

# ASSEMBLY 197 TASMANIA'S LIVE ARTS CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the palawa people who have danced and made art across lutruwita for more than 60,000 years and whose lands were never ceded.

We pay tribute to their Elders past and present, and to other Elders of First Nations.

Assembly 197 is a meeting place of people, art, and communities. Our home is in the heart of Launceston, located at the confluence of the laykila/North Esk, plipatumila/South Esk and kanamaluka/Tamar rivers.

Assembly 197 is fortunate to make, perform and share art. It is a privilege that we are able to bring the community together on this beautiful country.

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**NO ARTIST LEAVES UNCHANGED**

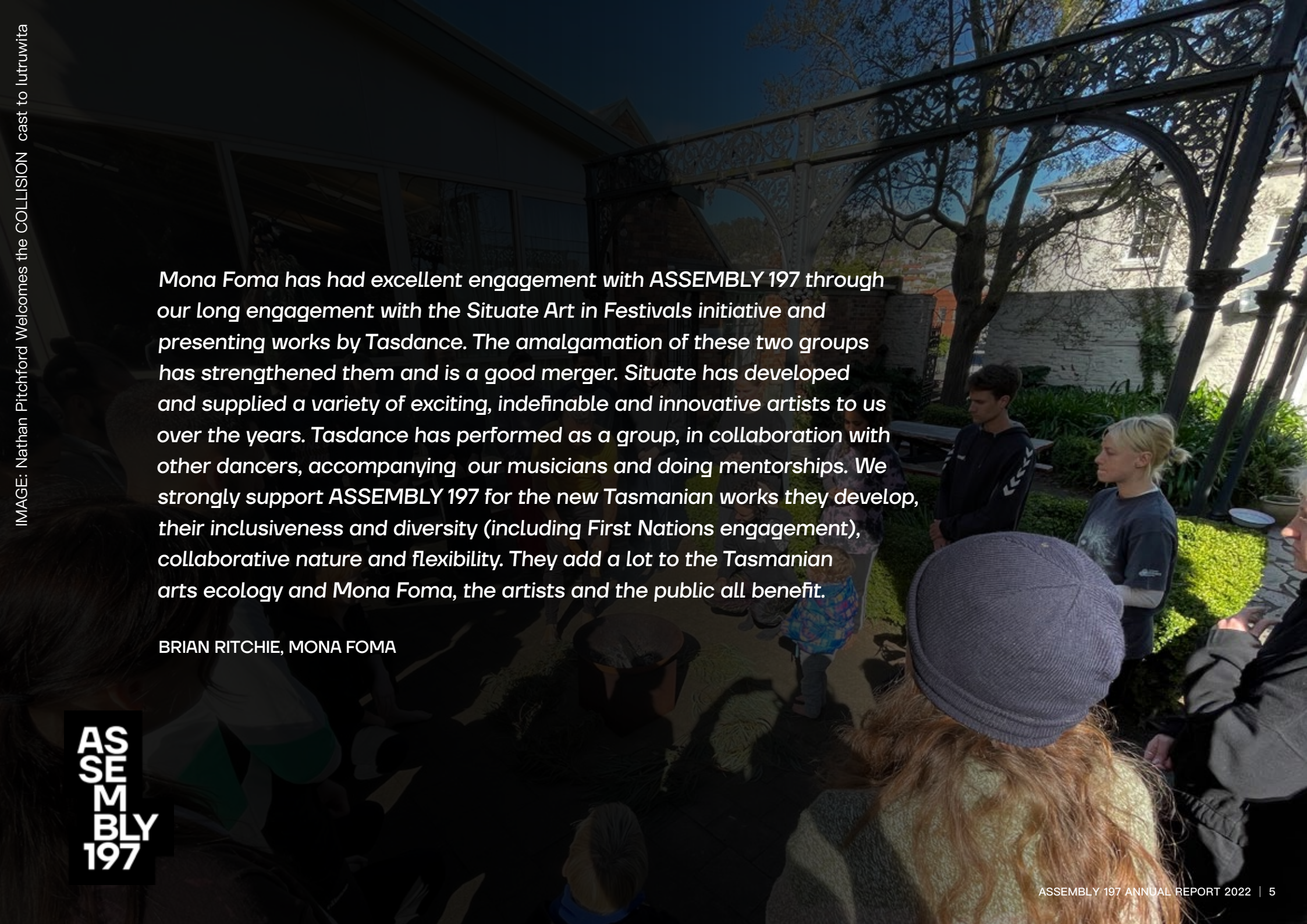
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# Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENT	02
WHO WE ARE	06
VISION, MISSION & VALUES	07
OUR PEOPLE	08
OUR PARTNERS	10
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	12
CO-DIRECTORS REPORT	13
COVID RESPONSE	14
SEASONS	15
DEVELOPMENT	19
ARTERY	25
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	28
SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	31
ORGANISATION INTEGRITY	36
STRATEGIC PILLARS + ACTIVITY STATEMENT	38



Mona Foma has had excellent engagement with ASSEMBLY 197 through our long engagement with the Situate Art in Festivals initiative and presenting works by Tasdance. The amalgamation of these two groups has strengthened them and is a good merger. Situate has developed and supplied a variety of exciting, indefinable and innovative artists to us over the years. Tasdance has performed as a group, in collaboration with other dancers, accompanying our musicians and doing mentorships. We strongly support ASSEMBLY 197 for the new Tasmanian works they develop, their inclusiveness and diversity (including First Nations engagement), collaborative nature and flexibility. They add a lot to the Tasmanian arts ecology and Mona Foma, the artists and the public all benefit.

BRIAN RITCHIE, MONA FOMA

# WHO WE ARE

ASSEMBLY 197 brings in a new era of art making, creating a fresh cultural asset and burst of energy in the north and throughout Tasmania. Together, we will transform live arts for and with Tasmanian communities, from our home at 197 Wellington Street, Launceston.

ASSEMBLY 197 is led by Adam Wheeler and Emma Porteus, two dedicated and passionate Tasmanian creative professionals, working with a cohort of exceptional artists from across Australia to create work, interrogate practice, and to engage and inspire communities.

ASSEMBLY 197 is the home of TASDANCE (the company), SITUATE (the program), and ARTERY (the outreach).

TASDANCE fuses outstanding dance artists with innovative artists from other disciplines to create multifaceted contemporary dance. We know bodies love to move and we passionately engage communities in dance making around Tasmania and beyond.

SITUATE places artists in conversations and situations that encourage them to think broadly and boldly; a space for investigation of practice — how it connects to place, artists, audience, and community.

ARTERY believes everyone should have the ability to experience art, its bespoke programs are designed to reach every corner of Tasmania.

ASSEMBLY 197 knows we make great art when we assemble.

ASSEMBLY 197 is resoundingly Tasmanian and proud to be regional.





# VISION

ASSEMBLY 197 - a bold arts precinct where transformative art is created, experienced, and shared.

# MISSION

Great art is made and shared when we assemble. ASSEMBLY 197 is an inclusive site for transforming artists, arts practice, and audiences by working with inquisitive artists in regional practice and connecting with curious audiences and creative communities.

# GUIDING VALUES

## OUR COMMITMENT:

At ASSEMBLY 197 we commit to DEEP LISTENING, DEEP THINKING and DEEP LEARNING. We do this by asking questions and being guided through respectful engagement.

