

Jute
theatre

**Centre of
Contemporary Arts**

96 Abbott Street
PO Box 6090
Cairns QLD 4870

T 07 4050 9444

F 07 4050 9440

info@jute.com.au

www.jute.com.au

JUTE THEATRE

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

Established in Cairns in 1992, JUTE Theatre is a significant regional theatre company driving the development, co-production, national and international touring of contemporary Australian plays from the regions. JUTE Theatre has grown through its can-do attitude and commitment to long term strategies, to become an award winning regional theatre company driving the development, co-production, national and international touring of contemporary Australian plays from the regions. Since 2004 JUTE Theatre has operated from its home at the Centre of Contemporary Arts - a significant regional infrastructure, funded by State Government.

Vision

Regional theatre will be an energetic powerhouse of national and international collaboration and creation.

Mission

From its home in North Queensland, JUTE Theatre will develop and produce bold new work and will drive strategies to collaborate with a network of regional theatre companies, producers and venues to create and move new work from regional theatre makers across Australia and internationally.

Commitment

JUTE Theatre is committed to a flourishing regional theatre sector and drives strategies at local, state and national levels for the development of this sector. JUTE Theatre has a strong commitment to professional development for regional practitioners across the nation and provides opportunities to break down the isolation felt by these practitioners, leading to collaboration, co-productions and touring of new regional work. All work generated by JUTE Theatre and its co-producers starts with development of work through the annual script development programs. These multi award-winning programs support regional playwrights at a local, state and national level and use best practice models to ensure quality skills and script development with a view to eventual production of distinctive scripts.

The Future

The future is exciting. JUTE Theatre believes there is a distinctiveness and validity of work taking place in regional centres that should stand beside metropolitan work, creating a rich ecology in the theatre sector. With 40% of Australia's population living in the regions, and as more people move to regional centres, the sector needs to be ready to take a significant role in nurturing the vibrancy of these communities. JUTE Theatre is a company that has the vision and the rigour to make regional theatre an energetic powerhouse of creation and collaboration.

CONTENTS

Overview of Programs	5
2008 Activity Overview	6
Chair's Report	7
Artistic Director's Report	9
Season of Plays	
Gods of Spicy Things – A Divine Comedy	11
Tiptoe	13
7 Deadly Australian Sins	15
<i>Inbound Theatre To The Edge Tours</i>	
Futz	17
Tracy	18
<i>Indie Season</i>	
The Angel's Whip	19
The Rainbow Dark	20
Hosted By JUTE Theatre	
On Edge Festival	21
Dancenorth season	22
Development Programs	
Script Commissions For Q150	23
Creative Developments	23
Script Development Programs	24
National Regional Playwrights & Theatre	
Makers Conference	24
Industry Development Programs	
Theatre to the Edge Initiative	25
Regional Wave Cohort Initiative	26
Mentoring Programs	26
JUTE Theatre Venue Hire	26

Audience Development Programs

Talking Theatre Focus Forums	27
Live Book Club	28
Test Drive the Arts	28

Community Development Programs

Work for the Dole Programs	29
Department of Communities – Youth Justice Project	29
Volunteer Programs	29

JUTE Theatre Staff	30
---------------------------	----

JUTE Theatre Board of Directors	30
--	----

Acknowledgements	31
-------------------------	----

Contact JUTE Theatre	32
-----------------------------	----

Financial Report	
-------------------------	--

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

PRODUCTIONS

Each year JUTE Theatre produces or co-produces a season of 2 new plays from regional playwrights, touring some of these works through the Theatre to the Edge regional touring initiative. Through this same initiative JUTE Theatre presents seasons of work from companies in regional Queensland and the Northern Territory.

SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM & REGIONAL THEATRE CONFERENCE

Each year JUTE Theatre develops the work of up to 10 regional playwrights and produces a National Regional Playwrights and Theatre Makers Conference that provides skills development, exposure of new regional plays and career pathways for regional theatre makers.

JUTE THEATRE VENUE HIRE

The JUTE Theatre was opened in 2004 and has been successfully managed by JUTE Theatre full time staff with an excellent usage rate of 80-85% capacity each year. The 248-seat venue provides a professional environment for a myriad of community groups and corporate clients as well as professional dance and performance companies, contemporary music concerts and regular independent film nights and lectures. The JUTE Theatre venue hire is a business unit for JUTE Theatre, bringing in an income of up to \$40,000 per annum.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JUTE Theatre grew out of the Cairns community and engages with the community at many levels. Apart from providing an annual season of professional contemporary performances for our regional community, JUTE Theatre develops new, emerging and mature playwrights and theatre makers, connecting freelance artists to the broader national theatre sector. JUTE Theatre now provides independent producers with an opportunity to produce work as part of the JUTE Theatre Indie Season. JUTE Theatre provides an education program for schools and supports the community groups hiring the JUTE Theatre by mentoring their students throughout the production process. JUTE Theatre undertakes school holiday programs for young people aged 7 – 16 years. JUTE Theatre produces social justice theatre projects for the clients of some Government Departments.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

JUTE Theatre is committed to bringing new audiences to theatre in regional Australia. JUTE Theatre annually undertakes audience development programs to understand the barriers to people attending theatre. JUTE Theatre collects significant information from exit surveys and forum groups for each of its seasons of plays. This information is shared with other regional companies in Australia.

