 | supported by DankPods  
**Tasha Stevens**



2021 Helpmann Academy Jazz Award winners, photo by Russell Millard

# JEREMY LEONE AND KELLY DODDRIDGE

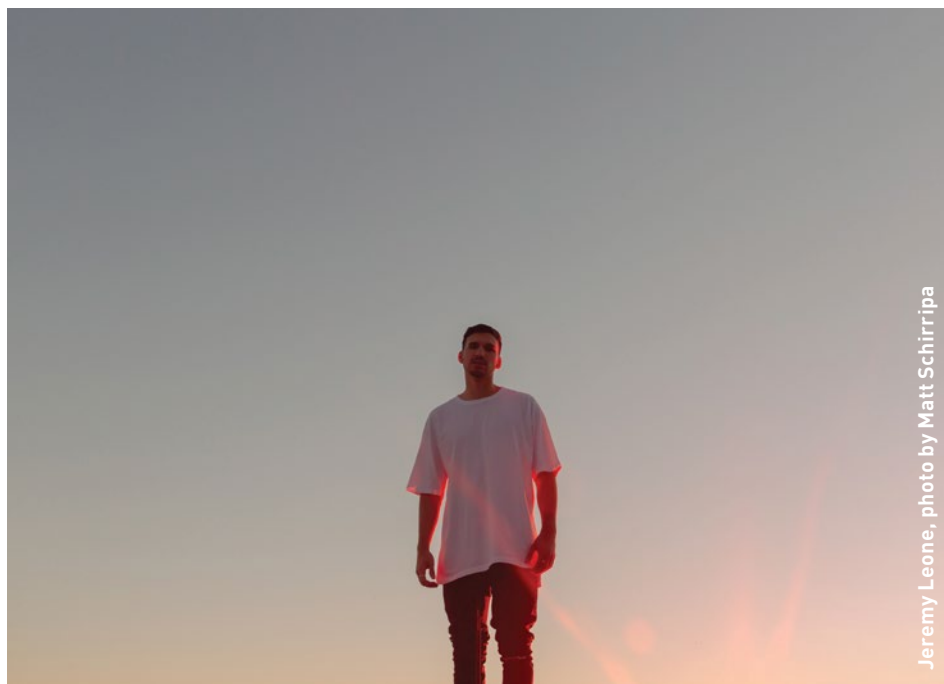
## 2021 HELPMANN ACADEMY AWARD FOR VOICE

Returning for a second year after debuting in 2020, the Helpmann Academy Award for Voice is designed to support emerging vocalists to undertake a self-directed and tailored program to advance their flourishing career.

Generously funded by Dr Rob Lyons, the award was raised from \$8,000 to \$10,000 in 2021 to accommodate two exceptional recipients. Each recipient received \$5,000 in support of their project.

The first recipient is emerging indie pop artist/producer and University of Adelaide student Jeremy Leone. In his final year of a Bachelor of Music (Popular Music) degree, Jeremy applied for the award to assist in the undertaking of the conception of his first album. As an at-home producer, Jeremy will use the funds to purchase new high quality recording gear, as well as hire a number of mixing/mastering engineers from Australia and the USA to make his tracks radio ready.

After years of sending his demos off to Nashville to get mastered, Jeremy said he is excited to work in-studio with producer, Mark Griffiths who is signed to Dream, a smaller label under Capitol Records. Mark is currently back in Adelaide after living and working in the USA.



Jeremy Leone, photo by Matt Schirripa

**“It’s been great because I usually send off my production to someone in Nashville who then will just send me back a mix or a demo a week later and we go back and forth like that. Having someone in Adelaide, I can sit next to them with my changes and actually see how they’re manipulating it, how they are changing it, giving me a better insight and chance to have input. Being in a room while those things are happening is a much more beneficial process for me because I can be more hands-on with the music.”**

As well as having a greater sense of collaboration in mixing his record, Jeremy is also hoping to use this connection to make new networks in the US music scene. Through Mark, Jeremy has already been introduced to some key players, who are providing advice on how to crack the historically difficult US market.