## OUR PROMISE:

We promise to work and learn together, to build and celebrate shared creativity.

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# OUR PEOPLE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT:** Emeritus Prof. Peter Matthews

## VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Simon McKenzie, Pat Chilvers

**SECRETARY:** Kai Beyerle

**TREASURER:** Pat Chilvers

**DIRECTORS:** Alison Jales

Ben Lovitt

Denise Robinson

Adrienne Picone, Trish Dixon (Dunn)

## EXECUTIVE

**Co-Creative Director + Tasdance**

**Artistic Director:** Adam Wheeler

**Co-Creative Director + Situate**

**Executive Producer:** Emma Porteus

## STAFF

### FINANCE + GOVERNANCE

**MANAGER:** Martin Tunley

### ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS:

Samantha Lester + Bec (Jones)

Dundas

**ARTERY COORDINATORS:** Samantha

Lester + Gabriel Comerford

**PUBLIC PROGRAM COORDINATOR:**

Shannon Douglas (Until February)

**PUBLIC PROGRAM SUPERVISOR:**

Cat Kerr

**GENERATE GC PRODUCER:** Rebecca

Ross

**SITUATE 22-23 PRODUCER:** Mary

Scott

## TASDANCE CREATIVE ASSOCIATES

Gabriel Comerford

Jenni Large

Amber McCartney

Kyall Shanks

Sinsa Mansell

## PUBLIC PROGRAM TEACHERS

Rikki Mace

Alison Winn

Indea Quinn

Bernita Moore

Freyja Wild

Conor Wild

## TASDANCE COLLABORATING

**ARTISTS,  
CHOREOGRAPHERS, +  
PERFORMERS**

Sinsa Mansell

Jamie Graham

Harley Jac Mansell

Janice Ross

Niara Mansell

Nathan Pitchford

Angela Barnard

Jo Lloyd

Frankie Snowdon

Madeleine Krenek

Keia McGrady

David Prakash

Sophie Gargan

Amelia Jean O'Leary

Oliver Savariego

Maddy Bowman

Eloise Wright

Nikki Tarling

Isabella Stone

Mara Gallagher

Emily Laursen

Caitlin Mewett

Mason Kelly

Emma Riches

Thomas Woodman

Rachel Mackie

Alex Dobson

Jenn ma

Feras Shaheen

Samakshi Sidu

## SITUATE ARTISTS

Clara Martin

Priscilla Beck

Alvin Darcy

India Collins

Gabriel Comerford

Isabella Foster

Laura Gillam

Samantha Lester

Chris Ng

Edith Perrenot

Lex Randolph

Bec Stevens

HK Vermeulen





# OUR PEOPLE



## SITUATE AND GENERATE GC PROVOCATEURS

Mary Scott  
Loren Kronemyer  
Sinsa Mansell  
Lucy Bleach

Theia Connell  
Lana Nguyen  
Lara Thoms  
Chris Williams  
Laurence English  
Thomas ES Kelly  
Jamie Lewis  
Tristan Meecham  
AHA Ensemble  
Jesse French  
Leisel Zink

## ARTERY ARTISTS

Gabriel Comerford  
Samantha Lester  
Bec (Jones) Dundas  
Keia McGrady

## IN-HOUSE ORGANISATIONS

Stompin  
Mudlark  
Rooke

## COMPANIES + FESTIVALS

pakana kanaplila  
Stompin  
Mudlark  
Rooke  
Second Echo Ensemble

Mona Foma  
Ten Days on the Island  
Junction Arts Festival

## GENERATE GC ARTISTS

CJ Anderson  
Darcie Boatswain  
Grace Dewer  
Ella Fitzgerald  
Sophia Franks  
Kathy Mackey  
Jordan Wilkinson  
Laurie Oxenford

## PRODUCTION + LIGHTING

DESIGN:  
Chris Jackson (IO Performance)

## MUSIC & SOUND:

Dewayne Everettsmith  
James Mangohig  
Duane Morrison

## COLLISION SCULPTURE

Pete Mattila

## AUGMENTED REALITY

ARTISTS:  
Darryl Rogers (Soma Lumia)  
Troy Merritt (Soma Lumia)

## COSTUME

Andrew Treloar  
Michelle Maynard

## VIDEOGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Mel de Ruyter  
Michael O'Neill  
Gabriel Comerford  
Bruce Moyle

## AUSPICE PARTNERS

Jenni Large  
Jen Brown  
Graeme Murphy  
Janet Vernon

## LIFE MEMBER

Maggie Bartkevicius-James  
(deceased 2019)

# OUR PARTNERS

ASSEMBLY 197 partnerships are intrinsic to realising our artistic and financial objectives. We will continue to increase the number and diversity of partnerships developed over the last 40 years.

## PRESENTING PARTNERS

Ten Days on the Island, Mona Foma, Junction Arts Festival, Metro Arts.

## SPONSOR PARTNERS (in-kind)

Jansz, Havilah, Foot & Playsted, Yoga Loft, 2insight, and Launceston City Council.

## COLLABORATING PARTNERS (Artistic)

IO Performance, pakana kanaplila, GUTS Dance (NT), Skinnyfish Music (NT), Soma Lumia, VJAM, Stompin, Mudlark Theatre, Rooke, The Smith Family, Watch This Space (NT), Punctum (VIC), NorthSite (QLD), and DADAA (WA)

## FUNDING PARTNERS

Local: City of Gold Coast

State: Arts Tasmania, Tasmanian Community Fund, WD Booth

Commonwealth: Australia Council for the Arts, Indigenous Arts & Language Program, The Smith Family, Festivals Australia, and the RISE fund.

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197



IMAGE: ASSEMBLY 197, MUDLARK, ROOKE | BIG HEAT

MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS



SPONSOR PARTNERS



FUNDING + PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS



COLLABORATING PARTNERS



PRESENTING PARTNERS



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ASSEMBLY 197 (A197) — an artistic amalgamation of Tasdance and Situate blended with Artery, our youth program — was launched in Dec 2021. This bold approach has intrigued many in the arts community of Tasmania and beyond.

The Annual Report sets out the many projects, programs, performances, installations and events A197 presented in 2022 under the confident leadership of Co-Creative Directors Emma Porteus and Adam Wheeler.

The Board has been delighted by the progress in A197's first full year of operations. As anticipated Tasdance, Situate and Artery strengthened their individual identities augmented by inventive artistic overlaps, embracing artists from many disciplines from across the state and country as they journey to 197 Wellington Street.

Our studio set in gracious gardens is now also home to colleague arts organisations from Launceston. Our base is a vibrant northern hub of arts activity in Tasmania.

A197 celebrates and welcomes cultural collaboration with artists, with other arts organisations, with communities, and with government and other supporters.

We thank Arts Tasmania and the Australia Council for their continued support as well as The Smith Family, The Indigenous Language and Arts Program, Tasmanian Community Fund, WD Booth, The RISE FUND, City of Gold Coast, and our sponsor partners.

Our Annual Statements demonstrate A197's financial position and performance are very good despite the complex circumstances presented by a persistent pandemic. These excellent results are a testament to resolute planning, cultural imagination, management discipline, and assured oversight by the board.