2008 OVERVIEW

JUTE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS & CO-PRODUCTIONS

Gods of Spicy Things – A Divine Comedy
Tiptoe
7 Deadly Australian Sins

THEATRE TO THE EDGE PRESENTATIONS

Futz – Tropic Sun Theatre, Townsville
Tracy – Business Unusual & Darwin Theatre Company Co-Production

PRESENTATIONS IN THE JUTE THEATRE

Indie Producer: The Angel's Whip
Indie Producer: Rainbow Dark
Dancenorth
On Edge Festival

THEATRE TO THE EDGE OUTBOUND TOURS – TOWNSVILLE, MACKAY, DARWIN

Gods of Spicy Things – A Divine Comedy
7 Deadly Australian Sins

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

200k's – Launceston, Tasmania
At the National Regional Playwrights & Theatre Makers Conference
- POW
- Love, Chips & Gravy
- Macbeth adaptation

COMMISSIONS

Cake
The Shining Path
The Lost Boys

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Enter Stage Write – script & playwright development program
National Regional Playwrights & Theatre Makers Conference
Youth, Social Justice & Education Plan
James Cook University – Creative Arts Students

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Focus Forums – theatre non-attendees program
Live Book Club

CHAIR'S REPORT

2008 has been probably the most artistically successful year yet for JUTE Theatre. In terms of new work being produced, touring, mentoring, and engagement with audiences, the arts community and the community in general, we have had major successes and continue to grow the local and regional arts environment. As a company, perhaps our greatest highlight was becoming one of a very few Australian contemporary theatre companies to receive triennial funding from Arts Queensland and the Australia Council. This demonstrates the faith that our peers and arts administrators have in us and, of course, helps to ensure financial stability. Modest (though very much appreciated!) funding increases have allowed the company to make some timely long term investments in our people and capabilities and this will benefit us in the short and long terms.

The JUTE Theatre Board met 11 times in 2008 and we continue to function well as a team. Luckily, we have not lost any directors this year, despite the huge workload that some board members have endured. As a result of some initial board training work by Meri Robson (Board Connect) and David Fishel (Positive Solutions), we have commenced planning for a new phase of governance based on better utilising the skills and energy of individual directors. This has resulted in the identification of target areas for our operations such as Health & Safety, Fundraising, Resources & Assets, Tenancy & Building Management, and New Projects. We are planning to devote more board time to these specific areas and this has become possible by improvements to our overall management and procedures. The Board is grateful to the Australia Council and Arts Queensland for making Meri and David available and for Meri and David's inspirational and insightful inputs.

The current Board has a broad range of skills including the arts, public relations/media, finance, government, school-based performing arts, legal, planning, and the environment. The JUTE Theatre "family" supplements these skills and our volunteer program in particular has yielded people with a range of skills and expertise to help supplement the efforts of the staff. Our success would not be possible without our dedicated staff and volunteers – all have done a great job in 2008 and the Board certainly recognises this and thanks everyone for their efforts. Particular thanks go to the efforts of Artistic Director and CEO Suellen Maunder who continues to lead by example. She and her team have worked tirelessly during 2008 to make JUTE Theatre what it is.

As Chair of JUTE Theatre I was also a director of CoCA Ltd, the company formed to manage the Centre of Contemporary Arts building and support the resident organisations. As a result of decisions taken by CoCA Ltd in late 2007, the company was officially wound up in December 2008. Basically, all concerned agreed that the CoCA model was not working as well as it might and JUTE Theatre and KickArts are now actively working with Arts Queensland to develop a better model. A business plan is currently in preparation and this is expected to provide a way forward. Hopefully, this will be completed to everyone's satisfaction by mid-year. Whilst this has been a distraction, JUTE Theatre has continued to move forward artistically and to mature as a company.

I am sad to report that the lack of a functional café continues to be a bugbear and no firm plans are in place to address this, although it is very much “on the radar”. I am delighted to report that Stage 2 (the Rehearsal Space) is well underway and should be completed in mid 2009. This will free up the Theatre and generally help us streamline and expand our operations.

Finally, readers will note the slight re-branding of the company – we are now JUTE Theatre – a move taken to reinforce our very strong “theatre” commitment and an opportunity to update our image. The Board is proud of this strong new look and the fresh and forward-looking culture that it portrays.

David Rivett

Chair

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2008 saw JUTE Theatre undertake its largest program in its 16-year history. The programs stretched across regional Australia, engaging with companies and theatre makers in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. At the JUTE Theatre we presented eight seasons of plays and sent out two tours to regional Queensland and the Northern Territory. Playlab Press has published two of the plays from the 2008 season and one of these productions will tour extensively in 2009. Creatively it was a successful year with JUTE Theatre touring productions playing to full houses and interest expressed in JUTE Theatre shows from festivals and companies in India and Singapore.

JUTE Theatre has a vision to make the regions a powerhouse of creativity. Through connecting isolated practitioners and companies, regional theatre becomes strong and can take its place in the national theatre environment.

Perhaps the single most successful initiative to be driven by JUTE Theatre and its regional partners, is the Theatre to the Edge touring initiative, funded by Arts Queensland and delivered through the Queensland Arts Council with TtTe partners Tropic Sun Theatre, Townsville; Crossroad Arts, Mackay and Darwin Theatre Company. A great debt is owed to Jane Atkins of Queensland Arts Council for her recognition of the value of this initiative and her championing of the program to Arts Queensland. In a review of theatre in the Northern Territory funded by Australia Council and Arts NT, the Qld/NT version of this initiative was hailed by the consultant Justin Macdonnell as *"..one of the most imaginative developments for the growth and exchange of original theatre work made in regional circumstances that has been evolved since the commencement of public arts funding in Australia."* He went on to say: *"While many hands and minds have contributed to it, the kudos should go to Just Us Theatre Ensemble (JUTE Theatre) in Cairns for so vigorously pursuing it and Arts Queensland for sustaining it. Properly managed and resourced, it has the potential to transform the way in which theatre is nurtured and grown in Northern Australia and to offer a paradigm for its support elsewhere in regional Australia."*

While this program has been applauded, it is not certain that it will survive the changes being made through Arts Queensland's new Touring Strategy. JUTE Theatre will be looking for new opportunities opened by the new strategy and will also investigate the viability of continuing the Theatre to the Edge touring model through other sources.

