

IMPACT



Adelaide Festival Centre is located on Kurna Yarta.
We respect First Nations people around Australia and
acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians
of the Adelaide Plains. We honour their spiritual relationship
with their country and we do so in the spirit of reconciliation.



Adelaide Festival Centre continues to attract record audience numbers. In 2024, we welcomed over a million attendances, high levels of audience satisfaction and venue utilisation rates, and a positive financial result.

Adelaide Festival Centre's renowned festivals delivered outstanding results for audiences and artists alike. We'd like to congratulate the artistic leaders who brought their expertise to our beloved festivals, including:

- OzAsia Festival Artistic & Executive Producer Joon-Yee Kwok who celebrated record-breaking opening weekend attendances of over 106,000 in her first year curating the festival.
- Adelaide Guitar Festival Artistic Director Slava Grigoryan who marked his tenth year leading the festival.
- First Nations Programming Executive Celia Coulthard for our year-round programming celebrating First Nations cultures through recognition, representation, collaboration and action.
- New to the helm, Adelaide Cabaret Festival Artistic Director Virginia Gay, who we are lucky to have continuing for the 2025 Festival.

The social benefits and economic impact of the arts reach far and wide. Through our commitment to Arts For All, we have again achieved outstanding results: across our education programs, free visual arts and community events, year-round family and First Nations programming, as well as our dedication to our home companies and local emerging artists.

Recently, we announced that 2023, Adelaide Festival Centre's 50th Anniversary year, generated \$164m for South Australia and directly supported over 900 full time equivalent jobs.

In 2024, blockbuster musicals continued, with South Australian audiences out in force at Her Majesty's Theatre for *Elvis: A Musical Revolution* and *Grease*, and at Festival Theatre: *TINA the Musical*, and *Chicago*.

Our reputation as the 'go to' Australian cultural organisation for Asian engagement was affirmed this year through invitations and chairing roles that we undertake to connect Asian and Australian cultural organisations, alongside our significant and ongoing Asian intern program and our acclaimed Arts Leadership Program.

Winning a silver medal at the South Australian Tourism Awards in the Major Tourism Attraction category further demonstrates the impact and connection Adelaide Festival Centre makes here and abroad.

Let us take a moment to thank you for your unwavering commitment to Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation and for achieving results that are the envy of the cultural sector.

You have wholeheartedly embraced our program-led approach and individually and collectively brought joy and made life-changing contributions to the lives of many, including ours.

Thank you, sincerely.



**The Hon
Karlene Maywald**
Adelaide Festival Centre
Trust Chair



Douglas Gautier AM
Adelaide Festival Centre
CEO & Artistic Director

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation proudly celebrates its 25th anniversary and our most momentous year yet. Since 1999, we have supported numerous projects that bring inspiring arts experiences to our community, from funding the Festival Theatre's iconic curtain to the recent transformation of Her Majesty's Theatre. With the growth of the Foundation's endowment, we are focused on securing long-term support for Adelaide Festival Centre, ensuring it continues to serve as South Australia's cultural hub for future generations.

This year, we are thrilled to announce that, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have raised an incredible \$3.1 million and grown our endowment to \$5 million while also continuing to grow our annual funding to Adelaide Festival Centre for important projects to enable excellent programming, support emerging artists and expand audiences—a true milestone in our long-term vision. Our deepest gratitude goes to every donor who has embraced our journey, and a special thank you to the Pamela and Ian Wall Performing Arts Initiative, whose extraordinary \$1 million matching gift has helped make this our most successful year to date.

Together, we've supported enriching arts programs across South Australia, making it possible for thousands to experience the arts—from regional students experiencing their first performance to children and communities discovering hands-on arts workshops. Your support has empowered us to commission new works, support emerging artists, and provide creative opportunities in every corner of our state.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we thank you for sharing this journey with us. Your commitment to the arts makes all the difference, and, together, we are building a legacy that will inspire and connect generations to come.

Thank you for being part of our extraordinary story.



Miranda Starke
Adelaide Festival Centre
Foundation Chair



Abbie Taylor
Adelaide Festival Centre
Director of Philanthropy
and Corporate Partnerships



How you have made a difference

\$3,177,265

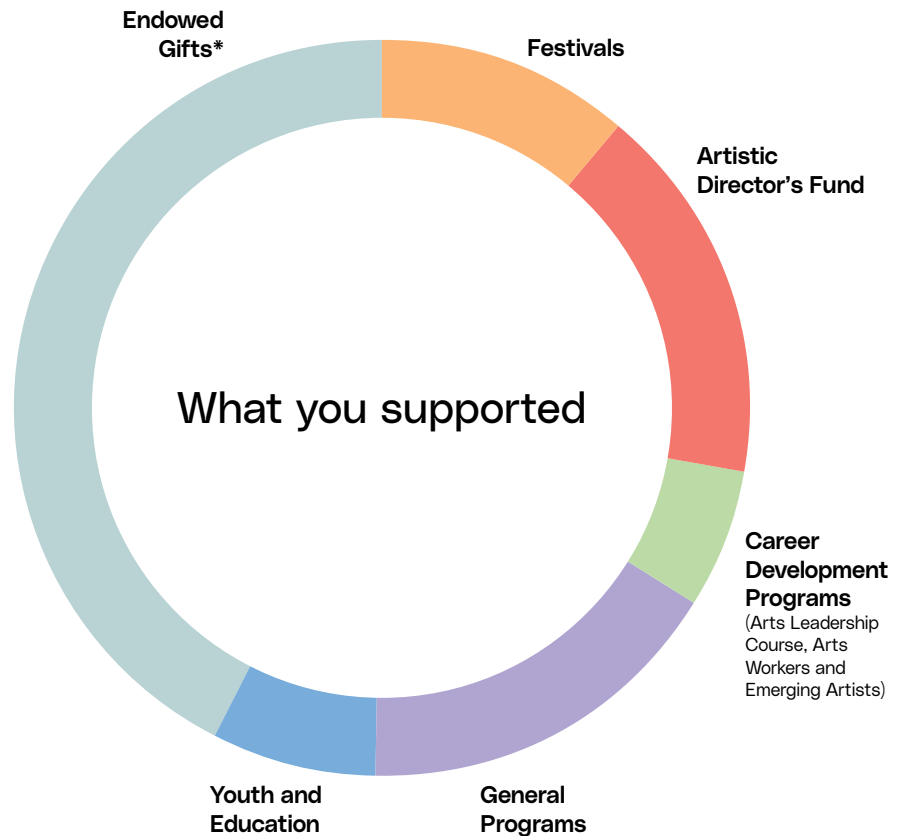
total income

\$5,000,000

endowment growth since 2021

2358

total number of donors



*An endowment is a gift in the form of a fund, which is established to provide sustainable funding in perpetuity.

Adelaide Festival Centre relies on passionate arts supporters like you to bring our programs to life. Every dollar of your tax-deductible donation goes directly into initiatives that make the performing arts more inclusive, vibrant, and accessible for everyone. Although we're publicly owned, we need to secure two-thirds of our funding independently, so community support is vital.

Your generosity fuels Arts For All, allowing us to share the magic of the arts with all South Australians—especially those who need it most. Thanks to your support, Adelaide Festival Centre, the Heart of the Arts in South Australia, can provide transformative, year-round experiences and drive growth and development across the arts sector, through:

- Access and Inclusion: Making the arts accessible for schools and communities in need.
- Education: Offering creative learning experiences for students and young people.
- Emerging Artists: Supporting the growth of new talent to ensure a vibrant future for the arts.
- Career Development: Providing arts professionals with training, mentorship, and educational opportunities to ensure sector growth overall.
- Commissioning New Work: Fuelling the creation and adaptation of performances that inspire audiences.
- Collections: Preserving, digitising, and showcasing the Performing Arts Collection.

Thank you for helping us make a real impact!



Take the Stage Drama Day 2024
Photo by Naomi Jellicoe

centrED

10,907

student attendances

Adelaide Festival Centre's centrED program offers cross-curricular arts experiences for South Australian students and teachers, connecting them directly with artists and world-class live performances.

1,234

teacher attendances

Each year, centrED curates a year-round program for schools, including:

- School matinees
- Workshops
- Artist in School programs
- Careers programs
- Tours
- Teacher professional learning

Equity of access is at the heart of centrED's mission. Run proudly in partnership with South Australia's Department for Education through the Outreach Education program and supported by additional project funding from Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, centrED offers 'equity' priced tickets to all centrED matinees and events. Free programs are also available for students facing disadvantage, with support for engagement across Adelaide's metropolitan area, as well as regional and remote areas through transport subsidies, online workshops, and regional programming.

A highlight of 2024 was the expansion of the centrED program into preschools through two new initiatives: *Life Maps*, where visual artist Jingwei Bu visited preschools and schools in partnership with Children's Artspace, and *Adelaide Guitar Festival in Preschools*, featuring Slava Grigoryan and Kelly Menhennett in several preschools. Both programs received an overwhelming number of applications, highlighting the demand for "in-preschool" programming. Plans are in place to continue bringing artists into preschools in the future.