We look forward to another exciting year as A197 — Tasdance, Situate, Artery — consolidates its position as a cultural leader in Tasmania.

Please join us on this journey — Peter Matthews

# CO-CREATIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Twenty twenty-two was a year of consolidation, relationship-building and exciting presentation outcomes. The year was led by focusing on our new values – DEEP LISTENING, DEEP THINKING, DEEP LEARNING.

The year began with yet another COVID challenge with the postponement of *TUYLUPA* in Mona Foma. However, this was navigated with grace and the steadfast support of the Mona Foma team.

We welcomed Mudlark Theatre and Rooke Circus into our home as we established the In-House Orgs partnerships, a vital new step in reimagining our facilities as a Live Arts Centre. We also launched a new sharing program called SESSIONS. The Launceston Community was invited to experience works in early development and hear from the artists making them.

A particular ASSEMBLY 197 highlight was the beginning of a new work, *BIG HEAT*. Involving Tasdance, Mudlark, Rooke, and the Tasmanian Championship Wrestling, this multi-art form production signifies a new era of art making in Launceston.

In 2022 we presented *COLLISION* at Junction Arts Festival, our biggest ensemble work to date with. Twenty recent graduates and artists from the mainland joined the Tasdance Creative Associates and GUTS Dance (NT) to bring the Launceston iteration of Jo Lloyd's work to life. *TUYLUPA* programmed for Mona Foma was postponed until October. The sell-out premiere season was met with rave reviews, becoming an integral project to the palawa community and Tasmania.

SITUATE 22-23 welcomed 12 new artists working with four partner organisations across regional Australia. Northsite (QLD), Punctum (VIC), DADAA (WA), and Watch This Space (NT) came on board to help artists from their regions participate in the program and start to develop new work. The artists participated in the Arts Labs in the first part of 2022, and have now moved into the R&D phase of the program, with several works set to premiere in 2023. The Generate GC Program, under the leadership of Rebecca Ross, hosted eight new presentations across 2022, please see the Generate GC page for more information.

In 2022, we signed a new three-year agreement with The Smith Family allowing our Artery team to visit schools in week-long intensives. This program was augmented by the development of a new *DW4S* (Dance Works for Schools) project set to tour schools in 2023 and another successful year for the Public Program offering new classes in circus and acrobatics.

We opened our doors to numerous new art forms being explored in our studio, house, and garden. We employed over 60 artists in 2022, across 16 projects and programs. Several hundred professional, emerging, young, and community artists danced, played music, performed scenes, and expanded their practice in ways never thought possible.

Thank you to our committed board for supporting this new vision, to our funding and sponsor partners, and a huge shout out to the passionate and dedicated artists who continue to go on this journey with us – Adam + Emma

# OUR COVID RESPONSE, RECOVERY IN 2022, & BEYOND

ASSEMBLY 197's response to COVID in 2022 demonstrates our organisational resilience, cultural imagination and artistic ingenuity.

In response to the impact of COVID on traditional arts spaces (theatres, galleries and live venues), our 2022 program encouraged artists to work within and in response to natural and urban environments while consistent with public health directions.

The ASSEMBLY 197 board continued the COVID response fund for the organisation, allowing the executive to respond to COVID situations as they arose. COVID safe practices were employed across all programs and we continued to follow government COVID advice.

COVID unfortunately impacted the full season of tuylupa at Mona Foma in February 2022. The tuylupa team felt fortunate to have the support of Mona Foma to postpone the premiere of the work until October in 2022.

ASSEMBLY 197 thanks its staff, artists, audiences, funders and sponsors, and many others for their support during a very complex set of circumstances.

# SEASONS



IMAGE: Nick Hanson – COLLISION at JUNCTION

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# FAUX MO

## JENNI LARGE + COLLABORATORS

JANUARY 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jenni Large

PERFORMERS: Kyall Shanks,  
Gabriel Comerford, Keia  
McGrady, and Amber McCartney

MONA FOMA/FAUX MO – Albert Hall, Hobart  
City Hall

A durational performance focused on exploring  
the idea of the family inside the house.

AUDIENCE: 4500

SUPPORTED BY: Mona Foma, Arts Tasmania

IMAGE: Adam Wheeler – FAUX MO



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# COLLISION

## JO LLOYD, ANDREW TRELOAR + PETE MATTILA

SEPTEMBER 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jo Lloyd

BLACKSMITH: Pete Mattila

DANCERS: Gabriel Comerford, Jenni Large, Amber McCartney, Kyall Shanks, Madeleine Krenek, Frankie Snowdon

GUEST ARTISTS: David Prakash, Keia McGrady, Sophie Gargan, Amelia Jean O'Leary, Oliver Savariego, Maddy Bowman, Eloise Wright, Nikki Tarling, Isabella Stone, Mara Galagher, Emily Laursen, Caitlin Mewett, Mason Kelly, Emma Riches, Thomas Woodman, Rachel Mackie, Alex Dobson, Jenn Ma, Feras Shaheen, Samakshi Sidhu

COSTUME DESIGNER: Andrew Treloar

COMPOSER: Duane Morrison

LIGHTING + PRODUCTION: Chris Jackson

VIDEOGRAPHER: Michael O'Neill

COMPANY MANAGER: Bec Dundas

JUNCTION ARTS FESTIVAL – QVMAG

AUDIENCE: 350

SUPPORTED BY: Arts Tasmania, Australia Council for the Arts, Junction Arts Festival



*“I can wear what you wear and become you, someone else can be me. The undertaking of this stillness is epic. This encounter is both brief and permanent. A perfect ordeal.”*



# TUYLUPA

# PAKANA KANAPLILA + SOMA LUMIA

OCTOBER 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: pakana  
kanaplila

VISUAL DESIGN: Darryl Rogers,  
Troy Merritt (Soma Lumia)

DANCERS: Sinsa Mansell, Harley  
Jac Mansell, Niara Mansell,  
Janice Ross, Jamie Graham

COSTUME DESIGNER: Michelle  
Maynard

COMPOSER: James Mangohig

LIGHTING + PRODUCTION:

Chris Jackson

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Gabriel  
Comerford

Dance, music and projections are harnessed to explore what it means to keep the flame alive for sixty thousand years, covering the journey of the palawa people and the island of lutruwita/Tasmania.

AUDIENCE: 750

SUPPORTED BY: ILAP, Tas Community Fund,  
Arts Tasmania, WD Booth

IMAGE: Jillian Mundy – TUYLUPA



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# DEVELOPMENT



# INFLUENCER KYALL SHANKS+ VJAM

MAY 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY: Kyall Shanks  
DANCERS: Gabriel Comerford,  
Jenni Large, Amber McCartney,  
Kyall Shanks

*INFLUENCER* is a new professional Tasdance work that explores our relationship to social media through dance and XR Technology.