**“They’ve given me some more direction into where to take my music and potentially pitching it to some record labels in the states. So just by working with Mark and being introduced to some of his contacts has given me a leg up in breaking into the American market. Because of this award, I was able to make those connections in the first place, as well as having the funds to work with them.”**

The second recipient of the award is emerging composer, jazz vocalist and University of Adelaide graduate Kelly Doddridge. Kelly will be using his portion of the award to build upon his skills in directing and arranging/composing for vocal ensembles by creating an EP of four pieces that will be performed by a vocal jazz ensemble that he has created specifically for the project.

Kelly says he was attracted to jazz as a musical form due to the freedom the medium invites.

**“I’d always loved the way jazz combines destruction and form. Jazz performance combines structure and form with the freewill and interpretation of the performer, so this really makes endless possibilities for the performer to explore their own meaning and spontaneity in music.”**

After graduating with a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Voice) in 2019, Kelly pursued his passions for vocal jazz singing and arranging via his vocal jazz quartet Sweet as Swing. With the help of the Helpmann Academy Award for Voice, Kelly hopes to take the lessons he has learned with Sweet as Swing and evolve them into a larger vocal ensemble of up to ten vocalists, in addition to a three-piece rhythm section.





Kelly Doddridge, photo by Jake Millar

**"I think there's something really special about a group of singers singing together, they can make a really strong connection with an audience, especially when the group feels safe and able to be vulnerable with each other. You don't even need complex harmony necessarily, some of the most powerful performances I've seen were in unison, but there was a bond and common energy between singers that made it so powerful."**

The project is also pushing Kelly out of his comfort zone when it comes to content, with the EP set to draw on his own life experiences and thoughts on topics such as spirituality and addiction.

**"I've started some initial work on lyrics and that's really challenging me, which is a great thing. I'm working on some pretty heavy and personal subjects. I've always wanted to further explore my skills in lyric writing for a long time, so this opportunity has really inspired me to work on that."**

Kelly says the support has come at just the right time, after a difficult 12 months in the music industry.

**"The Helpmann Academy provide really valuable opportunities for hardworking artists to take the next step in their careers. It also creates this snowball effect where funded projects inspire a whole community of other emerging artists to be ambitious and aim for something big. I've been to a number of Helpmann-funded concerts and that's what inspired me to apply for this opportunity."**

**Kelly Doddridge**

**"Support from Helpmann is so valuable at this time when there's a lot of uncertainty, especially amongst venues and festival organisers, and it can be quite demoralising as an artist when you can't get gigs. It's really valuable to know people believe in you as an artist and want you to keep growing and making music."**

# RESIDENCIES AND MENTORSHIPS

## RESIDENCIES

### 215 Magill Studios Residency

Helpmann Academy's 215 Magill Studios Residency provides emerging South Australian artists with a 6-month studio residency at 215 Magill Studios, suitable for artists working across a wide range of mediums.

*2021 Residents*

**Alicia Butt** (Flinders University)

**Anna Revesz** (Flinders University)

### George Street Studios

The Helpmann Academy George Street Studios Residency offers emerging South Australian artists with a 6-month studio residency at the George Street Studio, suitable for artists working across sculpture, furniture or mixed media.

*2021 Residents*

**Ellis Moseley** (Flinders University)

**Lauren Murphy** (University of South Australia)

### praxis ARTSPACE Residency

The praxis ARTSPACE Studio Residency provides an emerging South Australian artist with a 6-month studio space at praxis ARTSPACE and is suitable for artists working across a wide range of mediums.

*2021 Residents*

**Danny Jarratt** (University of South Australia)

**Anna Revesz** (Flinders University)



"The facilities and equipment available to use at George Street are amazing, but I am most excited by the opportunity to access the knowledge and technical expertise of the artists working in the studio as mentors. Their collective understanding of materials, suppliers and what it takes to deliver a refined artwork, is the most exciting aspect of the residency for me."

**Ellis Moseley**

# MENTORSHIPS

## Project Curator – 2021 Helpmann Academy Graduate Exhibition

The Project Curator undertakes a mentorship with Curatorial Mentor, Patrice Sharkey (Artistic Director, ACE Open) to mount Helpmann Academy's annual Graduate Exhibition.

