

65 -79 Salamanca Place & 1-3 Kelly Street HOBART TAS 7004



The Salamanca Arts Centre

March 2004



The Salamanca Arts Centre presents **The Mary G Show**

A visionary partnership for  
the arts and the community



T 036234 8414 F 036224 0245 E [sacinc@salarts.org.au](mailto:sacinc@salarts.org.au)

The Salamanca Arts Centre is operated by the Salamanca Arts Centre Incorporated in buildings owned by the State Government of Tasmania

# directors cut

It's been a while since the last SACink so this issue contains some catch up reading. There'll be more newsletters through the year and within the next few weeks SAC information will also be available on our new website. The website has been a long time coming – under construction for the past year – but we think you'll find it comprehensive, useful and informative and we welcome your feedback.

Our upcoming Theatre Subscription Season is outlined and includes cutting edge contemporary theatre and dance-based performance, a wry work on the futility of war written 90 years ago by the Austrian playwright Karl Krauss, as relevant today as it ever was, and there's a good dose of comedy. Make certain you take advantage of the subscription prices. As long as you book two shows you are eligible for the subscription discount.

Exciting developments for SAC visual arts in 2004 includes the new installation program for Kelly's Garden and the Avago Gallery spaces coordinated by emerging curator Mish Meijers. Kelly's Garden in Kelly's Lane is being transformed. Broken concrete will give way to gravel and the large steel gate will be left open during the day to ensure that passersby have an opportunity to engage with the ephemeral public artworks on exhibition. Next issue you'll read more about this year's Visual Arts program and the plans for future years.

In August 03 the Mobile Media Access Facility (MMAF) was established as a pilot project with a grant from Screen Tasmania. This is a resource centre for Tasmania's emerging professional filmmakers. With additional funds from the Australian Film Commission augmenting Screen Tasmania's contribution the MMAF is about to launch its professional development training and support services. For further information email [mmaf@salarts.org.au](mailto:mmaf@salarts.org.au).

The 2004 SPACE training in Technical Theatre will commence in March with a new Coordinator and an enhanced program. Preliminary information sessions were very well attended and a number of offers have been made.

Two of SAC's outstanding Tasmanian arts events from 2003 live on in 2004. Haven, SAC's major exhibition for 2004 curated by Dr Kevin Murray and exhibited in the Long Gallery during 10 Days on the Island last year, featured Tasmanian artists. Haven drew on Tasmanian stories and mythologies, subsequently toured to the Craft Victoria Gallery and is now on view at the Burnie Regional Gallery. The Tank, the poignantly funny tale of a mother's triumph over adversity in the rural backblocks of Tasmania, takes to the road this year. A week long season opens at The Earl Arts Centre as Theatre North's first event for the year. In May The Tank tours to 5 Tasmanian regional centres. In 2005 we hope to take The Tank to the mainland.

The Waterfront debate is of vital interest to Salamanca Arts Centre and several SAC representatives attended the Waterfront Project Urban Design Framework Workshops. The model displayed at Antarctic Adventure illustrated well how the wonderful watery sightlines across Sullivan's Cove would be further degraded by building on new and extended piers. The glistening and serene beauty of the waterfront at Sullivans Cove is so because of the existing open spaces and long views. There is no need to add more built forms.

In 200 SAC's Submission to the Resource Planning and Development Commission on the planning guidelines for Princes Wharf 1 and 2 noted the following:

***In order for Hobart to present the range of contemporary theatre performance, dance, physical theatre and circus, visual arts, music, and multi-media work currently seen in other Australian capital cities and overseas cultural centres, an investment in appropriate infrastructure is required. The opportunity to develop such a venue in Hobart exists with the ideally located Princes Wharf No.1 Shed. Princes Wharf No.1 and the No.1 Shed already form part of the Salamanca Cultural Precinct.***

In 2004 our position remains much the same. Princes Wharf 1 and 2 contribute to the reading of the cove's history as much as the Georgian sandstone terraced facades of Salamanca Place and Parliament House. We acknowledge that rather than adding further built forms there may be merit in opening up the waterfront further and suggest that either Princes Wharf 1 or 2 could provide the flexible Exhibition and Performance spaces we believe Hobart need.

SAC's greatest fear is that the working port will become a historical curiosity of the past, yet this is the charm of the cove. Hobart does not need a soulless tourist focused waterfront. The key to the Cove's future success is to do very little to it now.