Set to premiere in 2024

SUPPORTED BY: Arts Tasmania

IMAGE: Adam Wheeler – INFLUENCER



# BABY GIRL

## AMBER McCARTNEY

AUGUST 2022

CHOREOGRAPHY:

Amber McCartney

DANCER: Amber McCartney

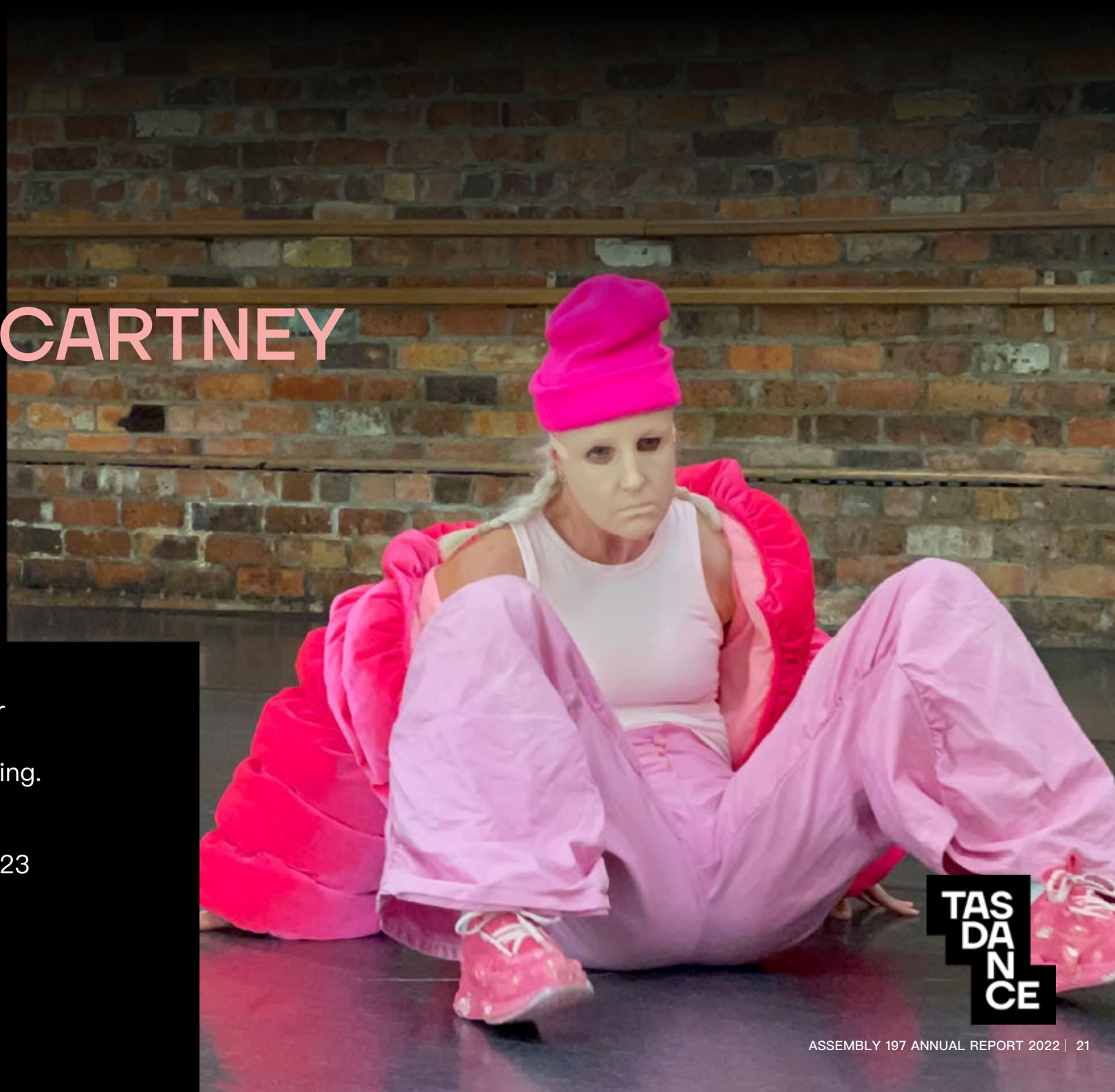
COSTUME: Geoffrey Watson

A solo figure caught between their body's original memories and the persona of a new, otherworldly being.

Set to premiere at Mona Foma 2023

SUPPORTED BY: Arts Tasmania

IMAGE: Adam Wheeler – BABY GIRL



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# PARADISIO CLARA MARTIN

AUGUST 2022

LEAD ARTIST: Clara Martin

COLLABORATORS: Lucy Bleach,  
Emma Porteus

An exploration of femininity and violence against women, this installation will utilise textiles to abstract emotion and trauma into symbolism and imagery representing the essence of these feelings and how they can relate to specific sites across Queenstown.

*“I see the work being a large interactive textiles installation of fabric flowers. I have been researching folk art styles and the concept of folk horror, building a concept that brings together opposing ideas, such as aesthetically beautiful artwork with dark themes.”*

Set to premiere in  
2023

SUPPORTED BY: Arts  
Tasmania, RISE

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IMAGE: Clara Martin

ASSEMBLY 197 ANNUAL REPORT 2022 | 22

# BIG HEAT TASDANCE, MUDLARK, ROOKE + TCW

JULY+ NOVEMBER 2022

DIRECTION: Adam Wheeler +  
Cheyne Mitchell

DRAMATURG: Amelia Evans

PERFORMERS: Gabriel  
Comerford, Jenni Large, Freyja  
Wild, Conor Wild, Gabe Adkins,  
Grady Lynch, Isabel Partridge,  
Lauchy Hansen

Through dance, theatre, circus,  
and pro-wrestling, BIG HEAT  
will look behind the curtain  
of Tasmanian Championship  
Wrestling and tell an underdog  
story of 17-year-old Izzy  
becoming a local wrestling  
celebrity, capturing the  
significance of our innate need  
for community and connection.

Set to premiere at Junction in 2023

SUPPORTED BY: Arts Tasmania, Festivals  
Australia



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# DANCE WITH THE DIEMEN

## NATHAN MAYNARD + PAIGE RATTRAY

DECEMBER 2022

DIRECTION: Nathan Maynard +  
Paige Rattray

COLLABORATING ARTISTS: Jayla  
Booth, Angela Casey, Gabriel  
Comerford, Samantha Dennis,  
Travis Hennessy, Chris Jackson,  
Jenni Large, Kyall Shanks, Keia  
McGrady, Sinsa Mansell, Cheyne  
Mitchell, Emma Porteus, Grace  
Roberts, Adam Wheeler, The  
Launceston College Choir

Parallel stories of Mathinna,  
the palawa child 'adopted' and  
abandoned by the Tasmanian  
Governor, and Orpheus'  
mythological journey to the  
underworld merge and morph,  
wrestling the myths of the past  
into our present.

Set to premiere at Ten Days on the Island in  
2025

SUPPORTED BY: Arts Tasmania, Ten Days on  
the Island, Festivas Australia

IMAGE: Angela Casey



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# ARTERY



IMAGE: Adam Wheeler – SmArts Program



# FRAME OF MIND GABRIEL COMERFORD + KEIA McGRADY

CHOREOGRAPHY: Gabriel Comerford + Keia McGrady

Frame of Mind is Tasdance's newest *DW4S* (Dance Works for Schools) project designed with upper high school aged students in mind and is aimed at sparking conversations, increasing awareness and deepening their understanding about mental health and wellbeing, cognitive reframing and toxic positivity.