JUTE Theatre continues to invest in the development of new Australian plays by regional playwrights across Australia and consistently produces/co-produces three new plays each year from the award winning Enter Stage Write, script and playwright development program. The National Regional Playwrights & Theatre Makers Conference continues to bring together isolated regional practitioners and connects them into the national theatre sector, building networks, developing skills and undertaking creative developments of new work.

Throughout 2008, JUTE Theatre continued to support the four new plays commissioned in 2007 to celebrate the Q150 (Queensland celebrating 150 years of independence from New South Wales in 2009). A creative development of the new work by seven young and emerging playwrights who were brought together through a national pilot program in 2007, took place in Launceston hosted by Mudlark Theatre, a dynamic new company that is invigorating professional theatre in Northern Tasmania. JUTE Theatre and Mudlark will co-produce and tour this work in 2010.

In a new initiative known as the Indie Season, JUTE Theatre formalised its support of regional independent practitioners by programming two independent producers into the first Indie Season. This new program gives independent producers the opportunity to produce their work, taking full creative control while being supported and mentored by the JUTE Theatre team in the areas of production and marketing.

JUTE Theatre was one of the few theatre companies in Queensland to gain triennial funding (2008-2010) through the Arts Queensland s2m program and also made a successful bid to the Australia Council Key Organisations for triennial funding 2009-2011. This has given the company the national recognition for what it has been achieving but also challenges the company to take the next step in the company's growth.

In 2008 JUTE Theatre and KickArts continued the model of building management that had proven successful following the dismantling of the CoCA Ltd company. JUTE Theatre generated significant income through venue hire of the JUTE Theatre and was responsible for programming, management and maintenance of the theatre. KickArts managed the galleries and the KickArts shop and was contracted by Arts Queensland to manage the building maintenance.

Income generation outside of government arts funding has become an imperative for the company, however given the smaller population and the lack of major corporations based in a regional centre this is not as accessible as it might be in a city centre. JUTE Theatre began working with Artsupport Australia to develop a philanthropic plan to build relationships with the philanthropic funds and individual donors towards supporting the activities and outcomes of the company. Programs to build the box office income and generate income through touring as well as partnerships with government departments to deliver social justice and education programs are high on the agenda.

As one of the few text based, new work theatre companies and even fewer regional companies to be funded triennially at both state and federal level, JUTE Theatre takes its role as an Artistic Hub for new work and regional theatre development seriously. JUTE Theatre remains focussed on its role at a local, state, national and eventually international level and looks forward to meeting these challenges in 2009 and beyond.

Suellen Maunder
Artistic Director



GODS OF SPICY THINGS – A DIVINE COMEDY by Sue Hayes

Venue: JUTE Theatre, Cairns
 Producer: JUTE Theatre & Crossroad Arts
 Cairns Season: 8 & 9 Feb; 27 Feb – 8 Mar
 No. of Performances: 11
 Total Audience No. 1464

When Sue Hayes regaled me with stories of her time in India, the spark was ignited by the image of Sue on the banks of the Ganges being proposed to by partner Kevin. At the time JUTE Theatre was interested in supporting writer/ performers to develop their work, given the success of the one-woman show we developed with Toni Allayialis's *My Of Course Life*, which played to great audiences and then toured over the next two years. Sue began with the program in 2005 and continued throughout the 2006 and 2007 programs. Her dramaturgs included Sue Rider, Kathryn Ash and Peter Matheson. At a reading of the piece at the 2006 conference Sue connected with director/dramaturg, Iain Sinclair, who had also spent time in India. Also at this conference, I suggested that Steve Mayer-Miller, Artistic Director of Crossroad Arts in Mackay, and a film maker to boot, would not only make an excellent collaborator, bringing audio-visual and puppetry skills to the project, but Crossroad Arts would make the perfect co-producer. At that stage the play was a one-woman show but it soon became clear that the play required a male and a female character to tell the story. It was then that Christopher Glover was brought into the project and a creative development took place involving Iain Sinclair as director/dramaturg, Dominie Hooper as designer/puppet maker, Sue as writer/performer, Chris as performer and Steve as AV designer and puppet adviser.

The creative development and the subsequent reading and development at the 2007 Conference continued to drive the work towards its final destination. As the final director for the production, I worked closely with Sue and Peter Matheson in the final redrafts of the work prior to production. What intrigued me about the play was the potential to tell the story through weaving together the use of puppets, AV, performers and design. The logistics of the tour (Mackay, Townsville, Darwin then back to Cairns for a season) meant that the show needed to pack down to excess baggage for flights. The twelve suitcases that formed part of the set were used to create the elements of each scene: a rickshaw (peddled with great gusto by the Rickshaw Wallah puppet to great

audience applause), a drink stand, the banks of the Ganges (my personal favourite) and the interior of the first and second-class train.

Sue's play is full of joy and fun and this is what the audience responded to. They loved the clever use of props, set and puppets, and the Indian members of the audience were delighted by the play from the opening moments, recognising and reveling in the reflection of their culture from an Australian perspective. The show received many standing ovations in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Darwin. The play is touring regional Queensland in 2009 through the Queensland Arts Council and will go on from this 5-week tour to a season at Tuggeranong Arts Centre in Canberra.