*2021 Project Curator*

**Eleanor Amor** (University of South Australia)

## Helpmann Academy *InReview* Mentorship

The Helpmann Academy *InReview* Mentorship seeks to develop the next generation of arts reviewers and re-build the practice of robust discourse and analysis of South Australian performing and visual arts.

*2021 Mentee*

**Michelle Wakim** (University of South Australia)

## 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 2021:

**Susie Jane Althorp** (Flinders University) was mentored by visual artist Catherine Truman.

**Alicia Butt** (Flinders University) was mentored by ceramicist Yuro Cuchor.

**Amber Cronin** (University of South Australia) was mentored by sculptor and public artist Jason Waterhouse.

**Brendan Godfrey** (University of South Australia) was mentored by experienced filmmakers Tom Phillips and Jeremy Kelly-Bakker from We Made A Thing Studios.

**Brianna Speight** (University of South Australia) was mentored by curator/writer Eleanor Scicchitano.



Eleanor Amor and Patrice Sharkey photo by Thomas McCammon

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

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Ellis Mosely photo by Anna Fenech

"This residency allowed me to explore concepts within a larger workspace, and experiment with a range of mediums. It was really exciting to immerse myself within a professional environment with successful practitioners, to gain a fresh perspective and develop new technical skills."

**Lauren Murphy**



# MICHELLE WAKIM

## 2021 HELPMANN ACADEMY INREVIEW MENTORSHIP

In a first for both organisations, Helpmann Academy partnered with Solstice Media in 2021 to launch a mentoring program designed to connect experienced arts writers with emerging voices.

This collaboration coincided with the creation of *InReview*, a new subsite of InDaily that publishes credible arts journalism and cultural commentary each week. The aim of the project was to cultivate the next generation of arts critics, while strengthening coverage of arts and culture in South Australia.

The first recipient of the Helpmann Academy *InReview* Mentorship was Flinders University graduate and University of South Australia final year student, Michelle Wakim. With a background in both the arts and journalism, Michelle was uniquely poised to take on the position. It was these dual interests that fuelled her excitement at the opportunity to cut her teeth as an arts reviewer.

**“What I love most about it is for me, it combines two of my great loves, which is the arts and writing. I feel like I’m still contributing to the arts world even though it’s more in the journalism sector, as arts critique is necessary to maintain a good standard of local art in Adelaide.”**

**“The mentorship has allowed me to really explore the space, and then at the end of it, feel set and confident about my career ahead.”**

**Michelle Wakim**

Beginning in July 2021, Michelle was matched with both Samela Harris, one of South Australia’s most experienced theatre critics and journalists, and Katherine Tamiko Arguile, an acclaimed writer and one of *InReview*’s visual arts specialists. Over 10 weeks, Michelle worked with Samela and Katherine to hone her reviewing and writing skills.

**“I’ve learned so much from them, and they’ve been so generous with their feedback and their time. I didn’t really understand where the standard was leaving uni, and the mentorship has been so valuable in really accelerating my growth as a writer. I think without having the chance to work so closely with such experienced people in the industry, it would have taken me so much longer to develop and work out where that industry standard is.”**

Michelle says one of her biggest lessons in the program so far came from industry great Harris, who walked her through the difficult task of writing a review about work that doesn’t quite hit the mark.

**“We discussed how to handle discussing art that wasn’t particularly of the highest standard and how to diplomatically write about it, particularly within the art scene in South Australia where it is so small, and people do know each other. That was a really challenging thing that I found very intimidating at the beginning, but she really worked through with me the way to handle that sensitively and constructively.”**

Over her 10 weeks writing for *InReview* Michelle was prolific – completing upwards of 10 reviews spanning theatre shows and art exhibitions. The experience of seeing her words and opinions in print for such a reputable site has been thrilling.