"Access to, and involvement in, the arts has the power to ignite all areas of child development, from cognitive skills to social and emotional wellbeing. Early exposure to arts experiences enhances brain development, language acquisition, literacy and numeracy skills, and overall cognitive function. The centrED programme provides the opportunity for children to share in a common experience in a familiar environment where they feel safe and secure. What a pleasure it was to be part of this programme. The looks on the faces of the children was priceless."

Louise, Teacher, Alberton Preschool



Arts for All Ticket Subsidies

With funding from Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, over 500 students and teachers have received free tickets and travel through the Arts for All centrED School Subsidy Program. Secondary students from schools where students are experiencing significant disadvantage travelled to Adelaide Festival Centre to see productions such as *Chicago*, *Elvis – A Musical Revolution*, *Grease: The Musical* as well as *Julia* by State Theatre Company South Australia, *Fourteen* by Shake & Stir and *Little Murmur* by the international dance company, Aakash Odedra Company.

Many of these students had never seen a live production or visited an Adelaide Festival Centre venue. This program provides invaluable access to high-quality productions for students facing financial and geographical barriers.

"For many of my students, [Chicago] was their first experience of a musical or any form of live theatre. For some it was their first time at the Festival Theatre. Many of our students rarely visit the city. Theatre is at its most vibrant and valuable when it's for everyone. Theatre lets you see a person transform on stage, which makes the possibility of transformation for you seem possible. The experiential learning benefits for my students are extremely significant, and the positive impact on their wellbeing is undeniable."

Blair, Teacher, Compass Catholic Community

"[Grease the Musical] made me happy, I was going through a bit of a sad time in my life and seeing the performance made me feel a happy I have not felt for some time"

Student, Victor Harbor High School

"I really enjoyed the show and the opportunity of seeing it. I wouldn't of been able to see it without this opportunity as it costs money, and the travel. This experience was fun and amazing to watch them perform and just knowing that it would of took them a lot of practice and effort to create this amazing show."

Ella, Student, Para Hills High School

First Nations Contemporary Dance Workshops

In September, five schools with a high population of First Nations students attended *Contemporary Indigenous Dance Workshops* at Adelaide Festival Centre. Facilitated by South Australian dancers and sisters Caleena Sainsbury and Kirsty Williams, Year 7-10 students learned choreography to a track created by a First Nations musician. In their introduction, Caleena and Kirsty shared their own career paths, encouraging students to pursue dance to connect with their culture.

Pop Dance in Schools

Continuing centrED's tradition of in-school dance workshops during OzAsia Festival, Adelaide's Dopamin Studio visited five schools to run *Pop Dance* workshops for Junior Primary students. These engaging sessions taught moves inspired by popular global music groups.

Dopamin Studio's skilled and energetic instructors shared their passion for dance and K-Pop music with over 500 students in five days.

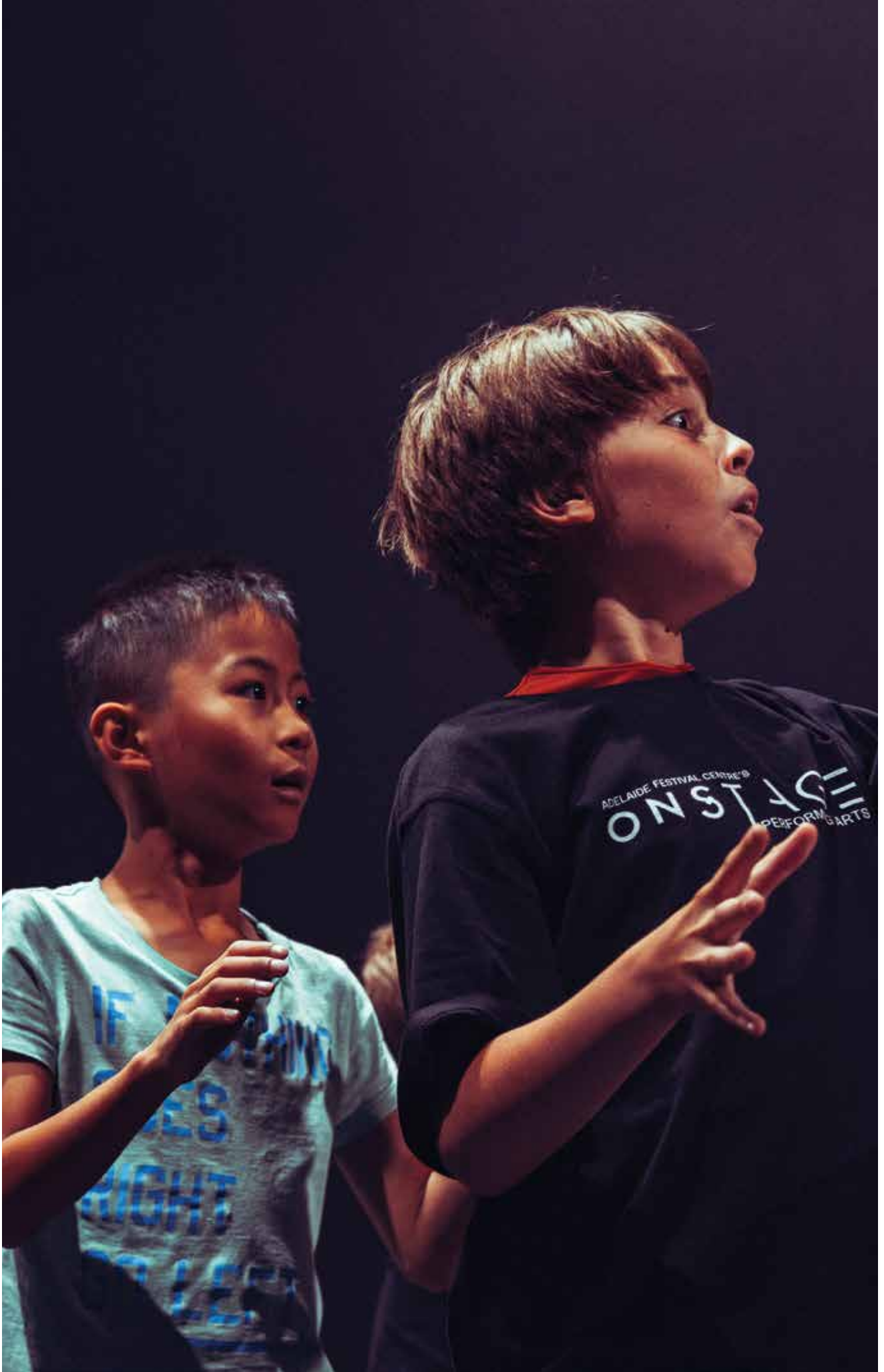
"I loved the K-Pop dancing because I got to go fast and slow. I used some soccer player actions in my movement and got to walk with my hands. I felt really good doing it"

Naseem - Year 1, Salisbury Downs Primary School

"The instructors who came to our school were fabulous! They were hip, fun and engaged all the students no matter what their background was. It was also really great for our female Asian students to meet such inspiring role models."

Tracy, Teacher, Parafield Gardens Primary School

These dance workshops were funded by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, in partnership with the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation.



On Stage holiday program
Photo by Kyahm Ross

On Stage

Performing Arts Program

180

children

Adelaide Festival Centre's On Stage holiday program provides opportunities for children to participate in performing arts learning facilitated by South Australia's best trainers.

10

scholarship recipients

In 2024, On Stage offered workshops including improvisation, circus, dance, and musical theatre. A new focus expanded On Stage's offerings to include hands-on opportunities for aspiring technical theatre professionals.

12

workshops

With support from Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, On Stage was proud to provide a number of scholarship positions for young people who would not normally have the opportunity to participate in arts learning due to financial constraints or living in a remote location.

Adelaide Bradley (Regional SA)

On Stage Scholarship Recipient

5-day Summer School Intensive – PLAY (8-12 years)

"Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to participate in this program as I live so far away from Adelaide. The opportunity to participate in the PLAY! program brought me many benefits. I was able to learn many performing arts skills in a practical setting. I learnt all about stage placement, how to project my voice in singing and how to show movement and expression through my body and face."

40

artists

On Stage Community Program

In 2024, the On Stage Community Program continued, presented in partnership with the City of Adelaide and Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation. On Stage Community is a free, weekly performing arts learning initiative for young people who have experienced out-of-home care and may not have had the opportunity to participate in the arts. The program provides a long-term experience focused on learning, participation, and confidence building in a supportive environment. By nurturing trust and honesty, it helps young people develop physical and psychological skills to enhance mental health and wellbeing. A strong commitment to First Nations children and cultural connection is a key priority.

"Being in the program has taught me so many valuable life lessons like confidence and the ability to show what I can do without the fear of judgement. I was able to be with people just like me and learn from them. I have been able to push almost all my fear of being different aside and recognise that being different is great and makes me who I want to be."

On Stage Community Participant

AFC Families Workshops

Proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, AFC Families Workshops is a free and low-cost program led by prominent South Australian Artists. The workshops provide immersive arts learning and participation opportunities for children and their families.