CAST:	Sue Hayes Christopher Glover
DIRECTOR:	Suellen Maunder
DESIGNER:	Dominie Hooper
LIGHTING DESIGNER:	Ben Hamley
AV DESIGNER:	Steve Mayer-Miller
DRAMTURG:	Peter Matheson
SOUND CONSULTANT:	Nigel Pegrum
CULTURAL ADVISOR:	Kevin Mayo
STAGE MANAGER:	Theresa O'Connor
PROP CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANT:	Kevin Mayo
DESIGN ASSISTANT:	Kairi Russell
TEACHER'S NOTES:	Leigh Boswell
PHOTOGRAPHER	Michael Marzik

Theatre To The Edge Tour

Presenter:	Crossroad Arts & Mackay Entertainment Centre
Season:	14 – 16 Feb (Due to State of Emergency because of flooding in Mackay, only one performance took place.
Venue:	Mackay Entertainment Centre
No Of Performances:	1
Total Audience:	40

Presenter:	Tropic Sun Theatre, Townsville
Season:	20 – 24 February
Venue:	Court Theatre
No Of Performances:	5
Total Audience:	419

Presenter:	Darwin Theatre Company
Season:	12 – 16 March
Venue:	Browns' Mart
No Of Performances:	5
Total Audience:	390

Play Script Published By Playlab Press 2009



TIPTOE

By Michael Beresford

Venue: JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer: JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Season: 4 – 19 July
No. Of Performances: 13
Total Audience No: 1238

Michael Beresford's play began with at least seven characters with the central character being Annie Bags, a historical figure who lived in Charters Towers (Charlie's Trousers) in the 1900's. While the images were delicious, the play required a structure and a character paring down that would allow an audience into this dark world and allow a small company to produce. Michael came into the Enter Stage Write program with this play in 2007 and initially worked with dramaturgs, Peter Matheson and David Fenton. It was the introduction of David, with his directorial eye and his work with the integration of digital media imagery into performance, that began a collaboration that culminated in a successful production of the work. Michael has a rich poetic style and loves to uncover the underbelly of society and give it a voice on the stage.

In 2007 the play received a week of creative development involving David Fenton as director and Kathryn Ash as dramaturg, and Carol Burns, Queensland's highly regarded senior artist, was brought into the project. The casting of Carol in the production secured support from the Queensland Theatre Company Regional Program and brought maturity and artistic generosity to the rehearsal room. The play was a joy to perform and the audiences loved seeing older women portrayed with such gusto and dark humour. My time spent talking with a 'real' 80 year-old woman in the foyer after a performance was one of the most delightful experiences of my life. Here was a woman who, while physically frail, was intellectually as sharp as a razor, seeing a 'warts and all' portrayal of older women. She was inspired, elated and feisty and felt that she had been given a new lease on life. A piece of theatre that can elicit that reaction from an audience is surely worth seeing on the Australian stage.

The world premier of Tiptoe was produced by JUTE Theatre, Cairns and opened on Friday 4th July, with the following cast and creative team:

DIRECTOR:	David Fenton
DESIGNER:	Dominie Hooper
LIGHTING DESIGNER:	Amelia Davies Peereboom
VISUAL DESIGN:	Kain Shepherd
DRAMATURG:	David Fenton & Peter Matheson
STAGE MANAGER:	Sue Hayes
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER:	Alix Parsons
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:	Merewez Whaleboat
SET/PROP CONSTRUCTION:	Lauren O'Flaherty, Alex Vervuijn, Rikst Van Dyk & Kevin Mayo
TECHNICAL SUPPORT:	Steve Peereboom And Stageworks Crew
CHORAL ARRANGERS:	Corrie Leftwich & Robert Keane
TEACHER'S NOTES:	Leigh Boswell
PHOTOGRAPHER:	Jake Nowakowski

CAST:	
Winsome	Carol Burns
Emma Lee	Kylee Mcdowall
Ruby	Suellen Maunder
Dot	Susan Prince

Play Script Published By Playlab Press 2009



7 DEADLY AUSTRALIAN SINS

By Kathryn Ash, Melissa Cantwell, Stephen Carleton,
Gail Evans, Robert Jarman, Merrilee Mills and
Maryanne Sam

Venue: JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer: JUTE Theatre, Knock-Em-Down Theatre & Darwin Theatre Company
Cairns Season: 12 – 27 September
No. Of Performances: 13
Total Audience No: 1172

The spark for this collaborative project grew out of the Regional Wave Cohort discussions in 2006 at the JUTE Theatre Playwrights Conference. It was felt that the best way to launch the Regional Wave Cohort (an initiative to collaborate cross-regionally to develop, co-produce and tour new work by regional or geographically isolated theatre makers), was to develop a new work by 7 writers across Australia. The writers came from Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Victoria, supported by dramaturg Kathryn Kelly through Playlab Inc. A creative development was undertaken at the National Regional Playwrights & Theatre Makers Conference in 2007, which allowed the director and designer to begin to understand the devices required to move through each of the plays.

It was intended that this production might have a touring life outside of the Theatre to the Edge touring circuit, and it was intended to tour to the centres of each of the writers. Unfortunately it proved that without strong relationships already built with venues in each of these regions, the writers alone did not have the capacity to influence presenting venues and it became clear that this touring mechanism would only grow if those relationships existed between the producing companies and the presenting venues.

The 7 Deadly Australian Sins was a significant undertaking for the three co-producers, Knock-Em-Down Theatre, JUTE Theatre and Darwin Theatre Company, in that we were bringing together 7 diverse pieces of theatre from 7 very different writers albeit on the same theme.

Added to the complexity of bringing these stories into a cohesive night at the theatre were the logistics of touring work inexpensively throughout Queensland and into the Northern Territory, a prospect that defeats much larger companies than the likes of ours. The needs of each of the individual pieces in terms of specific props set items and costume became a design feat as the entire physical components of the show needed to be able to travel as excess luggage on flights with the touring party of five. The production team overcame these complexities and the show played to excellent houses in all four venues.

Projects of this nature cannot take place without collaborations. Bringing the resources of three small companies together makes it possible to create such a logistically complex new piece of Australian theatre, telling stories from a diverse range of perspectives. This project not only engaged with seven regional writers across Australia but also engaged performers, directors and designers working in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Tasmania.