**“It felt pretty great, honestly, I was incredibly excited. At the beginning, it took a moment for that to sink in, because I’m so fresh out of uni, and I didn’t expect to be published in such a great publication so soon. I was very, very excited. I think it just blew my mind a little bit, but it felt incredible.”**





Michelle Wakim with Samela Harris and Katherine Tamiko Arguile, photo courtesy of InReview

Launching in March 2021, *InReview* touted themselves as a “new model for arts journalism throughout Australia – a community and philanthropy-funded project to support professional, rigorous and compelling arts and cultural journalism and commentary.” With these lofty ideals, and a focus on fostering new emerging talent, the project has been well received by the local art community.

**“So much of the arts community is so excited about it, and it’s been incredibly positive. Then also when they’ve heard about this mentorship program, that has been received so well. So many people in the community think this is really necessary, having a platform and a program that helps develop reviewers and arts critics.”**

As for Michelle’s future, she is keen to continue building on the lessons she has learned through the mentorship and see where it takes her.

**“I feel like I’ve had a really good foundation to really feel confident in going forward with it. As far as long term, I’m not really sure where I’ll end up, but for the moment, I’d really love to keep building on what I’ve learned.”**

“At the end of the program I was asked to join the freelance team. I feel very lucky, and the mentorship equipped me so well for this role. It has been great to put everything I learnt into practice and consistently write as part of a job! I’m absolutely loving it so far.”

# PARTNER PROFILE

## SQUARE HOLES

Founded by Jason Dunstone at the end of 2004 after he became bored with traditional customer research, Square Holes is a market research agency with a difference. Their creative approach to customise explorative research provides their clients with considered and in-depth information, giving them an edge in their respective fields.

Square Holes have worked with companies across the arts, banking, retail, youth services and zoos – and are proud sponsors of several organisations in the arts and innovation sectors. Jason says that supporting creative organisations is part of Square Holes DNA.

**“While embracing creativity was a desire from the start, the now entrenched connection with the arts came about somewhat organically, being in the right place, at the right time, and being curious and willing to help. Square Holes has contributed sponsorships of more than \$500,000 to the arts over the past decade. Supporting organisations such as Helpmann Academy are now critical in our philosophical DNA.”**

Square Holes’ journey with Helpmann Academy began over six years ago when they came on board to help provide us with a deeper understanding of our key stakeholders. Since then, Square Holes has supported Helpmann through multiple projects to gain valuable insights into what drives our donors and partners, as well as how our support enables emerging artists to prosper and build sustainable careers.

This crucial information has helped us make key programming decisions ensuring that we are continually evolving to provide relevant opportunities addressing the changing needs of emerging artists. It helps us to understand what we are getting right and where we can make improvements.



Jason Dunstone and Lauren Hayden of Square Holes, photo courtesy of Square Holes

**“The fundamental reward is being a small part of helping pretty amazing emerging artists get to the other side of the valley and hopefully prosper as artists. It’d be a sad South Australia without the support Helpmann provides.”**

**Jason Dunstone**



This year, Square Holes also supported the Helpmann Academy Creative Innovator program by presenting a session on Market Research for Creative Entrepreneurs. The workshop provided our program participants with an introduction to market research methodology, as well as how to turn insights into business strategy.

**“It has been fascinating to hear the story of emerging artists taking a seed of support and opening huge opportunities locally and beyond to take their art to the next level. Fundamentally, for many of the young artists they believe they would not have made it in their chosen creative pursuit without Helpmann Academy. Hearing these stories of the next generation of artists has been so rewarding to the Square Holes team.”**

Jason is a passionate advocate for supporting the arts sector, saying it makes sense to nurture our emerging and established artists due to their impact on the cultural and economic prosperity of South Australia.

**“South Australians can take the arts for granted, hence why it is so important that individuals, businesses and government make mindful commitments moving forward to ensure that our arts and culture sector flourishes more so than flounders.”**

Square Holes research has also been essential in helping Helpmann to articulate our value to external stakeholders. A task made all the more simple thanks to Jason and his team and their belief in the work Helpmann does.

**“To Square Holes, supporting Helpmann Academy is a no brainer. The fundamental reward is being a small part of helping amazing emerging artists get to the other side of the valley and hopefully prosper as artists. It’d be a sad South Australia without the support Helpmann provides.”**



# CREATIVE INNOVATOR PROGRAM

The Helpmann Academy Creative Innovator Program was devised to support emerging creative practitioners develop the entrepreneurial skills required to turn creative ideas into successful businesses. Taking inspiration from the technology sector, where incubators, labs and accelerator programs help to foster new business ideas, the program caters specifically to the creative industries.