Sticker Making Workshops with Billie Justice Thompson

In January, over 100 families and young people participated across four lively sticker-making workshops with celebrated local illustrator Billie Justice Thompson at the Children's Artspace. Through a fun, three-step process, participants of all ages unleashed their creativity, crafting unique designs or using one of Billie's as inspiration. This special workshop series, part of the General Public School Holiday program, offered a hands-on, family-friendly art experience that encouraged budding illustrators to explore their artistic potential.

OUR YOUNG WORDS: Visual Literacy – A Picture Tells a Thousand Words with Charmaine Ledden Lewis

In September, as part of OUR MOB and OUR WORDS, Bundjalung artist and children's book illustrator Charmaine Ledden-Lewis led two interactive workshops in the Children's Artspace. Over 80 young participants and families explored the art of drawing with soft pastels, delving into imagination, interpretation, light, colour, and composition. Charmaine also introduced attendees to the world of bookmaking, emphasizing the importance of diversity and inclusion in picture books, with a focus on empowering young people to overcome self-doubt and embrace their creativity.

Painting and Culture with Iteka Ukarla Sanderson-Bromley

In September and October, young Adnyamathanha, Narungga, and Wangkangurru Yarluyandi artist Iteka Ukarla Sanderson-Bromley led six engaging painting workshops for families and young people during the school holidays. More than 120 participants joined these sessions, creating their own original artworks while learning about First Nations culture and identity in a hands-on, inspiring environment.



A Picture Tells a Thousand Words workshop with Charmaine Ledden Lewis. Photo by Danielle Sherman.

Children's Artspace

6

curated exhibitions

worked with

15

professional artists
and curators

exhibited artwork by

797

children and
young people

hosted

15,308

gallery visitors



Young Plant Carers,
Photo by Mel Bird, Teacher,
John Hartley School B-6.

Children's Artspace is a place for *all* people to come together, and enjoy art created by, with, and for children. The program showcases a year-round exhibition program of leading South Australian artists working with children, young people, and community to create new artwork and share stories. Since opening in early 2022, Children's Artspace has grown exponentially, enriching the cultural landscape and offering transformative experiences to artists and audiences alike.

Children's Artspace had its most impactful year yet in 2024. The gallery doubled its output, exceeded attendance records, and deepened community engagement through valuable partnerships with Adelaide Festival Centre's centrED, supported by the South Australian Department of Education, and wider Adelaide Festival Centre programming.

Stick Together with Billie Justice Thomson

Exploring themes of identity and ownership, the exhibition featured large-scale sculptural digital drawings by young artists, setting the tone for a year filled with creativity, play, and genuine engagement.

Young Plant Carers with Louise Flaherty

The exhibition presented almost 1,000 ink portraits and letters to native plant-life by children in years 1-2 and 6. The project encouraged young participants to observe and connect with native bush food plants, sparking a lasting interest in environmental stewardship and art.

"Seeing their works exhibited in Children's Artspace was an experience our learners will never forget."

Sam Anderson, Senior Leader: Innovative Pedagogies, Blair-Athol North B-6 School

"Louise Flaherty and all the team at Children's Artspace created a joyful and enriching experience for our students and staff. Thank you so much!"

Teresa Butler-Bowdon, Aboriginal Education Teacher, John Hartley School B-6

Our Home: SA Refugee Week Youth Poster Awards Exhibition 2024

A powerful partnership with the Australian Migrant Resource Centre, the exhibition depicted the refugee experience and offered messages of hope, giving voice to young people's stories through art.

Who Are We? with Iteka Ukarla and Temaana Yundu Sanderson-Bromley, co-curated by Jayda Wilson

Showcasing the work of 45 young South Australian Aboriginal artists, the exhibition featured painting on ceramics, silks and canvases, reflecting the diverse cultural heritage and language groups of First Nations artists.

Life Maps with Jingwei Bu

Presented during OzAsia Festival, the exhibition explored memory, movement, and ritual through performative mark-making with children aged 3 to 7 years old.

Making Space with Arlon Hall and Tutti Arts

The inaugural Tutti Artist in Residence program, culminated in two exhibitions of collaborative paintings by leading South Australian artists living with a disability, highlighting the importance of inclusion and visibility in the arts community.

These initiatives, alongside others throughout the year, have brought together artists of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and language groups, fostering a community of collaboration and creating unforgettable art experiences that will leave a lasting impact on all involved.

To learn more about how you can support the Children's Artspace program visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/collections/galleries/childrens-artspace or scan the QR code



TIX for ALL

73

performances

TIX for ALL Equity Ticketing Program

Adelaide Festival Centre's TIX for ALL initiative ensures that everyone, regardless of social or economic factors, can access and enjoy the arts.

The program offers a limited number of tickets for performances and programs at a reduced price or free across Adelaide Festival Centre's year-round programs and festivals, to those that would not otherwise be able to access them.

TIX for ALL invites organisations to register for low-cost or free tickets, ensuring equitable access to Adelaide Festival Centre performances, making the arts accessible to all.

772

attendances

42

organisations
registered

TIX for ALL “Night Out”

Premium Experience Program

Proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, the TIX for ALL “Night Out” Premium Experience Program offers free, exclusive performance packages for registered organisations. These packages provide South Australians experiencing disadvantage with the opportunity to enjoy the full VIP experience, including red carpet arrivals, event programs, and meet-and-greets with performers.

By opening doors to these memorable moments, the program promotes equitable access to Adelaide Festival Centre performances, helping to break down barriers for communities that are significantly underrepresented as patrons to Adelaide Festival Centre performances and events. These experiences not only reshape perceptions of accessibility and possibility but also foster a sense of belonging and self-confidence in an environment that is often considered out of reach.



Photo by Jessica Zeng



Elvis: A Musical Revolution

In April, with the generous support of David Venn Enterprises and Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, community groups across Adelaide were given the opportunity to attend *Elvis: A Musical Revolution*. On the special opening night performance at Her Majesty's Theatre, over 50 participants from community organisations, including Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA and Lolly Jar Circus, enjoyed the vibrant production.

"Thank you so much for tickets to the Elvis musical last night. It was quite the treat to get out and special to be thought of! And special thanks for TIX for ALL for these opportunities that make a real difference and create real opportunities for kids. Thanks again, you are all so wonderful in what you do."

Megs, Foster Carer

TINA – The Tina Turner Musical

In May, with support from TEG Dainty, a group of 20 young community members and emerging creatives were invited to enjoy a performance of *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical* at the Festival Theatre. The group toured the Festival Theatre foyers, experienced the spectacular musical production and participated in a Q&A with some of the cast and creative team after the show.

"It was my first experience at the Festival Theatre and to me it left a really good impression. I look forward to more experiences like this in the future. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to not only witness the show but to also gather firsthand insight from the performers."

Musa

Grease

During the October season of *Grease the Musical*, ten women from the Zahra Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation supporting women impacted by domestic abuse, enjoyed premium tickets and event programs for a special evening at Her Majesty's Theatre.

"Thank you! A bunch of very appreciative and spoilt women!!!"

The Zahra Foundation Partnerships Manager



Virginia Gay hosting the 2024 *Variety Gala* at Festival Theatre
Photo by Claudio Raschella

Adelaide Cabaret Festival

7-22 June 2024

79

shows

16

world premieres

3

Australian premieres

2

Australian exclusives

22

Adelaide premieres

15

Adelaide exclusives

227

artists from across
Australia, USA,
United Kingdom
and New Zealand

Celebrating its 24th year in 2024, Adelaide Cabaret Festival is the biggest cabaret festival in the world and a major event in the international and Australian arts calendar.

Unveiling her debut program as Artistic Director, award-winning Australian actor, writer, and personality Virginia Gay curated a program that showcased world-class singers and storytellers throughout 79 performances over 12 nights, including 16 world premieres and 22 Adelaide premieres by international artists from the USA, United Kingdom and New Zealand, plus Australia's best contemporary cabaret acts.

As well as festival favourites Reuben Kaye, Rhonda Burchmore, Mark Nadler and the annual 2024 Variety Gala, other program highlights included three-time Tony Award winner Patti LuPone, Dame Lisa Simone, Australian singer-songwriters Missy Higgins and Kate Miller-Heidke plus a special concert celebrating the legacy of Olivia Newton-John with David Campbell, Jess Hitchcock, Georgina Hopson and Christie Whelan Browne alongside Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

The festival also commissioned a brand-new work, *Life in Plastic*, by Christie Whelan Browne and Sheridan Harbinger, a deeply personal story of love, motherhood, feminism and a big blue dinosaur. Since its Adelaide Cabaret Festival debut, this bubblegum pop cabaret has played seasons in Melbourne and Brisbane and will play Sydney Festival in 2025. With thanks to the Frank Ford Commission, this year's recipient, South Australian artist Michelle Pearson, presented her show *Skinny*; an empowering fusion of pop, power ballads and biting comedy that encourages us to face the mirror and embrace our bodies for all they are.

The festival has and continues to be a platform for shows and performers who have achieved critical acclaim and featured world-renowned artists.

To learn more about how you can support Adelaide Cabaret Festival to showcase the best of the arts and share their amazing benefits with every South Australian visit cabaret.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate or scan the QR code.





