

Regional Arts Fund

Community Grant

Case study:

ACT Natimuk - Possible Not



All images from *Possible Not* - Nati Fringe 2017. Photographer: Michelle McFarlane

Project Summary

Possible Not was a collaboration between Asking for Trouble, the Wimmera Women's Circus (WWC) and local youth gymnasts. Through a series of workshops, *Possible Not* explored our beliefs of what is possible and our perceived boundaries. Asking the question '[is this] an ultimate truth, a law of physics or learned behaviour?' *Possible Not* unpacked perceptions of boundaries using circus as a metaphor for human potential. The results were presented at the 2017 Nati Frinj Biennale in a 25 minute piece of new Australian physical theatre performed in the Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall and four outdoor 'pop up' shows.

Artist Benefits

Living and working in Natimuk leading up to the festival enabled the Asking for Trouble artists to connect with a wider range of locals. They were invited to perform in the 'Dusk' Silo Show, and future collaborations with Natimuk artists including the 'Poppet' show have been instigated. The artists said "It has been an opportunity to learn from a thriving regional creative hub...we connected with and learnt from a range of talented and highly skilled regionally based artists"

The Wimmera Women's Circus (WWC) have been reinvigorated by participation in *Possible Not*. The developmental process was different to what the group had done previously, this pushed their boundaries and took them out of their comfort zone. They feel like an attraction in their own right, and now have the confidence to develop further shows. One WWC member commented "A big thanks must go to Christy and Luke for their amazing ability to create such a fabulous show, giving each of us our own moment to shine and showing us we can do new things we thought not possible!" Local youth gymnasts reported participation in *Possible Not* was "great!" They enjoyed the chance to meet others and learn new skills. "It was great...really great, to learn some new circus tricks" - youth participant

Community Benefits

Possible Not developed an existing relationship between the WWC and Asking for Trouble. Including the local youth gymnasts in the project encouraged participation in the arts not only for the youth participants, but also for their extended families and friends. New connections were formed, and the diversity of ages (8 yrs - 70 yrs) within the show combined different styles and energies into a truly moving experience. People in the audience commented on the collaboration between the youth gymnasts and the older women. Watching people of different ages care for each other and create a company together was powerful.

"Reminds me the value of community spirit at the grass levels, and how important it is to connect creatively as part of a bigger conversation about how we want our world to be." - Festival attendee

Public Outcome

Asking for Trouble led the community participants through a series of workshops exploring possibility and the limitations we put on ourselves. The final outcome developed the participants' existing skills in circus and gymnastics, and gently incorporated personal stories into the performance piece. The 'pop up' shows during the festival created a buzz and excitement on the streets of Natimuk and an accessible arts experience for festival attendees. The final showing of *Possible Not* was incredibly well supported, there was a huge queue down the main street, and people were turned away at the door. It was a highlight event for many people. "Full of pride," "I laughed and cried, well-done everyone involved," "A slick and professional production," - all quotes from *Possible Not* audience members.



Australian Government

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Project Start Date	01/08/2017
Project End Date	06/11/2017
Project Location	Natimuk
Postcode	3409
Federal Electorate	Mallee
No. Audience	1000
No. Participants	15
Project Beneficiary	General Community
Main Art Form	Circus
No. Artists Paid	3
No. Arts Worker Paid	1