Touring to schools across Tasmania in 2023

## SmArts PROGRAM THE SMITH FAMILY

ARTERY COORDINATORS: Samantha Lester, Gabriel Comerford + Bec Dundas

In 2022 Tasdance and The Smith Family strengthened their partnership by signing a three year agreement for the Artery teachers to run at least three intensives a year with the intention on the program growing. Artery visited Parklands (Burnie), and Wynyard District High, and Queechy High School visited Tasdance for the second time. Over 60 students spent the week with Samantha, Gabriel, and Bec learning about self-growth, communication, and problem solving through dance.

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# EAST TAMAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

EAST TAMAR PRIMARY TEACHER: Samantha Lester

Tasdance through the Artery program continued running dance classes for the all grades once a week. At the end of each year Tasdance awards a year six student who has shown commitment and dedication to dance a full one year scholarship to its Public Program.

## STILL DROMPIN

STOMPIN + DRILL INTENSIVE

ASSEMBLY 197 hosted Stompin and Drill for their first intensive exchange with Adam leading a workshop.

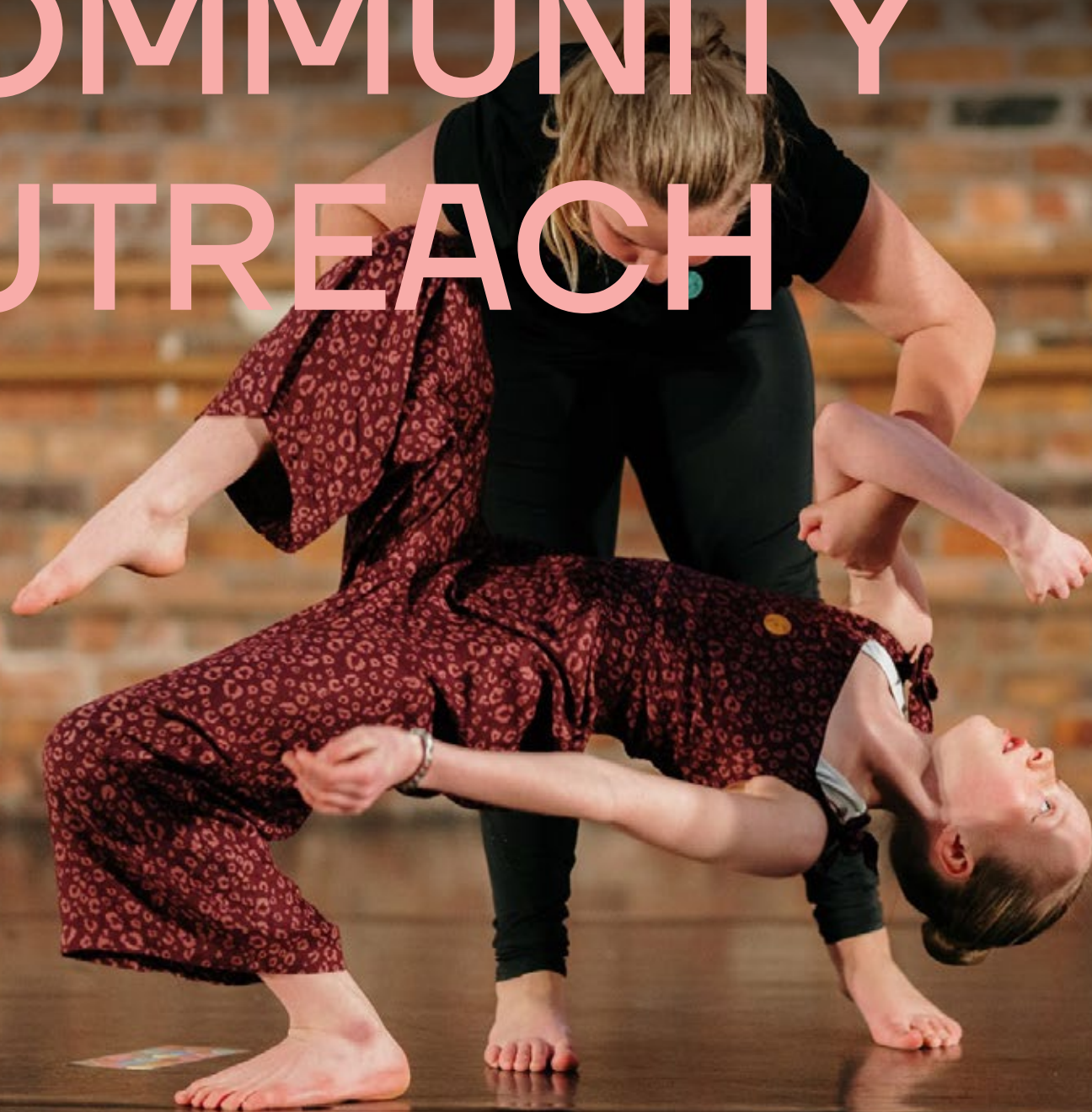
## DANCE FEVER

CHOREOGRAPHY: Adam Wheeler

In 2022 Adam was invited to work with 50 high school and college students to make a short work Launceston College's DANCE FEVER.

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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# TASDANCE PUBLIC PROGRAM

The Public Program consists of the Tasdance School of Dance and Adult Casual Classes. The Public Program provides opportunities for our community to participate in dance classes building the cultural capacity of Launceston, while connecting Tasdance to a wider audience, and providing alternative options for fitness and social interaction. Creativity is at the heart of all of our classes.

Seventeen classes per week were on offer across 2022. Over 120 students enrolled as part of the Tasdance School of Dance and hundreds of adults attended adult casual classes throughout the year. The Public Program teachers are Alison Winn – Ballet + Contemporary, Rikki Mace – Contemporary + Prime, Indea Quinn – Ballet, Bernita Moore – Street and Hannah Torrents – Street, Freyja + Conor Wild – Circus.

## DANCEMAKER + END OF YEAR SHOWCASE

The focus of DANCEMAKER is to give students aged 8–18 an opportunity to explore, make and perform their own dancing in a supportive setting. Over 30 new works by Launceston's next generation of makers were presented to a sell out audience.

The End of Year showcase concert was held at Launceston College. It featured new works from our Contemporary, Ballet, and Street classes. An audience of 250 celebrated an exceptional year of Public Programming at Tasdance in 2022.

## BOROVANKSY EXAMS

The Ballet exams continued in 2022. 24 students worked throughout the year with our Head of Ballet Development Teacher Alison Winn.



# SESSIONS

ASSEMBLY 197 hosted five SESSIONS events across 2022. SESSIONS is an opportunity for artists to share work in early stages of development with audiences. Each event is designed to share multiple new works each evening allowing artists and audience members to engage in critical feedback.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

ASSEMBLY 197 opened its doors to numerous community events throughout 2022.

Events include:

- Bloom + Emily Sanzaro event
- The Worlds Smallest Improvisational Festival
- Dancemaker 2022
- STILL DROMPIN
- UTAS + Arts Sector Meet Up

# SECTOR



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# SITUATE 22-23

SITUATE 22-23 is dedicated to the creation of ambitious work by regionally based emerging and mid-career artists within the context of social engagement. While artistic excellence is a priority, Situate also ensures that the process and outcomes benefit both artists and communities alike. Situate generates a diverse range of art experiences that reflect both their distinctive identities and their relationship to place and community.