Throughout 2021, Helpmann worked closely with the program participants to build confidence in their abilities to create and sustain a creative practice. The participants attended a series of workshops and masterclasses designed to support them to define their entrepreneurial business model, identify and reach their target market, develop their brand and deliver a professional pitch. They also each worked with an established Creative Mentor and business advisors from Perks Accountants and Wealth Advisors.

The program culminated in an opportunity to pitch to an esteemed panel for up to \$20,000 in seed funding. The results of the pitch presentations were revealed by South Australian Chief Entrepreneur, Andrew Nunn at a special event held at Stone and Chalk, Lot Fourteen.

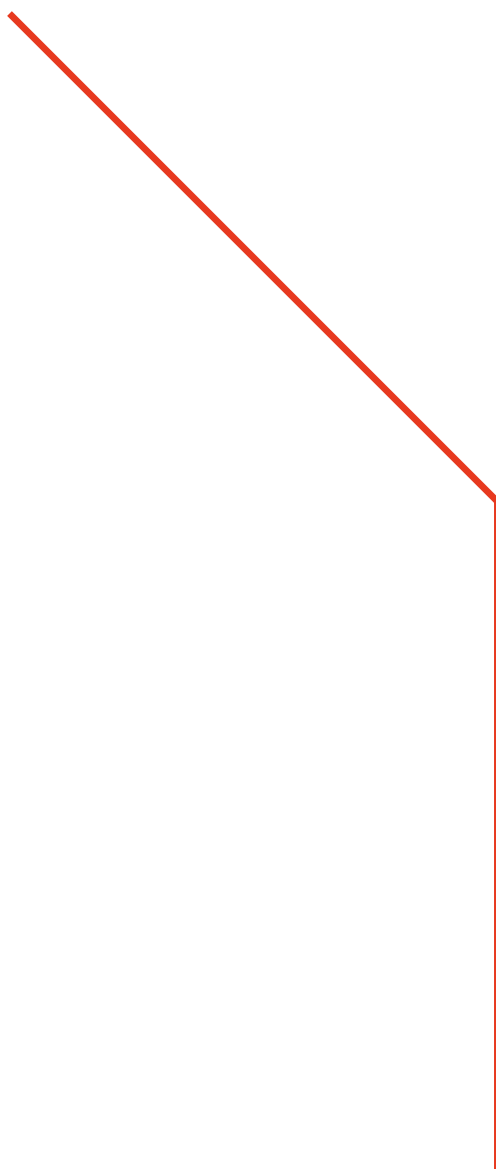
Flinders University graduate, **Lily Drummond** received \$5,000 in seed funding for her production company and educational organisation, Behind the Lens. Lily will also receive a placement with ThincLab at the University of Adelaide.

Flinders University graduates, **Alexander Salkicevic** and **Bryce Kraehenbuehl** received \$20,000 in seed funding for their film production business, Two Up Films. Bryce and Alex will also receive a placement at the Incubator Space at Flinders University New Venture Institute.

University of Adelaide graduate **Emily Bettison** received \$20,000 in seed funding for her vocal and music sample pack business, STAK. Emily will also receive a place in the Venture Catalyst Program at the University of South Australia's Innovation and Collaboration Centre.

"The Creative Innovator Program is an incredible initiative and was such a unique and valuable experience for me as a music producer and creative entrepreneur. Despite my years of study and experience in the creative industry, there were gaps in my knowledge regarding starting, managing, and growing a successful business. This opportunity was one full of education and support and has equipped me with the knowledge that I need to take the next step forward in my career. It was so freaking special and excellent!"

**Emily Bettison**





### The Creative Innovator Program participants

**Bryce Kraehenbuehl** and **Alexander Salkicevic** (Flinders University) are developing **Two Up Films**, a self-sustainable production company which produces micro budget Australian horror feature films for an international and domestic audience. Alexander and Bryce were mentored by Marcus Mckenzie from Cinemachè.