Rosmary Miller

# Whaddayow! It's Royalty!

As Tasmania succumbed to Royal fever and the media buzzed with sightings of "her" Salamanca Arts Centre received its own visit from Royalty. Avoiding the paparazzi glare following the dapper Danish prince and his fairytale princess another Mary – Queen Mary – made her first state visit to our shores with her own brand of dignity and elegance.

**Mary G – Queen of the Kimberly** – may have many fine qualities but dignity and elegance are not among them. She's flamboyant, she's feisty, she's rough, tough and thoroughly outrageous. A wisecracking Aboriginal matriarch, Mary G is everyone's unrelated auntie, the embarrassing purveyor of gossip and innuendo.

Often touted as Dame Edna Everage's distant Aboriginal cousin Mary is quick to stifle any notion of similarity. **"Do I look like a Melbourne housewife to you? Do I Dahling? No Dahling I'm Royalty. Genuine Australian Royalty."**

And as Tasmanians eagerly lapped up news of fleeting glimpses of Danish Royalty so one of Indigenous Australia's proudest and most colourful artistic creations - the hilarious musical comedy of Mary G – was enthusiastically embraced (quite literally by our Lord Mayor) as she presented her special brand of comedy on Salamanca Place.

Salamanca Arts Centre's annual free outdoor event provides an opportunity for the people of Hobart to experience a performance that might not otherwise be seen in Tasmania. This is a central part of Salamanca Arts Centre's audience development strategy and 2004 was no exception. And in keeping with established tradition The Mary G Show LIVE was presented as part of the Hobart Summer Festival. It seemed fitting therefore, that a Queen receive a State welcome, with Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Rob Valentine, officiating at a Welcome Ceremony in front of assembled TV crews. Mary and Mayor were soon serenading each other for the cameras, softly sung sweet nothings setting the tone for the remainder of her visit.

In a reversal of the oft quoted phrase, behind every woman is a good man and in the case of Mary G that man is comedian/artist/musician and award winning radio broadcaster Mark Bin Bakar.

When asked about Mary, Bin Bakar insists he didn't create her. Mary was simply born fully grown. A combination of Dreamtime and Immaculate Conception perhaps? Bin Bakar didn't plan his alter ego. Rather, on a quiet night on air in 1995, he simply began talking to himself in a funny voice, and Mary G was born.

*"Mary just walked in and said something like, 'Hello, Dahling, you got a wife? I wouldn't mind meeting her' ", remembers Bin Bakar. And suddenly the talk back lines lit up.*

At first Mary gave Bin Bakar a hard time – her on air rudeness and blatant flirtation with a married man caused quite a stir in the tight knit Indigenous community. *"They said: 'Who's this woman talking to Mark? She shouldn't be talking to Mark like that.' "*

But before long Mary was entrenched in Bin Bakar's weekly routine, and within two years she had her own radio show, broadcasting to Indigenous communities nationally.

So what is it about Mary that makes her strike such a chord? Mary sits easily with her "subjects" says Bin Bakar, because she is modelled on the elderly "aunties" who dominate family and community life in many Aboriginal communities.

With one of these women, *"You don't know whether she's hot or cold sometimes because one minute she's all over you - 'I love you, my darling, and you're a really good little kid.' And the next moment she's saying, 'Don't talk to your mother like that!'"* he says. *"Every family has a Mary G. She keeps people balanced. She keeps people knowing who they are, where they sit in the world."*

And that is the reason for Mary's trademark sharp tongue with her onstage VIP guests. *"It's not about humiliating them. It's more about letting them know someone is watching,"* Bin Bakar says.



Back on stage, if the songs and banter weren't cheeky enough for some, there was good natured humiliation in store for the man who ultimately ran the show. Philip Holliday, Hobart City Council's Manager of Events and Cultural Development received the trademark Mary G dressing down on stage. Despite Mary's hilarious issues with his pronunciation Holliday clearly enjoyed his duet *"Poor Fella Poor Fella Me"* and proved he could more than hold a tune. No doubt, however, he will think twice before answering a request to *"come backstage"* during a show from now on!

Whoever and whatever Mary G is, she was a definite hit with her Hobart subjects. Despite wind and the threat of rain some 3000 people squeezed around the stage on Salamanca Place for a full evening of entertainment.