These collaborations ensure that the work of writers, creatives and performers living in regional and geographically isolated places in Australia, can be seen by a broad range

of audiences that would not otherwise have access to this work. It also allows a fantastic cross-pollination of artists and companies allowing us to exchange ideas, knowledge and skills and raising the profile of artists and companies in areas outside of their own regions.

The World Premier of 7 Deadly Australian Sins was co-produced by JUTE Theatre, Knock-Em-Down Theatre and Darwin Theatre Company at the JUTE Theatre, Cairns and opened on Friday 12 September, with the following cast and creative team:

CAST:	Christopher Glover Simon Hapea Merrilee Mills Yoris Wilson
DIRECTOR:	Robert Jarman
DESIGNER:	Dominie Hooper
COMPOSER/MUSICAL DIRECTOR:	Merrilee Mills & Yoris Wilson
LIGHTING DESIGNER:	Amelia Davies Peereboom
DRAMATURG:	Kathryn Kelly
STAGE MANAGER:	Sue Hayes
TOUR STAGE MANAGER:	Tamara Kalowski
TEACHER'S NOTES:	Leigh Boswell
PHOTOGRAPHER:	Jake Nowakowski

Theatre To The Edge Tour

Presenter:	Darwin Theatre Company
Darwin Season:	1 – 5 October
Venue:	Browns' Mart
No Of Performances:	5
Total Audience:	401

Presenter:	Crossroad Arts, Mackay
Mackay Season:	8 – 12 October
Venue:	Crossroad Arts Space
No Of Performances:	5
Total Audience:	93

Presenter:	Tropic Sun Theatre, Townsville
Season:	15 – 19 October
Venue:	Court Theatre
No Of Performances:	5
Total Audience:	364



INBOUND THEATRE TO THE EDGE TOURS



JUTE Theatre presented two TtTe productions in 2008. While both the productions were well received, they did not attract as large an audience as a JUTE Theatre production. Part of this is due to the fact the JUTE Theatre seasons run over 2.5 weeks while the TtTe shows only run 4 – 5 days. The longer seasons in a regional centre allow for word of mouth to build and bring audiences.

Futz

By Rochelle Owens

A Tropic Sun Theatre Production

Venue:	JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer:	Tropic Sun Theatre
Cairns Season:	2 - 5 April
No. Of Performances:	4
Total Audience No:	200

Cyrus Futz is a big-hearted farmer and a simple man. To say he is an animal lover would be an understatement. In a bucolic rural setting, raw emotions pulsate beneath a veneer of social conventions. And then something terrible occurs. Has the village idiot been induced to murder by something he witnessed? Did some sinister high jinks turn his poor mind?

Avoiding the explicit, Tropic Sun taps the resource of this talented cast to conjure haunting images of intense emotion. The play abounds in wry wit, strange characters, poignancy and sardonic humour. A physical theatre work with live music / soundscape and a strong emphasis on the outlandish humour of the work.

CAST:	Jeremy Cheetham Jim Gosden Kate Hooper Ron Pulman Mark Reed
DIRECTOR:	Karen Gibb
PHOTOGRAPHER:	Aaron Ashley

Futz also played seasons in Townsville, Darwin and Mackay.



TRACY

By Sarah Cathcart & Nicola Fearn

Two girls. A crime. A cyclone.

A Business Unusual & Darwin Theatre Company
Co-production

Venue: JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer: Business Unusual & Darwin Theatre Company
Cairns Season: 22 - 26 April
No. Of Performances: 6
Total Audience No: 566

An English schoolgirl arrives in Darwin on the eve of Cyclone Tracy. An Aboriginal girl is rounded up and walked into town after a tribal spearing. A story of bankruptcy, murder and betrayal, *Tracy* is a powerful show with kaleidoscopic imagery that combines physicality, puppetry, mask and original music.

After a sell-out season of the acclaimed *The Pearler*, Business Unusual and DTC bring together a fabulous team – performers Samantha Chalmers and Nicola Fearn, composer Kim Baston, designer Louise McCarthy, lighting designer Andrew Dudley and Melbourne-based writer/director Sarah Cathcart.

“Business Unusual’s *The Pearler* is a magical journey back in time that delivers a visual feast...”
NT News, Darwin

CAST: Samantha Chalmers
Nicola Fearn
DIRECTOR: Sarah Cathcart
DESIGNER: Louise McCarthy
LIGHTING DESIGNER: Andrew Dudley
STORY CONSULTANT: Samantha Chalmers
With stories by Yanyuwa woman Hilda Muir

Tracy also played seasons in Darwin, Townsville and Mackay



INDIE SEASON – JUTE THEATRE SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS



In a new initiative known as the Indie Season, JUTE Theatre formalised its support of regional independent practitioners by providing two independent producers with \$5k each and programming them into the first Indie Season. The Mayoress of Cairns launched the season with the producers, theatre practitioners and media present. This new program gives independent producers the opportunity to produce their work, taking full creative control while being supported and mentored by the JUTE Theatre team in the areas of production and marketing.

THE ANGEL'S WHIP By John Lipscomb Acting Up Production

Venue:	JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer:	Acting Up
Cairns Season:	22 – 25 October
No. Of Performances:	4
Total Audience:	133

WITNESS a primal struggle for truth through power, provocation, torment and seduction. Inspired by the sixth century meditation on metaphysics by Severinus Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* is an insightful journey through one man's confrontation with death.

Darkly humorous, intellectually stimulating and physically confronting, this play will whip you into shape!