**Alice Reardon** (Flinders University) is building her video production company **Owl Film & Creative**, producing video content for local businesses and Not-For-Profits. Alice was mentored by Kirsty Stark of Epic Films.

**Anthony Robinson** (Flinders University) is developing a video game called **Tinker and Spell** with video game studio Golden Age. Anthony was mentored by Dan Thorsland from Flinders University.

**Emily Bettison** is developing **STAK**, a vocal and music sample pack company. Their mission is to support and empower music makers by providing them with high quality and inspiring royalty free musical content for them to use in their production. Emily was mentored by Tom Calvett of Black Octopus Sound.

**Erin Daniell** (Flinders University) is building an artist run, small scale metal studio **Erin Daniell Jewellery & Objects**. Erin was mentored by Jane Bowden from Zu Design and Lauren Crago from Solomon Street.

**Jasmin Watkins** and **Angelo Valdivia** (University of South Australia and University of Adelaide) are building their production company **Undecided Pear Productions** catering to arts organisations and educational institutions. Angelo and Jasmin were mentored by Tom Phillips from We Made a Thing Studios.

**Lily Drummond** (Flinders University) is developing **Behind the Lens**, a production company and educational organisation providing girls and young women with opportunities to engage with filmmaking. Lily Drummond was mentored by Sandy Cameron from Hedone Productions.

**Sandra Sok** (Flinders University) is building her fashion brand **Hue Aesthete**, focussing on dressing for self-expression through sustainable practices. Sandra was mentored by Penny Lim from ARA Experience.

**Tim Carlier** (Flinders University) is developing **Bloog**, a label/distribution service for alternative comedy in Adelaide. Tim was mentored by Max Miller from Aunty Donna.

“The Creative Innovator program was an amazing experience for Alex and myself. When we entered the course, we thought we would only be growing the corporate side of our video business. However, through the course we grew our business much quicker than we expected and are now building the creative side of our business, something we didn't think we'd be able to do for many more years.”

**Bryce Kraehenbuehl**



# SANDRA SOK

## HELPMANN ACADEMY CREATIVE INNOVATOR PROGRAM

In February 2021 the Helpmann Academy awarded 12 emerging creatives from a range of disciplines with a position in the pilot initiative of the Helpmann Academy Creative Innovator Program.

Generously supported by a group of philanthropic partners, donors, and Arts South Australia, Creative Innovator is a tailored program designed to support participants to develop their business model and hone their entrepreneurial mindset.

Each participant received \$2,000 in seed funding, matched one-on-one mentoring from an established arts practitioner, access to workshops and masterclasses delivered by leading business professionals, contact with a pool of industry experts and business advisors, access to a co-working space, as well as networking and pitching opportunities.

One of the participants was Sandra Sok, a Flinders University graduate and emerging fashion designer. Sandra was attracted to the program as she was ready to launch her couture and ready-to-wear label *Hue Aesthete* but didn't know where to start.

Sandra had come to fashion after trying her hand at many other creative pursuits.

"Like many artists, I am quite shy and have trouble putting myself out there. Despite this, I have big dreams. Helpmann Academy creates a nurturing environment for emerging artists, such as myself, to learn the fundamentals of business and explore our artistry. This gave me a huge boost in my journey as an artist and entrepreneur."

**"Self-expression is something I had always sought after throughout my creative journey. After many experiments in different creative industries, I finally found my creative voice in fashion."**

For Sandra, fashion is like any other artform – with the emerging designer gaining inspiration from the world around her.

**"Just like any other art form, there is always a story behind the artwork. In my eyes, fashion is no different. A huge amount of my inspiration comes from stories- whether that be personal stories or folklore/legend. To communicate the story and capture a specific mood, I use colour, shape, and psychology. I also really admire the artistic touch that tattoo artists and Japanese aesthetics have."**

While inspiration comes freely, Sandra was struggling with the business side of starting her own label. Which is where the Creative Innovator Program came in.