A Transgender Woman on the Internet, Crying

Writer/performer, Cassie Hamilton finessed the work over five days before an in-development showcase that premiered her heart-thumping techno magnificence, colourfully colliding love, identity, furies, and the power of the trans community. Generously supported by Sam Harvey and the late Frank Ford AM, founder of Adelaide Cabaret Festival.

“The platform that Adelaide Cabaret Festival has provided this work has been invaluable in making companies pay attention and get excited about it as a prospective show for their seasons!”

“Over the week I managed to test out ideas on the floor and rigorously dramaturge the script, which led to a huge revamp of the work. I got to test out the story with an audience and shape the arc of the work based on what the audience responded well to. It was also an incredible opportunity to reach trans community and get them excited for the work as something that is for them!”

Cassie Hamilton

Bumbling

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation’s Artistic Director’s Fund supported the world premiere of a new work-in-progress by Isobel Marmion, Caitlin Ellen Moore, and Kidaan Zelleke. Developed with the support of inSPACE at Adelaide Festival Centre and Arts South Australia, and performed by Marmion, *BUMBLING* is a sincere and funny journey through a disastrous dating history, Adelaide’s nightlife, and the vanishing of bees.

“Being supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation to present work-in-progress showings of BUMBLING at Adelaide Cabaret Festival was hugely valuable to the trajectory of the work. We were able to dedicate time and funds specifically to the development of sound design, an aspect of the work that is truly integral to the story and the experience and then test and adjust with live audiences through our showings. The support we have received from Adelaide Festival Centre has been immensely valuable. This was our second development of BUMBLING at Adelaide Festival Centre (the first being an inSPACE residency in 2022), and the experience of being supported in an ongoing/returning capacity really demonstrates Adelaide Festival Centre’s commitment to uplifting South Australian artists and their careers.”

Isobel Marmion



Life in Plastic

Supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation's Artistic Director's Fund, *Life in Plastic* was the world premiere of a brand new bubblegum pop cabaret, written by Sheridan Harbinger and performed by Australian entertainer, Christie Whelan Browne. The showcase of Whelan Browne's powerful vocals featured disco hits, laugh-out-loud moments, and touching revelations.

Nathaniel O'Brien Class of Cabaret Scholarship 2024

The Nathaniel O'Brien Class of Cabaret Scholarship enables a regional student in years 10 or 11 the opportunity to take part in the Class of Cabaret program, which culminates in a performance outcome during Adelaide Cabaret Festival. The scholarship provides regional students with assistance for travel, accommodation, and private vocal tuition. This year's recipient was Ellen Kroehn from Waikerie High School.

"This is such a great opportunity to pursue music at a high level, to be treated like an artist and get an insight into the music industry. Being from a small country town, we don't get the chance to study musical theatre at school. This scholarship has enabled me to pursue my passion."

Ellen Kroehn



30 Under 30 tickets

Thanks to the generous support of Vili's Family Bakery, Adelaide Cabaret Festival was proud to provide 338 subsidised \$30 tickets to audiences under 30 years old, helping to build the next generation of cabaret enthusiasts.

These programs were proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation donors.

Top to bottom
Life in Plastic
Ellen Kroehn performing in *Class of Cabaret*
Photos by Claudio Raschella.



Blak Country
Photo by Kyahm Ross

Adelaide Guitar Festival

12–29 September 2024

14,500
total attendances

14
international artists

46
interstate artists

194
South Australian artists

150
community performers
aged between 9 – 75
years old.

Adelaide Guitar Festival, led by Artistic Director Slava Grigoryan hosts the world's guitarhead community in our UNESCO City of Music.

A celebration of the guitar in all its forms, offering an array of experiences for audiences, featuring regional roadshows, free and low-cost workshops, master classes, an instrument expo, artist talks, panel discussions, and programs for emerging musicians, as well as world-class ticketed events.

Adelaide Guitar Festival invites lovers, learners and luthiers, soloists and shredders, to bond over a shared passion for music and the guitar. The festival not only showcases exceptional talent and artistry of guitarists but also plays a crucial role in nurturing emerging musicians, providing a platform to grow, learn and connect with audiences.

2024 ticketed highlights included Spanish guitar legend Paco Peña with *Requiem for the Earth* (generously supported by Michael Abbott AO KC), *Travel Guide a Global Gathering* which featured Grigoryan Brothers, Chrystian Dozza and Xuefei Yang. *The Rolling Stones Review* featuring Tex Perkins, Adalita, Sarah McLeod and Steve Kilbey, *Jeff Lang: More Life, Blak Country* curated by Nancy Bates, Antoine Boyer and Yeore Kim from France, Carl Orr's *London Underground*, Dusty Lee Stephensen's *Dustyn*, Spain's Rafael Montilla, *The Princess Bride* in Concert and more.

To learn more about how you can help us hit the right chord and create unforgettable experiences for all, visit guitar.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate or scan the QR code





Nene Yokomura, Young Taek Jo, Slava Grigoryan and Sotiris Anathasiou
Photo by Kyahm Ross

Adelaide International Classical Guitar Competition

Adelaide Guitar Festival's International Classical Guitar Competition was this year made a member of the prestigious World Federation of International Music Competitions. In 2024, there were more than double the number of entries received in 2023, from the most diverse group of international applicants in the competition's history. Young Taek Jo from South Korea won, taking home \$10,000, a highly prized Jim Redgate guitar worth \$23,000 and will have the opportunity to perform at a future Adelaide Guitar Festival, proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation. Sotiris Anathasiou from Greece and Nene Yokomura from Japan took out second and third prize respectively.

"It was a thrill to win first prize at Adelaide International Classical Guitar Competition, I would like to thank the team who put the competition together and to all the talented competitors involved. I look forward to returning to Adelaide to perform at a future Adelaide Guitar Festival."

Young Taek Jo

Free Events

Presented with support from Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation's Artistic Director's Fund, Adelaide Guitar Festival's Free Events Program featured pop up performances by young and emerging guitarists, panel discussions with festival artists and guest speakers discussing everything from craft and style to creative ideas and pressing issues facing the industry.



Xuefei Yang
Photo by Claudio Raschella

Travel Guide: A Global Gathering

Supported by the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation's Artistic Director's Fund, *Travel Guide: A Global Gathering* took the audience on a journey around the world, guided by the guitar in all its glory. Renowned international artists such as China's pioneering maestra Xuefei Yang, Brazil's innovative Chrystian Dozza, and Australia's own Grigoryan Brothers, came together to deliver a truly unforgettable performance, hosted by ABC Classic's Megan Burslem. The concert opened with a spectacular performance by an 80-strong ensemble, formed by the Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra and Brisbane's Aurora Guitar Ensemble.



Kyarna Rose, On the Road, Kangaroo Island
Photo by Simon Rogers

Adelaide Guitar Festival – Outreach

Adelaide Guitar Festival went beyond Adelaide Festival Centre venues with *Guitars in Bars*, into healthcare and aged care settings with *Resonance* and to the regions with *On the Road*. *On The Road* in Kangaroo Island was held across 5 days presenting 22 performances by 17 artists, in 8 locations including 2 school visits, reaching more than 1,000 islanders.



Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra
Photo by Claudio Raschella

Winter School

Adelaide Guitar Festival ran week-long workshops across two streams, connecting passionate guitar players with some of the finest mentors in the country. The Blues and Roots stream focussed on chord progressions, song writing, collaborative development and blues techniques. The Adelaide Guitar Festival Orchestra stream honed participants' skills in classical techniques, ensemble playing and music reading development. Both programs culminated in performances at the 2024 Adelaide Guitar Festival, and were proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation and Sandy's Memorial Trust.

"I first heard about the Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School in 2022. Before the pandemic, I was lining up to attend a week-long guitar workshop in Port Townsend, USA. The idea of spending a week focusing on learning guitar skills was very attractive to me. I then heard about Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School Blues and Roots program - it was closer to home (I live in Hobart, Tasmania) and so much cheaper."

"I was not disappointed! So much so, I've attended every year since. It is five days of pure pleasure and learning. I've made lots of friends and my guitar skills have progressed enormously. Cal Williams is a passionate, knowledgeable tutor and great player."

"I even became a regular donor to Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation to help support Adelaide Guitar Festival. I'm already looking forward to the 2025 Winter School!"

Gordon Bradbury, Adelaide Guitar Festival Winter School attendee and Heart of the Arts donor.

Celebrating First Nations

78

artists

84

OUR MOB artworks

33

OUR YOUNG MOB artworks

2

solo exhibitions by
Samantha Gollan
and Ngapala Arts



OUR MOB and OUR YOUNG MOB

Adelaide Festival Centre's reconciliation vision is to celebrate First Nations cultures through recognition, representation, collaboration, and action.

OUR MOB 2024, alongside *OUR YOUNG MOB*, showcased the incredible talents of South Australian First Nations artists in a world-class exhibition spanning a diverse range of media. These exhibitions brought together emerging and established artists from across the state, celebrating their unique voices and fostering community connections through art.

