

# Newsletter



**Arts Access South Australia** *Access to the arts for people with a disability*

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

# An exciting time for arts and disability

**W**ELCOME TO Arts Access SA's new look publication. This quarterly will provide our sector with some considered debate and discussion about the issues which matter. Its name and content are evolving (*see competition*), as we want to make sure that it meets the community's needs.

As always, we've been expending energy into making the arts more accessible. As part of that, we hope the programs planned for High Beam Global (program enclosed), part of Adelaide Fringe 07, will make more South Australians aware of the need for universal access.

From many conversations we have become aware one of the sector's pressing issues is identifying vocational pathways and opportunities for artists with a disability. To try and clear up the confusion and find real options, we've organised **On the Job** on 29 and 30 March. As a preamble, included is an article about the Swedish theatre company MoomsTeatern.

In this launch issue, there also is information about the SA Government's new Richard Llewellyn arts and disability fund.

**Chris Wainwright**

COMMUNICATIONS AND AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

## MEETING THE STAFF

# High Beam Global

High Beam Global is running in tandem with the Adelaide Fringe this year?

Yes, it's a first for High Beam and we're very excited about it. The Fringe have been enormously supportive. And the exuberance that the Fringe creates will add hugely to the whole High Beam experience.

**What's on offer in 2007?**

High Beam Global 2007 offers a

**Phil Noack** is Arts Access SA's arts industry liaison officer, who has been over-seeing the programming and production of High Beam Global.



broad array of the latest in disability arts. Music, dance, theatre, visual art, cinema, discourse and our innovative, online virtual festival strand.

**What are your picks of the program?**

There are so many, but I'm really

looking forward to Ignite Production's *Jet of Blood* and the *Limbness* and *Intimate Encounters* exhibitions.

I think the *Best of The Other Film Festival* will offer a range of cinema that is not to be missed. And Club Cool Under Lights will be a blast!



SOCIAL POLICY

# On the Job

**O**N 29 AND 30 MARCH, a one and a half day forum will take place investigating new models for people with a disability to develop vocational pathways and full social inclusion through education and employment in the creative industries.

One of our keynote speakers will be **Per Thörnquist** from **MoomsTeatern**, Sweden's leading theatre company with a fulltime ensemble of people with intellectual disabilities. Mooms came to High Beam in 1998 as part of their 10th anniversary. In September, Peter Tregilgas reconnected with Mooms and invited a company member to attend High Beam Global. Their approach relies solely on artistic excellence. Therefore, the



MoomsTeatern *Personligt* (2006)

company only engages its actors with intellectual disabilities based on merit, rather than through affirmative action processes.

They have done the hard yards and become an internationally acclaimed theatre company. To begin with, the critics and the Swedish theatre company were sceptical however, as they came on the journey and saw what they had, Mooms Teatern became respected as a leading international Swedish theatre company.

It is Mooms' belief that yes, theatre is political and that the humanistic and ethical values can't be excluded from the political aspects. However, it is essential for it to stand clear from associating itself with any political party or special interest group.

Its approach of creating crossovers between artforms and people ensures that people with and without power meet on equal terms. By doing that, it will help make their city, Malmo, more inclusive.

The SA Government, as part of

We are still developing an itinerary for Per. If you would like to meet with him, please contact Peter Tregilgas, [petert@artsaccess-sa.org.au](mailto:petert@artsaccess-sa.org.au)

its 2007 Strategic Plan, is keen to foster creativity and innovation and to improve wellbeing. Potentially they are just two of the key things which South Australia's arts and disability sector could help achieve by finding new long-term and sustainable vocational pathways for artists with a disability.

Richard Florida in his best-selling book *The Rise of the Creative Class* identifies the many benefits which a thriving creative class can have for one's community. He observes, "Cities and regions that attract lots of creative talent are also those with greater diversity and higher levels of quality of place. That's because location choices of the creative class are based to a large degree on their lifestyle interests, and these go well beyond the standard 'quality-of-life' amenities that most experts think are important."

If Adelaide achieves the goals of fostering creativity and innovation through initiatives, such as providing meaningful vocational pathways and options for people with disabilities working within the creative industries, our State will undoubtedly prosper.

Equals paper written by MoomsTeatern is downloadable from <http://www.artsaccess-sa.org.au/hbg/onthejob.htm>



Join Arts Access SA today and support SA's peak body for arts and disability.