**"As a creative, it is difficult to make business decisions and network. The Helpmann Academy Creative Innovator Program has greatly assisted me with this for my brand, Hue Aesthete. The workshops and masterclasses throughout the program were informative and insightful. It was scheduled perfectly where I could put into practice what I learned in the workshop directly to my business with the help of my creative mentor."**

Sandra was matched with creative mentor Penny Lim, the Co-Founder and Head Designer at ARA Experience, a fashion tech start-up with the goal of providing modern brides with an alternative to traditional wedding dresses. According to Sandra it has been this relationship that has been the most beneficial part of the process.

**"The most useful part of the program so far is meeting my Creative mentor. She has been a great help in starting my business and sharing her knowledge, experiences, and connections. I've made so much progress in my business and built so much confidence in the span of the program. I couldn't have done that without my creative mentor."**



A model wearing one of Sandra's designs, photo by Peta Veronica



Sandra Sok by Alice Reardon

The Creative Innovator Program culminated in a special showcase event, where participants had the opportunity to pitch to an esteemed panel (Shark Tank style) for up to \$20,000 to launch their enterprise.

Sandra already has her focus firmly on the future of her brand, with her next steps meticulously planned out.

**"My next step would be to build my personal brand and a community that shares the same passion in dressing for self-expression. Ultimately, this fits into my business model as my goal is to develop close relationships with my customers. By understanding their story, I can create custom designs uniquely for them."**

Thanks to the Creative Innovator Program, Sandra feels that much closer to building that community and introducing her brand to the world.

**"Starting a business is not easy and can be a lonely journey, however, through the Creative Innovator Program I was able to voice out my doubts and struggles in a nurturing environment. The connections I've made during the program have given me so much confidence in the launch of my brand."**



# GRANTS



Sines (Matthew Gelling, Caitlyn Hearne, Zed Crawford, Caspar Hawksley and Lenny Regione)  
photo supplied by artist



Kate Bohunnis, photo by Sam Roberts

"The Creative Development Grant enabled me to get myself and my work interstate for a solo presentation, *fill me up and make me useful*, at STATION, Melbourne. Being supported during meaningful steps in your career affords artists the mental space and confidence to achieve ambitious outcomes."

**Kate Bohunnis**

## CREATIVE BOOST GRANTS

The Creative Boost Grants have been developed to provide emerging creatives with a quick boost of cash while dealing with the continuing impact of the pandemic on the arts industry.

Offered over 2 rounds in 2021, the Creative Boost Grants supported creatives with grants of up to \$1,000. The Creative Boost grants are generously supported by John Philips.

### Creative Boost Grant Recipients

#### Round 1

Susie Jane Althorp  
Amber Cronin  
Brianna Fantis  
Brendan Godfrey  
Sadie Humphrey  
Bryce Kraehenbuehl  
Philippa McAuliffe  
Oakey  
Bianca Pibworth  
Anna Revesz  
Melissa Shinn  
Brianna Speight

#### Round 2

Emily Bettison  
Brooke Bowering  
Simone Linder-Patton  
Alice March  
Alieshya Nicholls  
Ailish Nienhaus  
Melissa Pullinger  
Samantha Sharplin  
Ziva von der Borch  
Marissa Ziesing

## CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Offered over 2 rounds in 2021, the Creative Development Grants supported eligible emerging creatives with grants of up to \$5,000 in round 1 and \$3,000 in round 2, to kickstart new projects, research and develop ideas/new works or build skills, markets and creative practices.

### Creative Development Grant Recipients

#### Round 1

Arran Beattie  
Kate Bohunnis  
Claire Chittleborough  
Mark Curtis  
Matthew Gelling, Caitlyn Hearne, Zed Crawford, Caspar Hawksley and Lenny Regione  
Daniel Isler  
Flinders University's Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts) & (Honours) 2021 graduating class  
University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Jazz Performance 2021 graduating class  
Ellis Moseley  
University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Musical Theatre 2021 graduating class  
Frances Rogers

#### Round 2 was not known at time of printing

# DANIEL ISLER

2020 HELPMANN ACADEMY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TRUMPET PLAYER

2021 CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

2021 SONGS PARTICIPANT

"Helpmann is a really great first step for a lot of artists to get their projects and ideas off the ground. That support is the difference between people developing and making their art or not. What a loss for someone to not have that opportunity."