This annual event continues to hold an essential space for reconciliation, demonstrating how art unites people through harmony, celebration, and shared stories. *OUR MOB* highlights the extraordinary diversity and quality of First Nations art in South Australia, providing opportunities to elevate careers and generate direct-to-artist sales.

In 2024, the following prizes were awarded:

- Don Dunstan Foundation Emerging Artist Prize: Awarded to Wirangu, Kokatha, Mirning Artist Jasmine Kerdel
- Trevor Nickolls Art Prize for OUR MOB: Awarded to Arabunna Elder Reginald Dodd OAM
- Trevor Nickolls Art Prize for OUR YOUNG MOB: Awarded to Adnyamathanha Artist Rosie Cruse, Narungga Artist Brianna Warrior and Mirning Artist Maya Baker
- Country Arts SA Professional Development Initiative: Awarded to Gudjula and Girramay Artist Kat Bell
- Ku Arts Award honouring the founding Chair, Inawinjti Williamson: Awarded to Ngarrindjeri Artist Belinda Wilson.

To learn more about how you can support opportunities and initiatives for First Nations creatives to produce, promote, and showcase their work, visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/support-our-first-nations-programs or scan the QR code





defi-Nations

Presented as part of Adelaide Festival Centre’s *OUR MOB* and *OUR WORDS* programs, and proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, *defi-Nations [first languages in verse]* is a powerful exhibition celebrating the complexity and nuance of Australia’s first languages. Through poetry and spoken word, the exhibition honoured over 250 languages and 800 dialects spoken on these lands since time immemorial, highlighting their rich significance and enduring knowledge systems.

In 2024, the exhibition featured poems by 11 First Nations writers from across the country, offering an accessible and inclusive space for audiences to engage with the beauty and intricacy of language in all its forms. This exhibition underscored the importance of sharing and preserving First Nations languages while exploring their role in storytelling, culture, and survival.

Jasmine Kerdel with her winning work *Interconnection*, Photo by Deadly Designs Media

OUR WORDS

This year’s event brought together First Nations poets, writers, and creatives from across South Australia, Australia, and the globe for a series of thought-provoking and inspiring conversations. From weaving words across oceans to celebrating award-winning fiction and diving into the art of theatre-making, *OUR WORDS 2024* explored storytelling in its many forms.

The event featured three panels, each offering unique perspectives. *WOVEN* connected acclaimed international artists Leanne Betasamosake Simpson and Joy Harjo with Australian poets Natalie Harkin and Ali Cobby Eckermann to celebrate the powerful gift of Indigenous reciprocity in the *Woven* anthology (Magabala Books 2024). *PRAISED* saw writer and academic Dr Eugenia Flynn in conversation with Stella Prize-winning author Alexis Wright about literary epics and the journey to international acclaim. *STAGED* brought together screen and stage writer Tracey Rigney and emerging South Australian playwrights Sonya Rankine, Jannali Jones, and Kyron Weetra to explore the creative process and the art of storytelling on stage.

This year’s *OUR WORDS* program offered a rich celebration of language, creativity, and the art of storytelling, leaving audiences inspired by the diversity and depth of First Nations voices.



inSPACE Development Program

10
creative
developments

48
artists

1,728
hours of artist
engagement

2024 marks 22 years of inSPACE, a platform dedicated to exploring what it means to support independent artists. Serving as an incubator for new, cutting-edge work, inSPACE showcases South Australia's most exciting and talented artists. It has expanded to support all art forms, from contemporary dance and theatre to experimental visual performance and hybrid arts. Through inSPACE creative developments, artists and independent companies are encouraged to take artistic risks, fostering innovation, experimentation, and collaboration.

In 2024, inSPACE welcomed ten groups into creative development, including renowned choreographers, performers, and researchers, Alison Currie and Ade Suharto, who used the residency to push the boundaries of their art by integrating historical footage, interviews, projection, and live performance in their latest work, *Maintain, Rest, Value: Room Rehearsing*.

"Expanding the development to 6 dancers allowed us to consider the intergenerational possibility of the project, which appeals to the sustainability of dance as a life-long pursuit. We are continuing to understand the relationship between movement / gesture and conversation / interview."

Alison Currie and Ade Suharto



Visual artist Jingwei Bu brought her cultural heritage into the contemporary Australian context through her innovative piece, *Bloody Ink Play*. A powerful exploration centred on the body, the work examined the delicate balance between stillness and movement. Inspired by Buddhist philosophy, the performance delved into life's cycles, touching on themes of endurance, resilience, repetition, and purpose.

"Artists with new ideas are like infants taking their first steps—wobbly, uncertain, and in need of care and nurturing to grow. This residency provided exactly that environment, making me feel safe and supported as I developed my durational performance, Bloody Ink Play. The team's relaxed approach, sense of humour, and expertise eased my initial hesitations and fears. Thanks to their support, my project has taken shape in ways I'm truly proud of. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and hope to collaborate more with this inspiring and warm team in the future!"

Jingwei Bu

To learn more about how you can help nurture leading and emerging creative talent visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/amplify-new-south-australian-voices or scan the QR code.



Top to bottom
Planet Stella by Zoë + Tim
Maintain, Rest, Value: Room Rehearsing by Alison Currie and Ade Suharto
 Photos by Tim Standing

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OzAsia Festival

24 October – 10 November 2024

over
200,000
total attendances

over
100
events

over
400
local, national and
international artists

7
world premieres

4
Australian premieres

9
Adelaide exclusives

OzAsia Festival is Australia's premier contemporary arts and culture festival engaging with Asia. Renowned for its bold and genre-defying program, the festival continues to captivate audiences and critics alike, year after year.

Spanning three vibrant weeks each spring, OzAsia Festival showcases the best in theatre, dance, music, visual arts, literature, cuisine, and cultural events from across Asia. Featuring talented artists from around the globe, it has become a must-see event on the arts calendar.

In 2024, OzAsia Festival celebrated its seventeenth year with over 200,000 attendances across more than 100 ticketed and free events. One of its most successful years yet, the festival featured over 400 local, national, and international artists from 12 countries, presenting seven world premieres, four Australian premieres, and nine Adelaide premieres.

An impressive 730 local community members shared their culture through performances and workshops at free community events. Sold-out ticketed shows included Parvyn's *Maujuda*, Dyan Tai's *Permaisuri*, Taylor Sheesh's *The Errors Tour*, Qais Essar, *The Special Comedy Comedy Special*, and Por Por's *Big Fat Surprise Wedding*.

Additional highlights included the much-loved Lucky Dumpling Market, Adelaide's favourite Asian food market featuring community performances and free live music from local, interstate, and international artists; stunning exhibitions at Festival Theatre Galleries and Nexus Arts venue windows and gallery; and a contemporary Asian cinema program in partnership with Adelaide Film Festival. AnimeGO! brought pop culture excitement to Festival Theatre Foyer, while the family-favourite Moon Lantern Trail delighted more than 44,000 attendees with its dazzling displays, including the debut of the spectacular Hong Kong Dragon lantern.

To discover how your support helps us celebrate vibrant cultures and create extraordinary arts experiences, visit ozasia.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate or scan the QR code.







Tanabata: Star Village

Dunstan Playhouse foyer was transformed into a galaxy of stars during OzAsia Festival. Visitors of all ages were invited to create origami and write wishes on tanzaku cards, which were then hung on a labyrinth of bamboo and woven materials. Inspired by the centuries-old Japanese star festival, *Tanabata: Star Village* was a free, interactive installation celebrating the story of two star-crossed lovers. Presented by ArtsPeople with Slow Art Collective and supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation.

Two Blood Creative Development

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation's Artistic Director's Fund supported the creative development of *Two Blood*, a new interdisciplinary work by Australian Dance Theatre and Kurinji. During OzAsia Festival, dancers and creatives took up residence at Adelaide Festival Centre, exploring the intersection of disciplines that shape this groundbreaking piece. The residency culminated in an artist talk, industry sharing and masterclass, offering valuable insights to dance students, graduates, and professionals. *Two Blood* is a poignant exploration of love, connection, and belonging, uncovering hidden stories from Australian history.

Scored in Silence and All Things at Once

In partnership with Playking Foundation, Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation was proud to support the presentation of *Scored in Silence* and the creative development of *All Things at Once*.

Scored in Silence was a powerful and provocative performance by Deaf artist Chisato Minamimura. Delving into the devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the production offered a fresh perspective through the lens of the Deaf experience. Minamimura's performance, combined with powerful animations, survivor stories, and innovative technology to reach a range of Deaf and hearing impaired people, created a thought-provoking and unforgettable theatrical experience.

During OzAsia Festival, six young actors and creatives from Hong Kong and Adelaide took over the Drama Centre Rehearsal Room for the creative development of *All Things at Once*. Together, they explored the brilliance, romance, love, and confusion of being young in a rapidly changing world. Telling their stories through live performance and MixTra-Cam, a multi-camera live broadcast app using smart phones and tablets, this new work will invite audiences to see through the eyes of an emerging generation navigating extraordinary times.