CAST:	Andy Bramble Sarah Urquhart
DIRECTOR:	Avril Duck
IMAGE:	Kanaka Creative



THE RAINBOW DARK

By Victoria Carless

A Crunchy Theatre production

Venue: JUTE Theatre, Cairns
 Producer: Crunchy Theatre
 Cairns Season: 13 – 15 November
 No. Of Performances: 3
 Total Audience No: 238

What if asylum seekers came to live at your house? Where would they sleep? What would you feed them? And perhaps most importantly, how would your dog cope? Babs and her sister Gloria are two co-dependent Aussie pensioners who find themselves in just this type of situation. They cash in on a government incentive to house “People From Elsewhere Who Do Not Recognise Perfectly Good Borders” in a cupboard under their stairs – and get a lot more than they bargain for! Add to the mix a butcher who comes courting, and a dog who starts talking, and the sisters soon discover it is not easy to maintain an air of domestic normalcy!

Exploring issues embedded deeply within the Australian psyche, and rifling on metaphor, *The Rainbow Dark* is a contemporary parable both fierce and fun!

CAST: Andy Bramble
 Sue Hayes
 Anthony Ring
 Sarah Urquhart

WRITER/DIRECTOR: Victoria Carless

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Kerensa Diball

IMAGE: Kanaka Creative



HOSTED BY JUTE THEATRE

**On Edge Festival – Contemporary
Performance
A Bonemap Production**

Venue:	JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer:	Bonemap
Cairns Season:	24 July – 2 Aug
No. Of Performances:	9
Total Audience No.	2871

Now in its 4th year, On Edge Contemporary Media + Performance is an annual program of contemporary arts which strives to produce a Nationally and Internationally relevant program of independent new work, that traverses the various disciplines of performance, sound, screen, new media and installation.

In 2008, On Edge Contemporary Media + Performance presented 9 days of dynamic, cutting edge performance, new media, sound art, contemporary dance, screen culture and cabaret in the tropics.

The 2008 program hosted 2 unique National festivals: the Liquid Architecture sound art festival, now in its 9th year, and ReelDance - International Dance on Screen Festival, held every two years.



HOSTED BY JUTE THEATRE

Dancenorth Season

Venue:	JUTE Theatre, Cairns
Producer:	Dancenorth
Cairns Season:	1 – 3 Oct
No. Of Performances:	3
Total Audience No.	219

Underground is the creepy subway tunnel that you scurry through to get to your platform.

Shifting from darkly moody to terrifyingly athletic to hilariously funny, *Underground* is a highly accessible show which is particularly suitable for those who enjoy entertaining and athletic productions. Dance-theatre at its best, the production is driven by the gutsy choreography of Dancenorth's Artistic Director Gavin Webber in collaboration with the Dancenorth ensemble.

JUTE Theatre and Dancenorth have collaborated to use each other's venues free of charge when visiting each other's centre.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Script Commissions For Q150 Celebrations:

In 2007 JUTE Theatre applied to the Q150 Celebration Fund to support the commissioning of the first draft of four new works for the stage exploring Queensland stories. The writers commissioned were Kathryn Ash, Michael Beresford, Kathleen Cantarella and Victoria Carless.

All of the works received dramaturgical support throughout 2008. The works by Kathryn Ash and Victoria Carless have both been programmed for the 2009 season. The script by Michael Beresford will receive a creative development with a public showing in 2009 and a production outcome in 2010. The fourth script by Kathleen Cantarella has not been programmed at this stage.

Cake By Kathryn Ash
Unconfirmed Sightings By Michael Beresford
The Shining Path By Victoria Carless
The Cape York Solution By Kathleen Cantarella

Creative Developments

A number of creative developments of new work were undertaken during 2008. The 200k's project received 3 days creative development in Launceston as part of the collaboration between JUTE Theatre and Mudlark Theatre in Launceston, Tasmania. It is proposed that this work be programmed as a co-production in 2010 with seasons in Cairns, Launceston and potentially Hobart.

The other creative developments took place in National Regional Playwrights and Theatre Makers Conference. The conference allowed the writers to work with actors and a dramaturg over the 5 days of the conference.

200k's A Collaborative 7 Play Project By Young & Emerging Regional Playwrights in Launceston

Conference Developments:

Macbeth Adapted By Scott Witt (Brisbane)
POW (Prisoners Of War) By Madonna Davies & Susan Prince (Townsville)
Love, Chips & Gravy By Catherine Ryan (Ballarat)

Script Development Programs

The Enter Stage Write, script and playwright development program engaged with 11 writers, three of who were new to writing for stage. Peter Matheson came to Cairns for two residencies throughout the year in May and August and worked mainly with the established writers in the program. Kathryn Ash worked with the new and emerging writers.

Established writers/theatre makers: Kathryn Laughton, Victoria Carless, Michael Beresford, Angela Murphy, Dee Murphy, Kathleen Cantarella, Christopher Glover, Susan Prince and Madonna Davies. New writers: Karen Jackson, Manawa Illingworth and Nerissa Heath.

Two of these scripts in development are being produced in 2009 and a further two will receive creative developments in 2009 with potential productions in 2010 and beyond. The work of the other established writers will continue to be developed in 2009 through the Enter Stage Write program and JUTE Theatre has identified two of the new writer's scripts to be developed towards potential production in 2011 and beyond. A further 3 new writers will be brought into the program in 2009.

Peter Matheson has been working through a dramaturgical fellowship from the Australia Council and is responsible for connecting a number of writers with companies that may be interested in their work. This has an important development as it has allowed these connections to be made with the potential for cross regional engagement.

National Regional Playwrights & Theatre Makers Conference

From Wednesday 19 – Sunday 23 November, JUTE Theatre produced the National Regional Playwrights & Theatre Makers Conference at the JUTE Theatre, Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns. Playwrights & theatre makers from across Australia came together in Cairns for an intensive five days of skills development, creative development, regional theatre discussions and play readings. The Key Note Speaker Francesca Smith addressed the conference on Wednesday 19 and conducted four master classes over the 5 days. Conference participants came from Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Most of the participants from JUTE Theatre's 2007 Regional Wave Young & Emerging Playwrights – National Pilot Program also came together again at the 2008 conference as they had at the 2007 conference and the collaborative work which they conceived at the 2007 conference and developed throughout 2008 was read at the conference.