A little light-hearted and suitably risqué street theatre started the evening and helped rein in passers by before the growing crowd was treated to a diverse display of Tasmanian Indigenous talent.

In what is hoped to become the first of many cultural and artistic exchanges between Broome and Tasmania, local Indigenous artists Jodi Haines and Ruth Langford were joined by Broome's Kerianne Cox, who is making an impact nationally and internationally. The three women and their respective support artists were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Following an official welcome to country by Tasmanian ATSC Commissioner Rodney Dillon, Mary, complete with her G Spots, took to the stage. The G Spots, Mary's talented backing band, features a veritable who's who of Kimberly musical talent - Guy Ghouse on guitar, Arnhem Hunter on drums, Lyndon Jenkins on keyboards and Lorrae Coffin on bass. And of course the Mary G Show wouldn't be complete without Mary's *"Dahling Baamba"*, the incomparable Stephen Albert. With Broome's finest onstage the large audience was definitely in for a treat.

More than a third of the crowd stood for nearly three hours, captivated by the songs, humour and cheek onstage - an indication of how powerful the occasion was.

Salamanca Arts Centre's season opening event for 2004 was a runaway success. In an evening of five hours of free entertainment, Salamanca Place was again reclaimed for the people of Hobart and the doors of this, the people's Arts Centre, thrown wide open. Welcome to another year of exciting and innovative arts or as Mary would say, Whaddayow!

(Mary G's trademark phrase, "Whaddayow!" translates as "What do you make of that!" in her local 'pidgin')

By Patrick Taylor



In a year that is packed with exciting events across all artforms Salamanca Arts Centre has unveiled another adventurous and exciting season of performing arts. With a total of seven works the 2004 season is literally bursting at the seams with fresh, innovative theatre that has broad appeal and enviable artistry. The season features exciting and innovative works ranging from puppetry in a gothic bent to an eerily topical comedy decrying the folly of war to hyperactive physical theatre through to haunting fusions of dance, multimedia, slapstick and street theatre.

With the growth in both quality and number of shows within the 2004 performing arts program establishing a subscription season was the logical path to up the ante and position Salamanca Arts Centre in a new era of world class professional theatre right here in Tasmania.

## Season 2004



### *waiting for michael*

Waiting for Michael combines the dancing talents of two Michaels – Tasmania's Michael O'Donoghue and Sydney based Michael Whaites. O'Donoghue is well known to Tasmanian audiences through past work with Tasdance and Terrapin while Whaites is one of Australia's finest contemporary dancers. He has worked with major international dance companies including Twyla Tharp and DV8 as well as Australian Dance and Chunky Move. The two Michaels have waited 12 years to perform together and their collaboration is now complete. The subject matter of their dance? Waiting...

Already performed to critical acclaim in Sydney, the Hobart season is the last chance to see this show before it tours to New York in 2005.

Directed by Tasmania's Robert Jarman, Waiting for Michael is "about the things that we go through, the processes when we're sitting on a couch or a beach, in a waiting room, at the bus stop, it's about the kind of things that go through our head," O'Donoghue says.

"We have an internal rhythm thing that we do – we bounce our knees or we fidget ... So we make movement phrases based around that as well, like sometimes you happen to be copying another person and you turn around and you happen to be in the same position."

"O'Donoghue is a lovely mover and a pleasure to watch in several solo bursts." (Jill Sykes, Sydney Morning Herald).

### *frankenstein*

Presented by Terrapin Theatre in association with Salamanca Arts Centre, this haunting rendition of Mary Shelley's Gothic legend enters a secret world of puppets and marionette monsters. This classic tale of epic proportions will be launched in a chilling new adaptation for adult audiences. Terrapin's major production for 2004 it is also a farewell to departing Artistic Director Jessica Wilson in this collaboration with dramatist Anne Thompson and performer Colin Sneesby. Puppet and Set design by Graham Davis and Greg Methé, composer Ben Sibson and performer Kirsty Grierson round up the highly talented team on this production.

### *the concert*

Melbourne comedy quartet The Business will make their first Tasmanian appearance in Season 2004 with their current hit show The Concert. The surprise hit of the 2003 Melbourne Comedy Festival The Concert's award winning slapstick humour saw it also become one of the stars of the 2003 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Hilarious from start to finish the all female cast, as male characters Paul, Barry, Ray and Pierre, deliver a unique blend of hysterical hamming up with mind blowing



gags, spot on slapstick and farcical clowning, with punch ups, dancing and high speed chases that leave the audience in stitches.