Top to bottom
Tanabata: Star Village. Photo by Tony Maniaty and ArtsPeople.
Scored in Silence. Photo by Xplorer Media



Author Vajra Chandrasekera, OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words.
Photo by Xplorer Media

OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words

8–10 November 2024

27

free sessions

43

speakers from Asia
and Australia

48

books introduced to
South Australian audiences

5

international writers

A forum centering Asian and Asian Australian voices in conversations about Australia's cultural engagement with Asia, OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words is an inspiring three-day extravaganza of big ideas and literary delights.

Curated by multi-award-winning writer and comedian Sami Shah, OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words 2024 delivered lively discussions and thought-provoking panels with celebrated authors and media personalities covering topics such as politics, memoir, romance, poetry, travel, fiction, food and more.

The largest gathering of Asian and Asian Australian writers and thinkers in the country, OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words 2024 featured an engaging program of writing, culture and creativity, presenting 27 free events from more than 43 Asian and Asian Australian creatives, including international guests Benjamin Chee and Wayne Rée from Singapore, Vajra Chandrasekera from Sri Lanka and South Korea's Bora Chung and Anton Hur.

OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words began with the *Opening Night Gala* – a celebration of the power of storytelling which featured Lawrence Leung, Qin Qin, Siang Lu, and many more, sharing their unique career journeys and the unexpected paths their lives have taken.

The much loved and hilarious *Closing Night Debate* also returned in 2024. Hosted by Sami Shah with comedians and authors including Jason Chong, Benjamin Law, Sarah Malik, Jennifer Wong debating the topic of Chinese Food vs Indian Food.

OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words is proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation in partnership with the Mahmood Martin Foundation.

To learn more about how you can help us explore ideas and challenge thinking through OzAsia Festival's Weekend of Words visit ozasia.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/support-weekend-of-words or scan the QR code.



Performing Arts Collection

78
new acquisitions

150
costumes assessed

50
costumes digitised

With support from Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, the Performing Arts Collection has made significant progress in preserving and promoting our rich theatrical heritage.

Throughout 2024, the team undertook an extensive survey of the drama costume collection. This meticulous process involved:

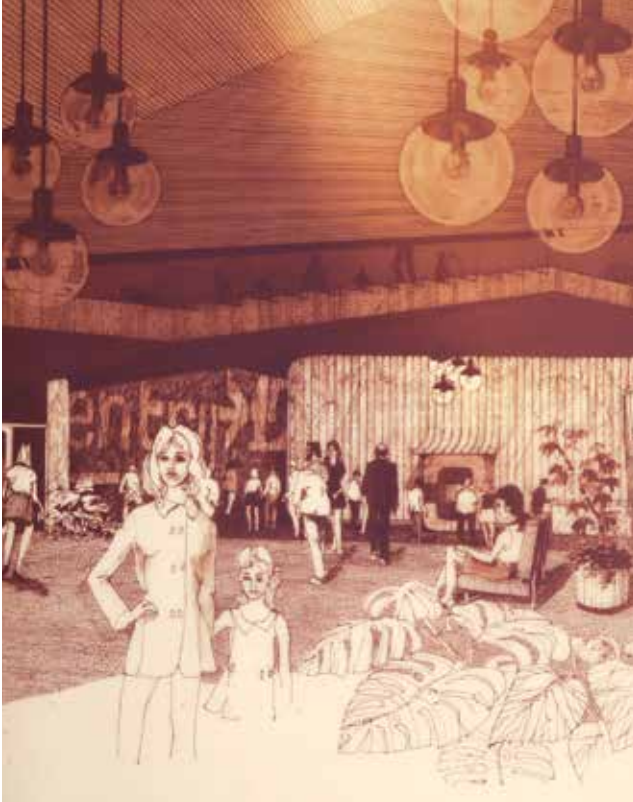
- Examining and assessing the condition of over 150 costumes.
- Improving storage and packing methods for optimal preservation.
- Tagging and photographing each item for accurate cataloguing.
- Conducting in-depth research to enhance catalogue entries in our Collection Management System.

To further showcase these treasured artefacts, a professional photography shoot was commissioned. More than 50 stunning costumes have been digitised, ready to inspire and delight audiences through exhibitions, the Performing Arts Collection website, and other Adelaide Festival Centre channels.

To find out more about how you can play a role in preserving and sharing South Australia's cultural heritage visit: adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/curators-collective or scan the QR code.



Private Lives costume 1997 (left), *King Lear* costume 2009 worn by Sarah Snook, Performing Arts Collection, Adelaide Festival Centre. Photographs by Sam Roberts courtesy Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Drama Collection Digitisation Grant 2023



Works of Art Collection

20
exhibitions
and projects

150
artists exhibited

1
new acquisition

Throughout Adelaide Festival Centre's buildings and grounds is our significant Works of Art Collection comprising of a diverse range of artworks, including paintings, sculptures, photography, textiles, and moving image works.

In 2024, exhibitions in Adelaide Festival Centre's galleries included:

- *By Barry: From David Dridan family collection*
- *ART FEST: Celebrating Adelaide Festival Centre's Works of Art Collection*
- *1974: Stage Two*
- *OUR MOB: Art by South Australian Aboriginal Artists 2024*
- *Reuniting Cargoes: Underwater Cultural Heritage from the Maritime Silk and Spice Route*
- *AMC South Australian Music Hall of Fame*
- *Adelaide Theatres Then and Now*
- *Wash and War: Ceramic series by Olive Bishop*
- *Life Maps by Jingwei Bu*
- *Wish you were here by Vivian Ho*
- *Hello, how am I? by Jessie Hui*
- *Saree Selections*

To find out more about our exhibitions and collections visit:
adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/collections



Moving Image Program

29

works presented

The evolving Moving Image Program at Adelaide Festival Centre displays large-scale digital artworks at the King William Road entrance to the Festival Theatre. Each artist's work screens for a month with submissions open to artists around the world.

36

artists

Thanks to support from Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, the focus was on South Australian artists from July to December 2024. Artworks presented included:

24

South Australian
artists

- *Act of Sorrow* – a collaboration between filmmaker David Foreman and Kangaroo Island artists Deb Sleeman, Ria Byass, and Janine Mackintosh.
- *Windsignalling Instrument No. 4* – a SALA award winning work by Judith Klavins.
- *On Film* – an animated short by Emma Hough Hobbs, selected for competition at SXSW Sydney 2023.
- *Verge* – by Adelaide Central School of Art graduate, Kelly Reynolds.
- *Shiver* – a poetry film by multidisciplinary artist Mark Niehus.
- *Summer Solstice* – an animated drawing by Sally Parnis, created over 15 consecutive hours on the banks of Karrawirra Pari / River Torrens.

Installation view of David Foreman, *Act of Sorrow*,
moving image (still), photographed by Sarah Northcott.

Arts Leadership Program

The second year of the Arts Leadership Program, supported by Richard Ryan AO and presented by Adelaide Festival Centre in collaboration with Flinders University and the Leaders Institute of South Australia, was a fully funded initiative that provided a comprehensive professional development experience for aspiring arts leaders. The four-day intensive offered participants tailored leadership guidance, curated workshops led by sector experts, and global strategic thinking for the sector. For the final two days of the program, participants joined the Flinders University International Symposium which was opened with a riveting speech by Kim Williams, Chair of Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Designed to cater to arts professionals from across Australia, New Zealand, and Asia, the Arts Leadership Program gave participants the opportunity to develop personalised leadership tools, gain essential knowledge about the arts sector, receive valuable peer support, and build a national and international network.

“The Arts Leadership Program was a transformative experience for me. It not only deepened my understanding of diverse cultures but also reignited my passion for continuous learning and self-improvement. The insights gained have inspired me to share my knowledge and actively contribute to strengthening the creative industry.”

Valine Mae Calmerin
Cultural Center of the Philippines

2024 Participants

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National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai

Brenda Ong
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Monique Hapgood
ActNow Theatre, Adelaide

Natalie Whalley
Clocktower Centre/ Moonee Valley City Council

Ruth Oakley
Monash University Performing Arts Centres (MPAC), Victoria

Shu Lin (Sasa) Hsiao
Resident Island Dance Theatre, Taiwan

Tak Man (Sasha) Yau
Hong Kong Arts Development Council

Tess Syme
Tutti Arts, South Australia

Valine Mae Calmerin
Cultural Center of the Philippines

Zhao Liang
School of Chinese Music and Arts, Adelaide



Group Photo – Arts Leadership Program
Photo by Shaun Li

Heart of the Arts: Finding joy in collective giving

“It gives me great joy to support the arts in South Australia. It helps me feel part of a positive social contribution. I am content in the knowledge that there are a great many individuals who as a collective make a difference even though their individual contributions are modest in nature.”

This collective spirit is what drives Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation’s regular giving program Heart of the Arts. By making regular contributions, people like Peter are building a sustainable future for the arts in South Australia.

Their regular donations are helping to remove barriers for school students to attend performances and arts experiences at Adelaide Festival Centre as well as supporting our TIX for ALL program, On Stage program and Arts for All programs.

“I truly believe that the arts in all their diversity, just like sports reflect the key aspects of a community and the people who make up that community. They anchor us, challenge us and delight us in a range of constantly evolving ways.” says Peter.