Young drama students were also given the opportunity to apply to attend the conference and 15 young people aged 15 – 25 were accepted into this program.

Each year the conference shapes to the needs of the participants. The 2008 conference followed on from the significant changes made at the 2007 conference, becoming more about skills development and the development of new work than forum information and discussion sessions. Four creative developments took place during the conference, with work at varying levels of completion. The highly collegial nature of the conference means that we have highly skilled mature artists sharing their knowledge and skills with emerging practitioners and creating networks that will open career opportunities for isolated regional theatre makers. This conference again brings geographically isolated practitioners into contact with the broader theatre sector giving them inspiration and support networks, which is so important in breaking down isolation.

One of the most important aspects of the conference for regional writers is the opportunity to connect with established writers, key decision makers in Australian theatre, resource organisations and producers in the broader theatre sector. Networking and promotion of the work of regional writers is an important part of creating career paths for writers, particularly those from regional areas. Mentoring is a valuable development tool for emerging and mature writers and this conference privileges those writers living and working in geographically isolated centres.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Theatre To The Edge Initiative

Theatre to the Edge is a collaborative initiative for touring work from regional companies across regional Queensland and the Northern Territory. Funded by Arts Queensland via Queensland Arts Council the initiative is driven by JUTE Theatre, Tropic Sun Theatre Company, Crossroad Arts and Darwin Theatre Company and in 2009 will include Knock-em-Down theatre, Darwin and Red Dust Theatre in Alice Springs.

In 4 years 13 productions have toured to 31 centres for a total of 32 weeks. This has meant that actors and stage managers working on these shows have had an extra 32 weeks of employment by an average of 5 in the touring company. That has meant an extra 160 weeks of paid employment or approximately \$130,000 in increased employment value. It has also meant that approximately an extra 11,000 audience members have seen work from a range of companies in regional Queensland and the Northern Territory. The companies tour the work into their seasons with a week or 2 weeks of performance in their centre.

More than this, the initiative has led to significant cross-regional collaboration and sharing of resources, creatives and audiences. It is a new methodology of touring with companies in each centre hosting the touring company for 1 – 2.5 weeks of performance. It is sold as part of the entire season of each of the companies in their centres and builds a profile for the touring company in other centres. It provides for workshops to take place in the local community by the visiting practitioners and generally leads to artistic development.

Regional Wave Cohort Initiative

One of the valuable lessons learnt by the Theatre to the Edge group, is that touring in its traditional form does not work for our communities. The old one night stand touring show has little chance of capturing its own audience. However by branding it under the company based in the region, we bring our own already loyal audiences to this work, plus hopefully bringing a few new ones because of the diversity of the work offered. Touring as an audience development tool is just one of the benefits of working this way.

At the 2005 conference a key group was formalized under the name Regional Wave Cohort. The Regional Wave Cohort is made up of companies and theatre makers from across Australia's regions or in geographically isolated centres. At the heart of the Cohort are regional professional theatre companies with core funding that have the ability to support the long term goals of the Cohort. However the Cohort embraces independent companies and theatre makers in regional centres.

The Core activity of the Cohort is to collaborate cross regionally to develop, co-produce and tour new work by regional or geographically isolated theatre makers.

The criteria for a Cohort project is:

- New work by regional playwrights
- Instigated by Regional Professional Companies
- Undertakes co-productions & collaborations
- Produces high quality of work
- Tours cross-regionally and nationally into each others' centres

Mentoring Programs

Each year JUTE Theatre undertakes a number of mentorships involving young people and emerging theatre makers. In 2008, JUTE Theatre mentored two young directors with hands-on involvement in productions. JUTE Theatre also mentored the two independent theatre producers in the 2008 Indie Season.

JUTE THEATRE VENUE HIRE

Sixteen organisations hired the JUTE Theatre in 2008. Some organizations hired the theatre for multiple events throughout the year and some were for periods of up to 1 week of rehearsal, tech and performance while others were a one off event. They included dance school performances, school drama performance events, film festival events and a range of lectures and information events. The venue hire earned \$40,000 in venue hire and labour fees.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Talking Theatre Focus Forums

Dr Rebecca Schollen, a researcher based at QUT in Brisbane, completed her PhD on “Building New Theatre Audiences” which was largely based in Brisbane with studies of La Boite and Queensland Theatre Company audiences. From this research, Rebecca was keen to know how this would work regionally and was commissioned through the Civic Centres network Northern Australian Regional Performing Arts Centres Association (NARPACA) to work with focus groups in order to understand audiences for live performance and to build these audiences.

Overall the findings were very similar throughout the different regional centres with the main reasons for previous non-attendance being lack of familiarity, unsure about what to expect and the general feeling that the performing arts were not for the likes of them.

We wanted to explore this idea for contemporary theatre and embarked on a campaign in 2007 to attract new people to the theatre, and to ask the questions about how people perceive JUTE Theatre and live performance in Cairns.

We invited people, who had not experienced live theatre in the past 5 years, to be part of a focus group; to come along to all plays in our season and give honest feedback about how the experience matched their expectations.

We provided them with a relaxed, intimate, creative environment to experience live theatre where they (and at times their values) were challenged, provoked, entertained and engaged. In coming to all performances, they discovered why this is important in their lives.

This program was a success for us so we continued in 2008. A full report of the findings is available by contacting sarah@jute.com.au.