The Concert sends up the traditions and high brow pretensions of the world of classical music in a series of sketches centred around a mythical symphony orchestra, its conductor and the audience waiting for the concert to begin.

In the words of the actors themselves "the Business have always dreamed of playing with the great conductor Marcus Schmetterlink and his world famous Helsinki Symphony Orchestra. Tonight's the night! As Paul, Barrie, Ray and Pierre arrive, set up and wait eagerly for Marcus, the great traditions of orchestra get turned on their head. Competition and impatience lead to ridiculous rivalry for the best seats, wine stealing, chase scenes, dance routines, cake eating, absurd rehearsals, slapstick fighting and operatic solos. At the height of the chaos Marcus and his orchestra finally arrive and the real concert begins."

## *jia (home) a tale of two islands*

The work of Launceston artist and actor Greg Leong JIA is a one person cabaret style performance exploring politics, people and place. Following its highly successful mainland tour JIA's exploration of cultural identity in returns to Tasmania. Join Feng-Yee, Hong Kong's Closet Princess, as she traces in chit-chat and song the hazards of her journey of cultural relocation from Hong Kong to Tasmania. Directed by Tasmania's Robert Jarman, this karaoke cabaret jibes at the crude and cruel in our society. Wince at the policies of Pauline Hanson before laughing as you sing along with I can Rrrreally Rrrroll My Rrrrr's or despair at the disaster in waiting that is the audience's attempt to sing Click go the Shears in Cantonese.

## *amphibitos*

Presented in association with IHOS, Amphibitos follows on from JIA with its examination of people, politics and place. Melbourne based dancer and choreographer Christos Linou's new and exciting physical theatre work examines the current Age of Terror through an amalgam of dance, parody and black humour. Extracts from the Book of Job, The Koran and the Dead Sea Scrolls meld with vaudeville, film and ritual acts in an abrasive yet poetic examination of war, religion, alienation and inequality. Amphibitos is a new show and receiving its premiere in Season 2004. A talented and imaginative dancer, Linou's most recent show was "compelling from beginning to end" (The Bulletin) with Linou dancing with "flair and fluidity" (The Age).

## *still angela*

Still Angela is the first fruits of SAC's involvement with the newly established National Contemporary Theatre Touring Consortium. Still Angela, written by Australian writer and director Jenny Kemp, premiered in Melbourne in 2002 at Playbox. The work is a multisided portrait of a contemporary Australian woman at three ages. On the cusp of her birthday we follow her on a real and imaginary journey – into the kitchen with her lover – into the Simpson Desert where she confronts her nemesis – as a child – at the chess board with her mother – and finally to the extraordinary celebration of her birthday. In simple terms Still Angela is a poignant and moving piece of theatre with a special resonance and relevance for all women. Jenny Kemp recently conducted an extremely successful performance writing workshop, supported by SAC as part of Terrapin's Hobart Junction program.



## *the last days of mankind*

Rounding off the season is acclaimed Austrian actor and longtime Bruny Island resident Justus Neumann's translation of Karl Krauss' The Last Days of Mankind. This powerful anti war comedy, written during World War One, maintains an eerie relevance today. Neumann plays every role in this clever adaptation, which shows the talented actor at his absolute best. The fluidity with which Neumann switches from character to character is mind blowing as is the complete assumption of character. More than playing multiple roles Neumann becomes every character yet blurs the identity of none. This show represents a wonderful opportunity for everyone concerned by the "New World Order" to view a political comedy from an earlier era that still has a fundamental resonance in a new century.

### Pricing Structure

Season 2004 features a common pricing structure with shows being classified as "small" or "large". Ticket prices for individual shows for the entire season are: Small show: \$20 (full) \$15 (concessions), Large show: \$25 (full) \$18 (concessions) with tickets available through the Salamanca Arts Centre Box Office, located at Designer Mirrors. However theatre goers can now choose to subscribe and save. By purchasing a subscription there is not only no additional booking fee, but there is also a flat 20% discount on the listed ticket purchase price.