To learn more about setting up a regular donation through Heart of the Arts visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/heart-of-the-arts or scan the QR code.



“You will enjoy all art forms a little more with the pride that comes from a contribution to the society in which you live.”

Peter Emmerton, Heart of the Arts donor.



A Legacy of Love and Philanthropy for Adelaide's Arts Community

The John Bishop AO and Jean Bishop Fund

John and Jean Bishop shared a lifelong passion for the arts, a love that blossomed into decades of dedicated support for Adelaide's cultural life. John's distinguished career at the Institute of Chartered Accountants both locally and internationally and contributions to accounting standards reflect his commitment to excellence—qualities he now brings to the arts. His interest in the arts began at the Adelaide University Footlights Club and expanded as Board Member of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, and Chair of the Adelaide Festival earning him Honorary Life Membership and recognition as an Officer of The Order of Australia.

John's late wife, Jean, shared this passion, dedicating her time as Chair of the Friends of the Adelaide Festival (1984–1992) and fostering a vibrant community of arts enthusiasts. Her unwavering dedication played a vital role in the festival's success.

Through their joint passion, John seeks to honour Jean and create a lasting legacy by establishing an endowed fund at the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation.

"This endowment is a tribute to Jean's love for the arts and our belief in the power of creativity to transform lives. Through this fund, I hope to support the arts for generations, sharing with others the joy and enrichment we found together," he shares.

The John Bishop AO and Jean Bishop Fund ensures their impact will continue to enrich Adelaide's arts community. This fund honours their shared vision for a flourishing, accessible, and world-class cultural hub. Through John's transformative generosity, it celebrates Jean's legacy and builds a future where the arts can thrive, supported by a lasting commitment to love, dedication, and philanthropy.

To learn more about how you could shape the future of the arts with your visionary support visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate/major-gifts-and-endowments or scan the QR code



John Bishop AO and Jean Bishop



Andrew Bishop, Elizabeth Perry AM, Miranda Starke, Douglas Gautier AM, John Bishop AO, Barbara Pidcock, Jamie Bishop



Encore Bequest Program

Sam Harvey's lasting legacy

Sam Harvey's decision to leave a bequest to Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation reflects his deep belief in the transformative power of the arts, especially for younger generations.

"Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation provides wide support for the arts, particularly for the young. Any gift in will is a testament to one's belief in the special place that arts and creativity hold in shaping our culture."

Sam's bequest represents a long-term investment in Adelaide's cultural landscape. *"It is an opportunity to invest in our culture and future generations," he says. "It respects those who have given in the past, knowing that you will be helping later."*

In addition to his planned bequest, Sam continues to actively support Adelaide's arts sector. At the 2024 Adelaide Cabaret Festival, he championed rising artist Cassie Hamilton's new work, *A Transgender Woman on the Internet, Crying*. This support aligns with the legacy of Frank Ford AM, Sam's partner and the founder of Adelaide Cabaret Festival. As Sam notes, *"Frank's legacy continues in two ways – firstly, through his direct bequest to the Foundation supporting South Australian artists presenting their*

works at Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Secondly, as a result of his estate, I am able to continue his vision to help develop new talent at the festival."

Sam's motivation stems from a belief in the creativity inherent in all of us, especially the young: *"Adelaide Festival Centre offers opportunities for young people to engage with the creative arts. The arts help us understand and explore different worldviews."*

He sees Adelaide Festival Centre as a vital platform for artistic expression: *"It provides opportunities that would otherwise not be available. It's a great feeling supporting something that you believe in."*

Sam encourages others, where able, to consider similar support for the arts. *"We can all share in the joy now, knowing that through a Gift in Will this joy will be nurtured," he says. He also advises potential donors to "please let the Foundation know of your gift so you can be thanked in your lifetime."*

To find out more about leaving a bequest to Adelaide Festival Centre visit: adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate/bequests or scan the QR code



The Frank Ford Commission

Frank Ford, who passed away in 2018, was a legend in the Australian cabaret scene. As Adelaide Cabaret Festival's founder, he championed emerging artists, acting as a mentor to generations of Adelaide creatives. His passion for nurturing future talent lives on through the Frank Ford Commission, which in 2024 supported the presentation of *Skinny* a new work by South Australian artist Michelle Pearson.

"I am so grateful to have received the 2024 Frank Ford Commission to present my new cabaret work, (Skinny), at Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Not only did the funds immensely help with the development of the piece but the producing, marketing and production support provided through this commission was life changing. The debut of (Skinny) was an immense success and has many festivals around Australia, Edinburgh and NZ interested in programming the work and this would not have been possible without the commission. Frank Ford AM was truly ahead of his time and could see that by providing financial support to emerging cabaret artists in SA was a truly beautiful and significant promotion of South Australian talent. Adelaide Cabaret Festival is considered to be the best in the world and I would like to think that the Frank Ford Commission is a huge part of the success."

Michelle Pearson



Michelle Pearson in *Skinny*. Photo by Claudio Raschella

Trevor Nickolls Art Prizes

The 2024 Trevor Nickolls Art Prize for OUR MOB was awarded to Arabunna Elder Reginald Dodd OAM and three OUR YOUNG MOB winners; Adnyamathanha artist Rosie Cruse, Narungga artist Brianna Warrior and Mirning artist Maya Baker.

Uncle Reginald Dodd (known as Reg), is an Arabunna Elder and renowned cultural custodian and artist, who has dedicated his life to preserving the beauty and significance of his homeland. His artwork *Seeding Our Future* showcases the vital role of native plants in the Lake Eyre Basin, while his photography and cultural consulting work have contributed to a deeper appreciation of First Nations heritage and the importance of environmental stewardship.

The prestigious Trevor Nickolls Art Prizes, established by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, honour the legacy of renowned First Nations artist, Trevor Nickolls.

These initiatives are proudly supported by Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation, through our Bequest program – Encore.



Artwork by Maya Baker – *Horrors of Humanity* (detail)



Artwork by Reginald Dodd, – *Seeding Our Future*

Artistic Director's Fund

Each year, gifts to the Artistic Director's Fund support new programming initiatives envisioned by Artistic Director and CEO, Douglas Gautier AM, and the continued production of our bold and inclusive programs including Adelaide Cabaret Festival, OzAsia Festival, Adelaide Guitar Festival and DreamBIG Children's Festival, as well as First Nations and Arts for All programs.

In 2024 the fund supported the creative development and showcase of *Bumblin'*, a new work by Isobel Marmion and the Australian premiere of *Life in Plastic* by Christie Whelan Browne in the Adelaide Cabaret Festival; the spectacular *Travel Guide: A Global Gathering* and Adelaide Guitar Festival's Free Talks and community engagement program; plus the creative development and showcase of new production *Two Blood*, a partnership with Australian Dance Theatre as part of OzAsia Festival.

A big thank you to all of our Artistic Director's Fund donors. Without the support of this tremendous group of people we would not have been able to realise these meaningful projects.

In May 2024, on the Dunstan Playhouse Stage, Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation celebrated our Artistic Director's Fund Donors. Guests enjoyed an exclusive performance from Slava Grigoryan

and world-renowned guitarist Carl Orr, as well as an insightful discussion between Alex Sinclair and Australian playwright Yve Blake, about how her musical *FANGIRLS* got its start at Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Guests were treated to lunch from Out In The Paddock and wines from Coriole Vineyards.

We welcome new donors to this very special community, who are actively engaged in events and experiences throughout the year.

"We are proud to support Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation's Artistic Director's Fund, which plays a crucial role in fostering creativity and innovation in our city. The arts have an unparalleled ability to create joy, enhance cultural understanding, and contribute to the social and economic future of our State. Our involvement in this initiative reflects our commitment to strengthening our community and ensuring the success of our vibrant arts culture."
Karen Hayes AM DSJ and Graeme Hayes

To learn more about the Artistic Director's Fund donor circle visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/artistic-director-fund or scan the QR code.



Artistic Director's Fund Donors and guests at Adelaide Guitar Festival's Free Talk with Paco Pena.
Photo by Naomi Jellicoe



Left to right – top to bottom
 Leigh Sales, Anne and Paul Moroney (Fellows)
 Roger Lang (Patron) and Janet Hoopmann + and Annabel Crabb
 Annabel Crabb and Pamela McKee (Benefactor)
 Artistic Director's Fund Donors at our Long Lunch Event
 Ian Sargent (Trustee), Virginia Gay (Adelaide Cabaret Festival Artistic
 Director), Katherine Sargent (Trustee), Dr Evelyn Yap OAM (Trustee)
 and Alex Hanin (Trustee)
 Christina Crosby and Kathy Crosby (Trustee)
 Joan Lyons (Trustee), Annabel Crabb, Diana McLaurin (Trustee)
 Janet Crawford (Trustee), Joon-Yee Kwok (OzAsia Festival Artistic Director)
 Pam and Paul Barlow (Companions)
 Scott Brumfield (Trustee), Sheryn Foord (Companion) and Annabel Crabb

Graeme and Karen Hayes AM (Fellows)
 Jane Doyle OAM (Fellow), Heather Caddick (Benefactor),
 Kathryn House AM (Trustee)
 Sibby Sutherland (Trustee) and Thelma Pye (Fellow)
 Ann Irwin (Trustee), Virginia Gay (Adelaide Cabaret Festival Artistic Director)
 and Jan Davis AM (Fellow)
 Dr Pamela Wall OAM (Founder) and Wendy Puroell (Trustee)
 James Irwin and Peter Davis (Trustee)
 Slava Grigoryan (Adelaide Guitar Festival Artistic Director)
 and Carl Orr performing for guests
 Slava Grigoryan (Adelaide Guitar Festival Artistic Director)
 and Carl Orr performing for guests
 Photos by Naomi Jellicoe

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Vanguard

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Vanguard is a vibrant new community of young arts enthusiasts dedicated to helping shape the future of the arts in South Australia. Launched in November 2024, Vanguard brings together young professionals and next generation philanthropists, offering unique networking opportunities and the chance to connect with industry leaders.