**ARTISTS:** Priscilla Beck, Alvin Darcy, India Collins, Gabriel Comerford, Isabella Foster, Laura Gilliam, Samantha Lester, Chris Ng, Lex Randolph, Edith Perrenot, Bec Stevens, HK Vermeulen

**PROVOCATEURS:** Mary Scott, Loren Kronemyer, Sinsa Mansell, Lucy Bleach, Theia Connell, Lana Nguyen, Lara Thoms, Chris Williams.

**PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:** Punctum (VIC), DADAA (WA), NorthSite (QLD), Watch This Space (NT)

**SUPPORTED BY:** RISE Fund, Australia Council for the Arts

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# GENERATE GC

GENERATE GC successfully presented eight premieres in 2022:

- Darcie Boatswain (Rae) presented *A HOUSE, A Home* at The Farmhouse as part of Anywhere Festival.
- Kathy Mackey presented a pilot for *LOYL* (Let's Organise Your Leisure) at the HOTA Lake as part of HOTA's Summer Pick N Mix program.
- Laurie Oxenford presented *ANTHROPIC [Concrete] Rocks* at Platform Arts in Geelong supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund Gold Coast as well as a site-based sculptural iteration of the work at Swell Sculpture Festival 2022.
- Jordan Wilkinson presented an exhibition of *Behind Closed Doors* at Metro Arts' Ferryman's Hut as part of their 2022 Artist in Residence Program.
- Sophia Frank's project *WHAT WE CONSIDER WASTE* was presented at Dust Temple with the support of RADF, Gold Coast Green Week and Gecko.
- Ellamay Fitzgerald was included in the inaugural Big City Lights Festival in Southport, presented by Placemakers. Her two video portraits were situated on Nerang Street and visitation was estimated at +15k unique attendees festival-wide.
- Daniele Constance presented *Community Notices* in Schuster Park which encompassed 8 on-site events with 255 audience members in attendance. This project received additional support from the City of Gold Coast's Our Natural City Strategy.
- Lowana Davies presented *Smell School* at HOTA and at the Old Lock Up/In ARI with combined attendee numbers of 24, alongside the exhibition she curated called *Olfactory Ecologies* which attracted 40+ audience members

ACROSS 2022

PROGRAM PRODUCER: Rebecca Ross

ARTISTS: CJ Anderson, Darcie Boatswain, Grace Dewar, Ella Fitzgerald, Sophia Franks, Kathy Mackey, Jordan Wilkinson, Laurie Oxenford

PROVOCATEURS: Laurence English, Thomas ES Kelly, Jamie Lewis, Tristan Meecham, Chris Williams, AHA Ensemble, Jesse French, Leisel Zink

ABOUT: Generate GC is focused on developing and presenting new work by Gold Coast artists, and working with artists to take creative risks and to present artworks that responds to the Gold Coast and resonate beyond it.

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# BODY BODY COMMODITY

## JENNI LARGE

CHOREOGRAPHY: Jenni Large

DANCER/COLLABORATOR:

Amber McCartney, Ashleigh Musk, Georgia Rudd, Erin O'Rourke

INTERNSHIP: Ebony Nichols

SOUND: Anna Whitaker

COSTUME + SET: Michelle Boyde

LIGHTING + PRODUCTION: Chris Jackson

Five female dancers animate and interact with a mass of pastel foam objects that litter the performance space, 'exploiting and embracing their habitat' as the lines between object, body, power and product blur.

Set to premiere at Mona Foma 2023

SUPPORTED BY: Arts Tasmania, RANT Arts Tasmania Project Fund, Regional Arts Fund (QLD), Dancenorth, Judith Wright Centre, Tasdance + Australia Council for the Arts

IMAGE: Adam Wheeler – BODY BODY COMMODITY In Development



Jenni's BODY BODY COMMODITY is the first project managed under our Auspice Program. The program is designed to mentor and support artists producing their own works and craft their own vision and career.

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DANCE**

# SECTOR CONNECTING HIGHLIGHTS

ASSEMBLY 197 is committed to connecting to the arts sector across numerous forms of engagement. We make time to join committees, funding peer review panels, and connecting with the community at large.

- THE AUSTRALIAN YOUTH DANCE FESTIVAL – MELBOURNE
- SANTARCANGELO FESTIVAL – ITALY
- ALICE CAN DANCE – ALICE SPRINGS
- REGIONAL // REGIONAL – DARWIN

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- THE KUNANYI MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL
- THE SMITH FAMILY CAREERS' DAY
- TASMANIAN SECTOR DAY
- THE 2022 SPECIAL OLYMPICS – LAUNCESTON



# CULTURE + POLICY

Throughout 2022 ASSEMBLY 197 developed and improved upon its internal and external relationships with staff, artists and stakeholders. The Co-Creative Directors continue to be guided by executive coaching, and new systems to support the wellbeing of all involved with ASSEMBLY 197. Adam began an Australia Council Leaders Program and the organisation completed an Australia Council Digital Strategy Program.

The ASSEMBLY 197 Board farewelled Trish Dunn (Dixon) after several years of service. The skills based Board are continually reflecting and evaluating their practice and procedures. This includes a complete review of all ASSEMBLY 197 policies, led by the Governance Committee.

# FINANCES

ASSEMBLY 197 built on the financial and operational foundations set in previous years, returning another modest operating surplus of \$21,816 contributing to the organisation's retained equity of \$290,000 as at 31st December.

This result was achieved by responding quickly and strategically to the pandemic, and by setting realistic budgets for both core operations and creative projects. Focused work by Directors and the Co-Creative Directors supported by robust internal budgeting, monitoring and reporting processes contributed to an otherwise challenging year.





# FUNDING, COMMISSIONS, PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

In 2022 ASSEMBLY 197 received funding from numerous local, state, Federal, and philanthropic agencies.

## Key Funding Partners

- Arts Tasmania organisation funding of \$240,000
- RISE Fund:
- Australia Council:
- City of Gold Coast
- WD Booth
- Indigenous Language and Arts Program
- Tasmanian Community Fund

# CONCLUSION

The amalgamation of Tasdance and Situate to become ASSEMBLY 197 celebrates its first year with numerous artistic achievements – both in Tasmania and abroad. A197 is augmented by genuine connection with its community, it is building a progressive environment for artists to find best practice: No Artist leaves unchanged.

IMAGE: Jillian Mundy – TUYLUPA

# OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS

## 1. NURTURE THE ARTIST

We wholeheartedly support the development of artists through our projects and our venue at 197 Wellington Street, Launceston.

## 2. REGIONAL PRIDE

We make art that is distinctly regional. We champion the regions of Australia and the artists who call them home.

## 3. STRONGER TOGETHER

We are stronger together with First Nations' artists, and all communities. We dedicate time, space, and resources to further develop and share all forms of art and creativity. Collaborating on and off the island enhances artistic endeavour, consolidates critical support, strengthens relationships, and extends audiences and participants.

## 4. ALL BODIES CREATING

Art is for all to experience and cherish regardless of age, gender, skill, culture, ability, and geography. We place audiences at the centre of the arts experience and provide opportunities for local creatives to learn new skills.