Annual membership only \$10!

Join online at [www.artsaccess-sa.org.au](http://www.artsaccess-sa.org.au)



# Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Fund

In March, the South Australian Government announced the establishment of the new fund for arts and disability named in the memory of Richard Llewellyn.

**F**OR CLOSE to 40 years since becoming disabled due to poliomyelitis, Richard Llewellyn has championed the rights of people with disability. First hand he experienced discrimination through lack of access, humanity and the ability of people to treat him as equal. This by no means is a unique story, however how he overcame and challenged it, is what gave him some notoriety around Adelaide.

It is thanks in part to Richard's advocacy that the Adelaide Festival Centre has significantly improved its accessibility.

In the early days of our predecessor, Arts in Action, Richard supported its founding director, Tony Doyle.

Richard's widow, Becky Llewellyn remarks, "Richard actually supported Tony to get it going in the beginning, as he saw his talent and passion. All his life, Richard liked to pick talent, get opportunities set up for people, then watch things happen. He put together the businessman and designer who created Rollerchair



Richard Llewellyn

wheelchairs, the first chairs to be made personally for each client. Richard played a mentoring role for Tony, as someone he could get perspective with over the years. We did some training sessions for the organisation, but basically, Richard was a behind the scenes supporter and advocate for the organisation."

Whether it was Richard's role in challenging the Federal Government to establish a committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons as one not of medicos, but people with disabilities or his passionate support for Afghani refugees at Baxter Detention Centre. What came across strongly throughout Richard's life was, that he strongly believed in questioning, challenging and changing communities to make them richer and more caring.

Hopefully, through the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Fund, the State Government will be able to fund projects, which continue to foster Richard's passion for arts and disability, and help make the arts even more accessible.

Application forms for the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability Fund are available from [www.arts.sa.gov.au](http://www.arts.sa.gov.au).

**On March 13 from 4.30 to 6.30pm at DIRC a funding information session will occur. To attend, send a RSVP with any access needs to: [rsvp@artsaccess-sa.org.au](mailto:rsvp@artsaccess-sa.org.au).**

## PRIZES DEPARTMENT

# AASA Newsletter Competition and Feedback

The Executive Director has said "Newsletter, what a daggy word!"

To make him happy, and also to ensure that we reflect the sector's community needs, we're running a competition with the prize of a 2007 Arts Access SA membership and two bottles of McLaren Vale wine, to the person who submits the best name to replace "Newsletter."

We would love some feedback about what you'd like to see and read.

Please send your title with an explanation and your feedback to **christopherw@artsaccess-sa.org.au**.

If you submit one of the best five items of feedback, you will receive a Health Promotions prize pack.

To win prizes, make sure we hear from you by 30 March.



Jeanette Tierney and Pierre Franc

## AASA WEBSITE

**Send us your events and news. Our website is only as good as the information you send us.**

[www.artsaccess-sa.org.au](http://www.artsaccess-sa.org.au)



Dancing at Club Cool Under Lights.



Claire and Don from Radio Adelaide, at Radio Cool's first live broadcast.

## Adam Hills returns to High Beam

High Beam Global welcomes back **Adam Hills**. Adam has always been a strong spokesperson for arts and disability. Joymonger will be translated in Auslan and as Adam would say, "two jokes for the price of one."

## Off the Wall finds a home

Visual arts coordinator, **Jeanette Tierney** has her eyes on the art. Pulling together seven shows with artworks coming far and wide from

Sweden, Darwin and Sydney is no small task. Finding a venue to fit them wasn't easy and thanks to UnitingCare Wesley and Austereo, at the 23rd hour, at 106 Currie Street, Adelaide. Fingers crossed, *Off the Wall* will stay firmly stuck to the old Triple M walls.

## All talented

High Beam Coordinator, **Phil Noack**, normally features at the keyboard writing emails and grants. However, in the High Beam Global TV ad produced by Quentin Kenihan, he not only composed the soundtrack but also performed it.

## Radio Cool goes live

Thanks to the assistance of **Don Balaz** at Radio Adelaide who found a phone line to broadcast Radio Cool, the show went live without a hitch in January. His training and persistence were much appreciated.

Radio Cool 101.5 FM, every Sunday 1-2pm.



The Radio Cool Team.



A-Frame exhibition auction.