After a tough year for the music industry, emerging trumpeter Daniel Isler got creative using Helpmann Academy opportunities to raise the profile of his musical projects, Soylen Green and The Tervete Collective.

A budding trumpeter from the age of four, Daniel straddles both the world of jazz and hip hop through the two projects, which he started after graduating in 2020 from the University of Adelaide's Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance).

Daniel's post University introduction to full-time musician life occurred during the uncertainty of the pandemic. Part of an active jazz gigging community, Daniel was forced, along with the majority of musicians, to reassess his priorities. Enter the Helpmann Academy Creative Development Grant and the opportunity to head into the studio to record his first self-titled album with jazz quintet Soylen Green.

Isler says the opportunity came at just the right time, while also solidifying his aspirations for the future.

**"It's a really hard time right now on the grander scale with everything up in the air around live gigs. Because of that a lot of musicians have sort of tucked themselves away into the studio. As an emerging artist, I have less flexibility to be doing that without financial support. In this way, the Helpmann Academy have been super integral in me being able to take those next big steps in my music career, with funding to record my first ever album."**

The Creative Development Grant provided Isler with essential funds to record and master tracks at famed studio Wizard Tone. It also gave the band the opportunity to engage another artist in the production of the cover art for the record.

**"I found this art studio in Sydney called Studio A. They are a neurodiverse art studio, creating equal opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities in the arts, where in other situations they would have a bit more difficulty, potentially, being able to create and profit off their artworks. We have commissioned a work by visual artist Peter Dudding for the album cover, which has been completed and we are excited to see."**

In between preparations for the record, Daniel also took part in SONGS, a week-long song-writing intensive at Northern Sound System (NSS). A partnership between Helpmann Academy and NSS, SONGS paired leading South Australian music producers, emerging original artists, and graduates from the Elder Conservatorium of Music from 27 September to 1 October 2021 with the aim to write a song a day.

The SONGS model has been running at NSS for three years, and in this iteration, established producers including Godlands (EDM, Trap DJ/Producer), Adam Page and Nic Wilson (EAST AV3) were on hand to support emerging vocalists and musicians to move outside their comfort zones and musical styles whilst collaborating.





Daniel Isler performing with The Tervete Collective alongside rapper B.Z.A., photo by Kate Hayward

Isler says the strength of the program lies in carving out dedicated time to just play and create without a specific project in mind.

**“Sometimes in the jazz world, musicians can be a bit oriented on ‘When’s the gig? When’s the actual performance that we’re preparing for?’, whereas I think, we’re doing this creative week, SONGS, and we’re making music and there’s not necessarily a specific outcome, other than making amazing music and making these connections.”**

**“I really enjoyed just making the things and collaborating and getting into a studio without anything written on the board already. You have to put the pieces together as you go, which is so cool.**

**It’s made me realise again that I would love to do that, that process of finding, cutting out a week or whatever, and just like working with some people and putting together something and having something at the end of it to be really proud of because it’s just such a cool experience.”**

The program also allowed Isler to experience firsthand the creative process of some of South Australia’s most prolific musical producers.

**“Making connections with everyone was really cool, particularly people who are outside of my genre, or outside of my usual flow. Working with Godlands was exciting, to see her process and I am really into hip-hop stuff, so I was keen to work with Nic Wilson. It’s just super informative and interesting to be in the same room as people who were really good at what they do.”**

Looking to the future, Daniel hopes that Soylent Green will be able to hold a big event for the release of their album once it’s completed, but in the meantime will be focusing on creating new music with Tervete Collective – with an eye to apply for more Helpmann opportunities to make that dream a reality.

**“Helpmann has been pretty integral to a lot of the things that I’ve been doing. I think, just in terms of making me visualise the things that I want. Even outside of the specific grant proposals, it’s helped to solidify what I want generally for my career. It’s been super helpful in putting that together and knowing that there are avenues of support that are readily available and ripe for the taking for passionate artists like myself.”**

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Alicia Wakeling  
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