Live Book Club

The LIVE BOOK CLUB is a new initiative launched in 2007 that asked current book clubs to come along and try theatre as their next “book”. Plays are “live books” and through an exciting and creative process of imagination, design and rehearsal, the written words, on a play’s page, morph into 3D. The Live Book Club meets on the first Wednesday evening of each performance season to see the show and then meets with their host afterwards to chat about the show.

The LIVE BOOK CLUB remains in its infancy and its best potential is to work in conjunction with our FOCUS FORUM participants from the previous year in keeping people engaging in conversations about live theatre.

Test Drive the Arts

Both, Arts Queensland, the state government’s arts body, and the Australia Council at the federal level, have committed funding to Test Drive the Arts, a UK initiative. The project aims to give more people the opportunity to experience the world-class live performances that Queenslanders can now find right in their own back yard. It is about growing audiences and making the performing arts sector economically and artistically more sustainable.

Test Drive the Arts launched in Brisbane in late 2007 to great success but unfortunately the media planned for the regions did not materialise. In 2007, the take up to this program in Cairns was minimal, experienced both by JUTE Theatre & Cairns Civic Theatre. This was addressed with Arts Queensland and in 2008 a marketing budget was given direct to JUTE Theatre and Cairns Civic Theatre to work with our local media and audiences and all seats allocated to the program were taken up. The long-term benefits of this program are yet to be realised and with a full time marketing/administration officer in 2009, we will be able to monitor the results more closely.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Work for the Dole Programs

JUTE Theatre undertakes a Work for the Dole Program each year through Mission Australia. This program provides training in theatre production, event management and administration for long-term unemployed.

Department of Communities – Youth Justice Project

JUTE Theatre provides programs for young people at risk. These programs provide the young people with theatre workshops where they can gain self-confidence learn how to work within a team and gives them the opportunity to express themselves appropriately in a safe environment and provide an environment where they can take pride in their achievements. The program is extremely successful with young offenders, for the first time, openly talking about the program with their case officers – usually they are unwilling to discuss the programs that they are required to attend. As well as being a worthwhile program for the community, it also provides JUTE Theatre with another source of income and the ability to provide employment for freelance theatre makers.

Volunteer Programs

JUTE Theatre has run the VIP (Volunteer Incentive Program) over the last 7 years and our volunteers are an integral part of our company. The program provides people from the community with a range of access points including Front of House (Bar, Ticket Sales & Ushering), Administration, Marketing and Backstage (assisting prop & set construction, rigging, focus & plot and production support crew).

Our volunteers are committed to seeing contemporary theatre thrive in our city and enjoy the wide range of ways in which they can support and be part of this. They enjoy meeting like-minded people, being part of the JUTE Theatre team and working in a professional, welcoming and friendly environment.

The Font of House service requires 5-6 volunteers per night of performance. With 60 JUTE Theatre performances in 2008, this equates to 300 volunteers x 2-hour shifts, totals 600 volunteer hours worth approximately \$9000 per annum to JUTE Theatre.

STAFF

Suellen Maunder	Artistic Director/CEO
Sarah Flenley	Operations & Marketing Manager
Taryn Carne	Production Manager (to May)
Amelia Davies Peereboom	Production Manager (May – Nov)
Veronica Cullen	Finance Officer (16 hrs)
Karen Jackson	Administrator (20Hrs)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name & Position	Years on Board Term Ends	Professional Qualifications	Expertise for JUTE Board
David Rivett – Chair	5/2009	B Eng (Civil) QUT M Nat Res, UNE	Founded Environment North Impact assessment and Strategic Planning in public & private sector Tourism & Heritage
Mick Linnan - Company Secretary	3/2011	Registered Urban & Rural Real Estate Valuer – Australian Institute Associate	Current Position: Director of Dept. of Communities, Cairns Extensive career in public service management
Stewart Trainor – Finance	1/2012	Bachelor of Commerce CA program	Partner at Pacific Chartered Accountants specialising in Taxation and Business services to small-medium enterprises. Accountant Financial and Budget Modelling Worked in public and private sector
Kathryn Laughton	11/Founding Member	BA Hon Japanese, UQ	Founding Member of JUTE Award winning & published Playwright
Suellen Maunder	11/Founding Member	Currently undertaking Masters in Creative Arts (JCU)	Founding Member of JUTE & current Artistic Director Award winning actor & director Management & Administration in the private sector Adjunct lecturer, JCU Extensive knowledge of Arts Industry
Pip Miller	3/2011		Founded Public Relations Company Public Relations consultant Journalist, Travel & Tourism
Leigh Boswell	0/2012	BA Arts (Drama) & Education, (QUT) Honours	Drama Co-ordinator at St Augustine's College, Cairns. Youth Arts Inc. Co-founder of Saints Youth Theatre 00-04 Exec. Board Member, Backbone
Vanessa Maruna	0/2012	Bachelor of Law (Hons) Bachelor of Environmental Planning, Griffith University.	Development industry professional with town planning and legal qualifications Solicitor in both private practice and in- house positions specialising in planning and environment law.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JUTE Theatre is able to create outstanding contemporary theatre and as result would like to thank the following organisations for their support during 2008.

FUNDING PARTNERS



JUTE Theatre acknowledges the assistance of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

THEATRE TO THE EDGE PARTNERS



Ontour onstage

This Tour is assisted by Arts Regional Touring Service [ARTS], a Queensland Government initiative

PRODUCTION SPONSORS



PROGRAM PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS



CONTACT JUTE THEATRE

JUTE THEATRE
96 Abbott Street
Cairns
QLD
AUSTRALIA

P: +61 7 4050 9444
F: +61 7 4050 9440
E: info@jute.com.au

www.jute.com.au

Postal Address:
PO Box 6090
Cairns QLD 4870

**IGNITE
YOUR
LIFE**
GET INTO THEATRE