In February 2025, our first presentation event will allow Vanguard donors to choose where their support is directed, making a direct impact on the projects they feel passionate about.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the Lang Family Foundation, Sheryn Foord, and Legh and Helen Davis for matching donations, doubling the impact of the group's support.

To learn more about Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Vanguard get in touch with the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation team (08) 8216 8816 or foundation@adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Vanguard Founding Donors

Ellen Ahrens	Yasmine Johnson
Riley Ahrens	Anna Lacey
Gemma Foord Antunes	Craig Linke
Nerida Foord Box	Stuart MacKenzie
Ally Aoukar	Alex McCarthy
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Reuben Gore	Abbie Taylor
Christina Gulliver	Ben Tucker
Sabrina Hanin	Anthea Wallace
Sacha Hanin	Luke White
Jelena Jacobs	Ryan Zacharjak
Mark Johnson	Lauren Zwaans

"By definition, Vanguard is a group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas. I did not hesitate to sign up. Vanguard allows me to connect in a new way with Adelaide Festival Centre, expanding my support and being at the forefront of innovation for the arts and cultural scene in SA. I look forward to sharing the first of our initiatives and outcomes in 2025."

Sarah Cirillo, Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation Vanguard founding donor





pg46

Tamara Nuske & Sarah Cirillo

pg47 Left to right - top to bottom

Peta St. Clair & Anna Lacey

Caprice Weir & Ben Tucker

Brendon & Phoebe Pitt

Kath Waterhouse & Stuart MacKenzie

Dasol Lee & Grant Giordano

Sabrina Hanin & Sacha Hanin

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Sam Diotallevi, Abbie Taylor, Olivia Power, Jasmin Shahin, Lauren Zwaans,

Miranda Starke & Ray Dahdah

Emily Cousins & Ryan Zacharjak

Photos by Naomi Jellicoe

Foundation Events

Supporters of Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation join a community of valued friends whose contributions have far-reaching effects. Throughout 2024 supporters were engaged in various events including; launch events, behind-the-scenes with our Exhibitions and Collections team, *Rollin' on the River* with Virginia Gay, a meet and greet with our inSPACE program, as well as opening nights, and our annual donor thank you event.



“My experiences with Adelaide Festival Centre, across its diverse array of programs including internationally acclaimed shows, have shown me the vital role of the arts in promoting wellbeing and inclusion. Program directors over time have curated initiatives that resonate deeply with communities, fostering cultural exchange and understanding. This, along with a desire to support local talent and ensure opportunities for homegrown artists, was at the heart of my decision to become a donor. I hope to contribute to continuing this important work, especially as Australia’s cultural landscape evolves.”

Dr Evelyn Yap OAM



Left to right – top to bottom
Dr Evelyn Yap OAM and Alex Hanin (Trustees)
Cain Cooke (Member)

David and Eyvette Turner (Member)
Jane Doyle OAM and Ian Doyle OAM (Fellows)
Photos by Naomi Jellicoe

“My favourite memory of Adelaide Festival Centre was when I was at school and we came and saw (The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe). I was blown away by the artists and the whole theatrical experience. Ever since, I’ve been completely hooked on stage shows and the theatre. I think it’s really important to make the arts more accessible to more people.”

Luke White



Left to right – top to bottom
 Brad Stubing (Vanguard) and Luke White (Vanguard)
 Dr Pamela Wall OAM (Founder) and Marjorie Fitz-Gerald OAM (Fellow)
 Lachie Bishop and Anna Lacey (Vanguard)
 Abbie Taylor (Member), Jim and Vizma Hazel (Trustees)

Lauren Zwaans (Vanguard) and Craig Linke (Vanguard)
 Carol Schueler and Norman Schueler OAM (Trustees)
 Rollin on the River guests at *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical*
 Photos by Naomi Jellicoe



“One of things Adelaide Festival Centre does best is to open minds, and since our return to Adelaide some 20 years ago, the Festival Centre has been one of the pillars of our social life. The diversity of programming it presents has enabled us to experience a wealth of emotions: joy, fun and laughter, with some being deeply personal. We see our support of the Foundation’s Arts for All program as an investment in the future of the arts by offering these same experiences to all - young or old, diversity of culture, and, through their outreach performances, audiences in the regions.”

Neil and Douglas Davidson-Freeman

Left to right – top to bottom
 Helen Davis (Benefactor) and Barbie Pidcock
 Adam and David Rocca (Vanguard)
 Angela Cook and Derek Brown (Members)

David Williams and Helen-Mary Williams (Heart of the Arts)
 Douglas and Neil Davidson-Freeman (Fellows)
 Photos by Naomi Jellicoe



Left to right - top to bottom
Steve Meldrum (Fellow) and Susan Hancock
Riley Ahrens (Vanguard) and Nick Edwards
Rosalind Neale (Member) and Janet Gould

Kathleen Gordon and Jennifer Hoskins
Bunty Parsons and Beth Parkins
Penny Johnson and Gary Douglas
Photos by Naomi Jellioce



pg52 Left to right – top to bottom
 Simon Nolan and Nicole Le Mesurier
 Lisa Bungey and Elaine Bungey (Member)
 Jennifer and Glenn Best (Members)

Sam Saunders (Vanguard) and Alex McCarthy (Vanguard)
 Keith Arnold (Member) and Susan Bishop
 Graham and Ellen Edmonds-Wilson (Members)
 Photos by Naomi Jellicoe

pg53 Left to right – top to bottom
 Leslie Thompson and Marojrie Fitz-Gerald OAM (Fellow)
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Olivia Power, Miranda Starke (Trustee), Dr Leon Pitchon (Patron)
 and Eva Varga
 Keith and Janet Crawford (Trustees)
 Photos by Naomi Jellicoe



Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation extends our sincerest gratitude to Coriole Vineyards for their generous sponsorship of the Foundation's events throughout 2024. By providing excellent South Australian wines, Coriole Vineyards has helped us create exceptional experiences that elevate our patrons' enjoyment. We thank them for their commitment to the arts and for helping us bring the magic to life.

Join the Heart of the Arts Regular Giving program and help us build a sustainable future for the arts in South Australia.

adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/heart-of-the-arts

foundation@adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

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Donations to Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation are 100% tax deductible and count towards your lifetime giving recognition total.



Leave your personal mark on Australian theatre history by 'naming' a seat in one of our prestigious theatres.



adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate/buy-a-seat

foundation@adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

08 8216 8816

Donations to Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation are 100% tax deductible and count towards your lifetime giving recognition total.



How you can help in 2025

With your support, we can remove barriers and share the arts with every corner of our community through our Arts for All and community engagement programs, champion the next generation of artists, and push boundaries through the creation of new works. How you can help:



Empower young minds.

Over 60% of South Australian children miss out on essential arts experiences*. Your support can provide opportunities for young minds to explore diverse perspectives, develop critical thinking skills, and ignite their imaginations.



Amplify new voices.

Many professional artists struggle to make a living**. You can help nurture emerging talent and provide our leading artists with the resources they need to thrive.



Create a vibrant future.

Your gift will help us continue to produce world-class performances, engage with diverse audiences, and foster groundbreaking creative developments.

Join us in shaping the future of the arts in South Australia.

Your generous donation, no matter the size, will make a significant impact. All gifts over \$2 are 100% tax deductible and count towards your lifetime giving recognition total.

Thank you for your support!

To donate, please visit adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au/donate or scan the QR code, or get in touch with the Adelaide Festival Centre Foundation team at foundation@adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au or 8216 8816



* Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021-22). Cultural and creative activities. ABS.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/cultural-and-creative-activities/2021-22>.

**Artists as Workers: An Economic Study of Professional Artists in Australia by David Throsby and Katya Petetskaya

Acknowledgments

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Yalumba

**Adelaide Festival Centre is the
Heart of the Arts in South Australia**

Established in 1973 and located on Kurna Yarta, Adelaide Festival Centre is Australia's first capital city arts venue and hosts more than one million people annually. As well as presenting theatre, dance, music, and exhibitions, Adelaide Festival Centre creates diverse festivals to inspire, challenge, educate, and entertain.