### Performance Dates

#### Waiting for Michael

March 3-6, 8pm & 10-14, 8pm

#### Frankenstein

May 19-22, 8pm & May 26-29, 8pm & May 29, 4pm

#### The Concert

June 15-16, 6:30pm &

June 17-19, 8pm

#### JIA (home) – a tale of two Islands

July 29-31, 8pm & August 1, 2:30pm

#### Amphibitos

August 5-7, 8pm

#### Still Angela

September 17-18,

8pm & 19, 2:30pm

September 21-25, 8pm &

26, 2:30pm

#### The Last Days of Mankind

October 20-23, 8pm & 24, 2:30pm

October 27-30, 8pm & 31, 2:30pm

Season 2004 subscription booklets are available from SAC administration at 77 Salamanca Place, Hobart, by calling 6234 8414 or by email request to [publicity@salarts.org.au](mailto:publicity@salarts.org.au)

## go on – av'ago

The next twelve months will see an important evolution in two of the Salamanca Arts Centre's most unusual exhibition spaces. Under the curatorial guidance of local artist Mish Meijers the Avago Gallery (facing onto Salamanca Place) and Kelly's Garden (down Kelly's Lane) will be re-branded, renovated and renewed.

With support from the Salamanca Arts Centre Mish identified this project as a vital step in her career. Although Mish has an extensive, and impressive, exhibition track-record including such diverse shows as "Devils on Horseback" (the final show at Foyer Installation Gallery), Young Designer's Month and the Hobart Fringe Festival Fashion Parade, she remains pragmatic about the chances of making a living purely through sale of her artworks. The additional skills to be gained through this project, including marketing, bookkeeping and administration will, she hopes, increase her chances of finding additional work within the arts sector with which to support her own artistic practice which ranges from lighting design to installation and costume.

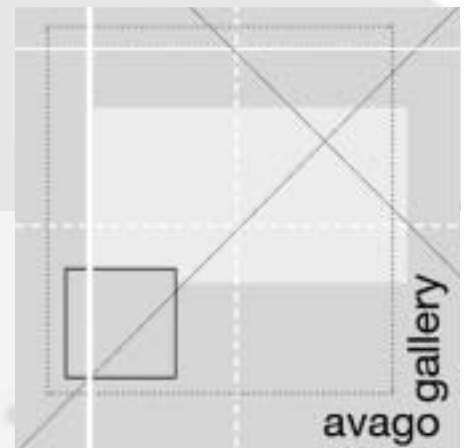
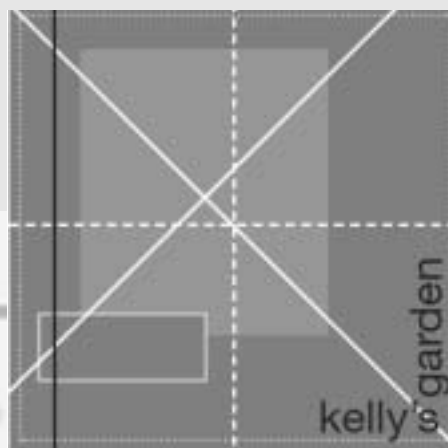
In addition to these, mostly practical, motivations Mish is passionate both about the potential that the spaces hold and the opportunities to promote the work of her peers. She hopes to tie in with the mainland Australia sculpture and installation networks to create a national profile for the spaces and to encourage interstate artists to make use of them. Mish will also promote the spaces throughout Tasmania and travel in particular to Launceston where she completed her own University studies and where, she hopes, she will find Northern-based artists eager to cross the North/South divide in the name of cross-fertilisation and an end to parochialism.

The program for the next twelve months is still under development but will include opportunities for solo and group shows by emerging and professional artists. Filling the gap left by the closure of the Foyer Installation Space at the end of 2002 the program will concentrate on providing opportunities for contemporary practices including moving image, concept architecture and oversized, mutated, craft pieces. A moving image month is planned for winter and will feature changing exhibits sourced nationally. Other curated shows are being planned and will be advertised during the year.

Mish hopes to counteract some of the traditional challenges associated with each of the spaces by calling on the experience of other curators and exhibition space managers including Mary Knights (Carnegie Gallery, Hobart City Council), Paul Zika (University of Tasmania) and Jenni Gorringe (Moonah Arts Centre). Apart from the demands on her own time, the small budget and the needs of the artists, Mish's major concern is the ongoing life of the spaces. After walking past Kelly's Garden and the Avago time and time again Mish was struck by the unrealised potential, and potential profile, of the spaces. This year will be her mighty contribution after which she hopes another emerging curator will take on the largely voluntary effort or a paid position will be created to ensure the program's future. With her own exhibition planned for early 2005 Mish is optimistic that, like her, other artists will be inspired by the unique sites and be keen to see them grow.