## 5. ORGANISATION INTEGRITY

We will act with integrity in all that we do. We are guided by our values, code of conduct, and a range of appropriate policies and procedures.

# STRATEGIC PILLARS MATRIX

NURTURE THE ARTIST			
MEASURES	2022 TARGET	2022 RESULT	DETAILS
Number of works produced and presented	3	3	FAUX MO, COLLISION, TUYLUPA (this number doesn't include GENERATE GC works).
Number of Australian Choreographers and dancers engaged	10	10	Jo Lloyd, Gabriel Comerford, Jenni Large, Amber McCartney, Kyall Shanks, Sinsa Mansell, Jamie Graham, Harley Jac Mansell, Keia McGrady, Nathan Pitchford
Number of young and emerging choreographers and dancers supported	10	26	Kyall Shanks, Jamie Graham, Harley Jac Mansell, Jenni Large, Amber McCartney, Nathan Pitchford, David Prakash, Keia Mcgrady, Sophie Gargan, Amelia Jean O'leary, Oliver Savariego, Maddy Bowman, Eloise Wright, Nikki Tarling, Isabella Stone, Mara Galagher, Emily Laursen, Caitlin Mewett, Mason Kelly, Emma Riches, Thomas Woodman, Rachel Mackie, Alex Dobson, Jenn Ma, Feras Shaheen, Samakshi Sidhu,
Number of opportunities for company members to teach, choreograph and act as mentors	70	54	Dancer-led Company class (25) Stompin Youth Workshops (4) Schools residencies and workshops (25) (this number doesn't include our Public Program)
Number of groups and individuals guided, mentored, advised & assisted	40	46	4 Secondment 22 Situate and Generate artists 20 COLLISION
Number of Artist in Residence (TRIP)	10	0	ASSEMBLY 197 focused on providing space for its new In House Orgs and Auspice Partners, deferring our TRIP program to 2023.
Number of collaborating artists from other disciplines	11	35	Chris Jackson, Anna Whitaker, Dewayne Everettsmith, James Mangohig, Jamie Graham, Steven Cybulka, Alex Talamo, Su An Ng, Andrew Treloar, Duane Morrison, Pete Mattila, Darryl Rogers, Troy Merritt, CJ Anderson, Darcie Boatswain, Grace Dewar, Ella Fitzgerald, Sophia Franks, Kathy Mackey, Jordan Wilkinson, Laurie Oxenford Laurence English, Thomas ES Kelly, Jamie Lewis, Tristan Meecham, Chris Williams, AHA Ensemble, Jesse French, Leisel Zink, Priscilla Beck, Alvin Darcy, India Collins, Gabriel Comerford, Isabella Foster, Laura Gilliam, Samantha Lester, Chris Ng, Lex Randolph, Edith Perrenot, Bec Stevens, HK Vermeulen, Mary Scott, Loren Kronemyer, Sinsa Mansell, Lucy Bleach, Theia Connell, Lana Nguyen, Lara Thoms

# STRATEGIC PILLARS MATRIX

REGIONAL PRIDE			
MEASURES	2022 TARGET	2022 RESULT	DETAILS
Number of regional artists engaged	29	38	Gabriel Comerford, Alison Winn, Rikki Mace, Hannah Torrents, Indea Quinn, Sinsa Mansell, Jamie Graham, Harley Jac Mansell, Nathan Pitchford, Keia McGrady, Chris Jackson (IO Performance), Grace Roberts (IO Performance), Dewayne Everettsmith, Pete Mattila, Darryl Rogers, Troy Merritt, Samantha Dennis, Angela Casey, Priscilla Beck, Alvin Darcy, India Collins, Isabella Foster, Laura Gilliam, Samantha Lester, Chris Ng, Lex Randolph, Edith Perrenot, Bec Stevens, HK Vermeulen, Nathan Maynard, Michelle Maynard, Jillian Mundy, Michael O’Niell, Mel de Ruyter, Lucy Bleach, Mary Scott, Loren Kronemyer.
Number of Tasmanian, regional and national partnerships and collaborations	8	17	TASMANIAN: pakana kanaplila, Soma Lumia, IO Performance, Junction Arts Festival, Stompin, Drill, Ten Days on the Island, The Unconformity, Mona Foma. NATIONAL: Skinnyfish Music (NT), Northsite (Cairns), Punctum (VIC), DADAA (WA), Watch This Space (NT), WestSpace (VIC), GUTS (NT), The Smith Family.
Number of pre and post show talks, studio previews, workshops, master classes and lecture series	16	15	SESSIONS events x 5 , COLLISION Showing x 2, GENERATE GC pitches, Situate 22–23 pitches, SAC Talk, Regional // Regional, Australian Youth Dance Festival, Online Panels x 3
Number of opportunities for regional arts advocacy	15	12	Australian Youth Dance Festival, National Dance Company’s Meeting x 2 , Santarcangelo, Rising Festival, Alice Springs, Arts Hub articles x 4, Situate 22 23 open festivals event , Regional // Regional
Intrastate, interstate and International touring activity	2	3	GENERATE GC trip to Gold Coast, Santarcangelo Festival, Alice Springs,



# STRATEGIC PILLARS MATRIX

STRONGER TOGETHER			
MEASURES	2022 TARGET	2022 RESULT	DETAILS
Total attendance and audiences reached	7000	12000	All programs and performances throughout the year
Total number of First Nations artists engaged	8	12	Slnsa Mansell, Dewayne Everettsmith, Harley Mansell, Jamie Graham, Nathan Pitchford, Niara Mansell, Janice Ross, Keia McGrady, Thomas ES Kelly, Jillian Mundy, Michelle Maynard, Nathan Maynard
Partnerships that assist the delivery of community goals	15	15	Mona Foma, Ten Days on the Island, Junction Arts Festival, Stompin, Skinnyfish Music, Karul Projects, Situate, IO Performance, Unconformity, City of Gold Coast, Punctum, DADDA, Watch This Space, Northsite, GUTS
Private-giving, philanthropic and corporate support.	\$20,000	\$64,899	WD Booth, The Smith Famiy
Subscribers	8500	8705	Facebook – 4,256, (2021 = 3,849) Instagram – 2,637, (2021 = 2,171) Newsletter – 2,676
Media coverage (print, TV and radio), website, social media use, number of newsletters	180,000	202,042	The Examiner FB page: 65,000 Dance Australia FB page: 10,000 E-newsletters 12,000 Website views: 2,800
National sales promotion	8	3	National Dance Managers Meeting – Melbourne, Generate GC, Regional // Regional

# STRATEGIC PILLARS MATRIX

ALL BODIES CREATING			
MEASURES	2022 TARGET	2022 RESULT	DETAILS
Number of teachers engaged to teach for the Public Program	5	7	Alison Winn, Rikki Mace, Bernita Moore, Hannah Torrents, Indea Quinn, Conor and Freyja Wild
Number of classes offered as part of our Public Program	440	680	Contemporary, Ballet, Street, Circus
School residency and teacher days,	60	85	Secondary school workshops SmARTS East Tamar
Community Outreach Projects	1	3	SmARTS
Partnerships that assist delivery of education goals	15	3	Launceston College, East Tamar Primary School, The Smith Family
Total number of Students and Communities who participated in dance	400	350	Public Program: 130 SmARTS: 60 Other Workshops: 60 East Tamar: 100

# STRATEGIC PILLARS MATRIX

ORGANISATION INTEGRITY			
MEASURES	2022 TARGET	2022 RESULT	DETAILS
Delivery of development plan strategies	1	3	A197 Strategic Planning Weekend Australia Council Leaders Program Australia Council Digital Strategic Residency
Delivery of marketing plan strategies	6	6	Public Program, Collision, tuylupa, Faux Mo, Situate 22 23, Generate GC
Implementation of priority controls for high-risk items on risk register	NA	NA	Development of partnerships with Tasmanian Festivals that act as presenting partners to address lower than expected box office results. Continuing COVID Safety Plan EAP Implementation
Annual performance planning, including training and development, assessed and reported	NA	NA	Performance review of Co-CD's
Annual audit results in an unqualified audit report	100%	100%	2021 completed
Reserves maintained at least 20% annual income	NA	NA	This measure needs review
Number of policy and procedures reviewed	12	19	All policies reviewed in 2022 and language updated.
Number of initiatives to drive administrative innovation	3	3	Monday, Google Hangout, Slack

# ACTIVITY STATEMENT

## ORGANISATION INTEGRITY

ACTIVITY STATEMENT	DATES	LOCATIONS	PERSONNEL	PROJECT PARTNERS	ATTENDANCES
Faux Mo Party	January	Albert Hall, Hobart City Hall	Jenni Large, Gabriel Comerford, Kyall Shanks, Amber McCartney, Keia McGrady	Mona Foma	5 Artists, 4500 Audience
Body Body Commodity Development	February	ASSEMBLY 197	Jenni Large, Amber McCartney, Ashleigh Musk, Georgia Rudd, Erin O'Rourke, Ebony Nichols, Anna Whitaker, Michelle Boyde, Chris Jackson	NA	9 Artists
Situate 22-23 Labs	March + May	ASSEMBLY 197	Priscilla Beck, Alvin Darcy, India Collins, Ga- briel Comerford, Isabella Foster, Laura Gilliam, Sammie Lester, Chris Ng, Lex Randolph, Edith Perrenot, Bec Stevens, HK Vermeulen, Mary Scott, Loren Kronemyer, Sinsa Mansell, Lucy Bleach, Theia Connell, Lana Nguyen, Lara Thoms, Chris Williams.	Punctum (VIC), DADAA (WA), NorthSite (QLD), Watch This Space (NT)	22 Artists
kunanyi Mountain Festival	April	kunanyi, nipaluna/Hobart	Harley Jac Mansell, Linton Burgess, Nathan Pitchford, Angela Barnyard	kunanyi Mountain Festival	4 Artists, 1000 Audience
Influencer Development	May	ASSEMBLY 197	Kyall Shanks, Gabriel Comerford, Amber McCartney, Jenni Large	NA	4 Artists
Frame of Mind Development	May	ASSEMBLY 197	Keia McGrady, Gabriel Comerford	NA	2 Artists
Dancemaker	June	ASSEMBLY 197	Tasdance School of Dance students	NA	7 Artists, 120 Students, 200 Audience
Baby Girl Development	August	ASSEMBLY 197	Amber McCartney	NA	1 Artist
Collision	September	QVMAG	Jo Lloyd, Andrew Treloar, Pete Mattila, Duane Morrison, Michael O'Niell, Chris Jackson, Gabriel Comerford, Jenni Large, Amber McCartney, Kyall Shanks, Madeleine Krenek, Frankie Snowdon, David Prakash, Keia McGrady, Sophie Gargan, Amelia Jean O'Leary, Oliver Savariego, Maddy Bowman, Eloise Wright, Nikki Tarling, Isabella Stone, Mara Galagher, Emily Laursen, Caitlin Mewett, Mason Kelly, Emma Riches, Thomas Woodman, Rachel Mackie, Alex Dobson, Jenn Ma, Feras Shaheen, Samakshi Sidhu	Junction, QVMAG	32 Artists, 350 Audience

# ACTIVITY STATEMENT

## ORGANISATION INTEGRITY

ACTIVITY STATEMENT	DATES	LOCATIONS	PERSONNEL	PROJECT PARTNERS	ATTENDANCES
tuylupa	August + October	Kick Start Arts, Theatre Royal	Sinsa Mansell, Harley Jac Mansell, Niara Mansell, Janice Ross, Jamie Graham, Darryl Rogers, Troy Merritt (Soma Lumia) Michelle Maynard, James Mangohig, Chris Jackson, Gabriel Comerford	Mona Foma, Theatre Royal	11 Artists, 750 Audience
Big Heat Development	July + November	ASSEMBLY 197, TCW	Adam Wheeler, Cheyne Mitchell, Amelia Evans, Gabriel Comerford, Jenni Large, Freyja Wild, Conor Wild, Gabe Adkins, Grady Lynch, Isabel Partridge, Lauchy Hansen	TCW (Tasmanian Championship Wrestling)	11 Artists
Dance with the Diemen Development	December	ASSEMBLY 197	Nathan Maynard, Paige Rattray, Jayla Booth, Angela Casey, Gabriel Comerford, Samantha Dennis, Travis Hennessy, Chris Jackson, Jenni Large, Kyall Shanks, Keia McGrady, Sinsa Mansell, Cheyne Mitchell, Emma Porteus, Grace Roberts, Adam Wheeler,	Ten Days on the Island	15 Artists
East Tamar Primary School	All year	East Tamar Primary School	Samantha Lester	East Tamar Primary School	100 Students
Generate GC	All year	Gold Coast, QLD	Rebecca Ross, CJ Anderson, Darcie Boatswain, Grace Dewar, Ella Fitzgerald, Sophia Franks, Kathy Mackey, Jordan Wilkinson, Laurie Oxenford, Laurence English, Thomas ES Kelly, Jamie Lewis, Tristan Meecham, Chris Williams, AHA Ensemble, Jesse French, Leisel Zink	City of Gold Coast	17 Artists
Public Program – School of Dance + Adult Casual Classes	All year	ASSEMBLY 197	Rikki Mace, Alison Winn, Bernita Moore, Hannah Torrent, Indea Quinn, Freyja + Conor Wild, Samantha Lester	NA	120 students, 8 Artists
Tasdance School of Dance – End of Year Showcase	December	Launceston College	Tasdance School of Dance students	Launceston College	120 students, 8 Artists, 250 Audience
The SmARTS Program	May, August, November	Burnie, Wynyard, A197	Gabriel Comerford, Samantha Lester, Bec Dundas	The Smith Family	60 Students

*“Assembly 197 has been absolutely crucial in the formation of ROOKE. Under the compassionate, visionary leadership of Emma and Adam A197 has helped shape our baby arts organisation and will no doubt continue to do so for many years to come.*

*A197 is a perfect example of what can happen when we ditch competition in favour of connection. A197 is feeding into this hugely positive local culture for Launceston.”*

**FREYJA WILD  
CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ROOKE**

IMAGE: FAUX MO 2022



# SEE YOU IN 2023

ASSEMBLY 197  
197 WELLINGTON STREET  
LAUNCESTON LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA 7250

CONNECT@ASSEMBLY197.COM  
WWW.ASSEMBLY197.COM