The Salamanca Arts Centre is pleased to support the ongoing development of both spaces. The enchanting, Secret Garden-like atmosphere of Kelly's Garden is now enhanced by a new gate created by local designer-maker (and ex-SAC Maintenance Man) Gerhard Mausz. The Avago also, as well as being in a position of prime profile looking out onto busy Salamanca Place, is a magical, and malleable space capable of housing very special work. Throughout February we were treated to an exceptional exhibition by Sara Maher who creates enigmatic yet gentle dream-spaces from which to contemplate the ordinary, everyday beauty of our world.

If you'd like more information about what's on at the Salamanca Arts Centre email [events@salarts.org.au](mailto:events@salarts.org.au). Potential exhibitors can contact Mish via [mish.meijers@salarts.org.au](mailto:mish.meijers@salarts.org.au)



## A redesign for

### Design = Function + Fibre?

Salamanca Arts Centre has a reputation as an incubator of new ideas and services in the arts in Tasmania. Back in 2000 Salamanca Arts Centre first *Design = Function + Fibre* with the intention of mounting this important exhibition of design and craftsmanship every two years. In 2002 SAC again presented this innovative exhibition to an enthusiastic response from artists and public alike and since then there has been an explosion of growth in this area with the creation of Arts Tasmania's Young Designers Month. Accordingly SAC has postponed the proposed 2004 *Design = Function + Fibre* and will now reassess this exhibition.

### all change at the avago and kelly's garden

2004 is a year of growth and renewal at Salamanca Arts Centre with both the Avago Gallery and Kelly's Garden receiving a new direction under new Emerging Curator, Mish Meijers. Both spaces have been rebranded and feature an exciting contemporary styled logo. New frosted lettering has already been added to the Avago and major upgrades are taking place in Kelly's Garden throughout February. The long overdue upgrades will bring the space into line with public safety requirements and enable the space to join its fellow galleries as another first class gallery space for outdoor sculptural exhibitions.

### The Tank's full.... Let's hit the road!

Salamanca Arts Centre's acclaimed production of *The TANK* is back on stage and currently touring. *The TANK* was a clear highlight of the 2002 Hobart Summer Festival. Now audiences outside Hobart have the chance to see this show about Tasmanian rural life, with *The TANK* showing in February as part of the Theatre North Subscription season and then undertaking a regional tour with Tasmanian Regional Arts. All the original cast are again with us so if you missed out on seeing this show in its previous two seasons in Hobart now is your chance. Having toured Tasmania SAC will now focus on touring this wonderful story of Tasmanian culture throughout Australia.

### Notice of AGM

The Salamanca Arts Centre Inc's AGM will be held at 6pm on Monday 29 March. Venue to be confirmed. All members welcome.

### Advertise in SAC Ink

Reach an audience interested in the arts and artists. Very reasonable rates! Contact [newsletter@salarts.org.au](mailto:newsletter@salarts.org.au) for more information.

### Crank it up – SAC's New Website

Despite the inevitable delays inherent in such a large project Stage 1 of the new Salamanca Arts Centre website, designed by Crank Media, will go live in the next few months. Crank's team, Damien

Anderson, Tony Holzner and writer Celia Lendis have been very patient while SAC staff researched and developed site information. The site will be an important resource for local arts patrons and visitors to Tasmania who are looking to engage with the State's history as well as today's vibrant arts scene. State Government funding for the development was received with support from the Centre for Innovations on the basis of need for SAC to have a cutting-edge site to represent Tasmania's arts and artists both locally and internationally. The Department of Economic Development also seconded Peter, a graduate trainee and systems analyst to SAC as project manager for three months. Peter worked with SAC staff and Crank Media to plan the project, identify and coordinate the required content and establish and monitor timelines. Peter's contribution was considerable and with his return to his department, the project slowed.

Crank Media have a strong track-record of delivering innovative designs and content in a constantly evolving industry and were themselves recipients of Centre for Innovations support some years ago. The site will include flash-based interactives inspired by the history of the Arts Centre and the Sullivan's Cove district but will also be compatible with older browsers. Future upgrades of the new site will include an online event booking system, e-commerce facilities and virtual artists' studios. To keep up-to-date with the latest news make sure SAC Inc has your email address by emailing [sacinc@salarts.org.au](mailto:sacinc@salarts.org.au) with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

## Mobile Media

The Mobile Media Access Facility (MMAF) was established in late 2003 with funding from Screen Tasmania (\$50,000 in 2003 and \$50,000 for 2004) to provide professional development opportunities and access to equipment for emerging Tasmanian filmmakers. The facility is the outcome of a number of studies undertaken in recent years to determine appropriate support for Tasmania's emerging filmmakers and is loosely modelled on South Australia's Media Resource Centre and Victoria's Open Channel. The MMAF is a major project of the Salamanca Arts Centre but it is anticipated that, under the leadership of the MMAF Steering Committee chaired by Graeme Gates, it will become an independent entity within 2 to 3 years.

The Australian Film Commission is also contributing project support (\$25,000) in 2004. The facility has a strong statewide focus despite its Hobart base and will present professional development courses across the state in 2004. The facility will also tie-in with existing regionally-based resources and use partnerships to create a statewide network.

Emerging filmmakers seeking information on MMAF activities and film professionals interested in presenting training courses or otherwise mentoring aspiring filmmakers should contact MMAF Coordinator Jeanette Bellany by emailing [mmaf@salarts.org.au](mailto:mmaf@salarts.org.au).

## Maintenance Man

Whilst the casual stroll around the centre might prompt the expression 'business as usual', a closer look reveals the little victories of renewal and maintenance that have been achieved over the preceding months.

At the bottom of Kelly's steps, there is a wonderful new gate into Kelly's Garden, created by Gerhard Mausz, that replaces the rotting wooden one. Around the corner finds the Handmark Gallery's newly painted doors, and up the main stairs there's new varnish on the treads.

Up above one's head, there has been activity too; John and Shane dragged in the forty-foot ladder and vacuumed all the roof trusses. The centre has also bought a water-pressure cleaner which they use to clean the courtyard.

The aging fluoro-lights, and the halogen lights in the arcade, are being gradually upgraded or replaced, and the leaking gutter in Montagu Lane is about to be repaired, as is the light-well near the Venue entrance.

The stonework maintenance program is well under way, with the bluestone wall facing Salamanca Square repaired and re-pointed. The windows have been painted, and also have had some opening panes provided to alleviate ventilation problems in that building.

Graffiti is a persistent problem, but the Centre has engaged Michael Ransom to tackle it, and he has a fine eye for detail. Melissa Mackey has also been engaged to give Sue Omant a hand with the cleaning, to address the consequence of increasing traffic through the buildings.

So you see, although the 'Maintenance Man' loves praise and recognition, unfortunately, not all improvements are down to him; indeed it is a team effort. The Salamanca Arts Centre is not just a collection of old stone buildings, it is the sum of the people that work there.

David Hughes

## SPACE Technical Theatre Training

The SPACE course is a year-long accredited technical theatre training certificate first piloted in 2002 in response to an identified shortage of qualified technical theatre professionals in Tasmania. Since then the program has seen a number of graduates go on to be employed professionally in Tasmania, other states and internationally.

TAFE Tasmania and the Salamanca Arts Centre have recently appointed a new course coordinator for 2004 after widespread advertising for a suitably qualified person. Two information sessions for the 2004 intake of students have already been held but any potential students can still register their interest by emailing [space@salarts.org.au](mailto:space@salarts.org.au).

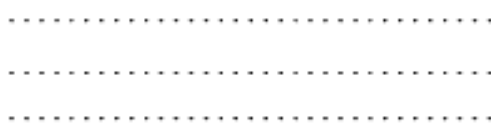
### Notable quotable

"I merely took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues." *Duke Ellington (1899 - 1974)*

## New Gallery Focus

More Tasmanian artists can exhibit for free at the Salamanca Arts Centre as part of a new initiative supported by Arts Tasmania. With the assistance of mentors Mary Knights, Jenni Goringe and Paul Zika, emerging curator Mish Meijers will program the Avago Gallery and Kelly's Garden exhibition spaces for the next year. Opportunities for solo and group shows will be presented and it is hoped that the program will attract renewed interest in both of the spaces. An interview with Mish Meijers on the progress of her project will appear in the next issue of SACInk.

design and layout nicole robson



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