

ORANA
arts inc
2020/21

PROGRAMMING

NOT a
DRESS
REHEARSAL



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A T
P Y

PHOTO: Linda Haksteeg, 2021

TAIKOZ

NOT A DRESS REHEARSAL PERFORMING ARTS FOR REGIONAL YOUTH

An initiative of Orana Arts, Not a Dress Rehearsal is a performing arts development program for regional youth across NSW, aged 12-24 years. The program targets those communities where there are limited opportunities or gaps in delivery. Funded through the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund, it offers regional youth with an interest in a future in the performing arts, the opportunity to realise a dream, create industry contacts, networks, and pathways to further development. It also gives young people a voice to tell their stories — giving them the skills, confidence, and creative capacity to present their own work from concept to performance.

In the first year of programming, our delivery partners were Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) and Taikoz. Due to the impact of COVID on the ability to deliver face-to-face opportunities, much of the Not a Dress Rehearsal activities in 2020/21 were delivered online, with the support of the Not a Dress Rehearsal team at Orana Arts and tutors from ATYP and Taikoz. Despite the challenges reflected in some of the numbers, the program achieved some remarkable results.

33

12-24 year olds from across NSW — Scotts Head to Sussex Inlet, Coonabarabran to Wagga Wagga, Nyngan to Goulburn, enrolled in the first year of the program to the end of T3 2021.

ENROLLED OVER 4 TERMS IN 2020/21

57%

picking up opportunities to perform at Dubbo Eisteddfod, be mentored in script writing, and gain access to industry insiders.

COMPLETED A FULL YEAR'S PROGRAMMING

67% Taiko

attended 8 classes/term, to the end of T3 2021, on topics such as drama, character creation, voice, percussion and drumming,

77% ATYP

delivered by 4 experienced tutors from ATYP and Taikoz.

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED CLASSES EACH WEEK



"The cross-pollination of emerging regional artists with experienced professionals has the potential to unlock the real possibility of a career in the arts for people who could hardly dare to dream until now. Whether they pursue a career in the arts or not, these skills will assist participants to navigate a range of professions in years to come."

ALAN FLOWER, ORANA ARTS BOARD MEMBER

NaDR PROGRAMMING IS EFFECTIVE

- Regular surveys conducted over between Term 4 2020 and Term 3 2021 indicate NaDR programming met **participant expectations most of the time**. Given the difficult conditions in which everyone was working to deliver the program, this is considered outstanding feedback in the first year.
- Overall, the NaDR program was **rated high** by survey respondents. The only frustration was a lack of face-to-face opportunities throughout the year.
- NaDR's delivery partners believe **the program has been effective in offering opportunities** to regional NSW.
- Despite Public Health Orders of the day, the NaDR Taiko Ensemble was able to learn and rehearse online. Their first public performance was the Dubbo Eisteddfod in Term 3 2021, where they won the Percussion section.

NaDR PROGRAMMING HAS IMPACT

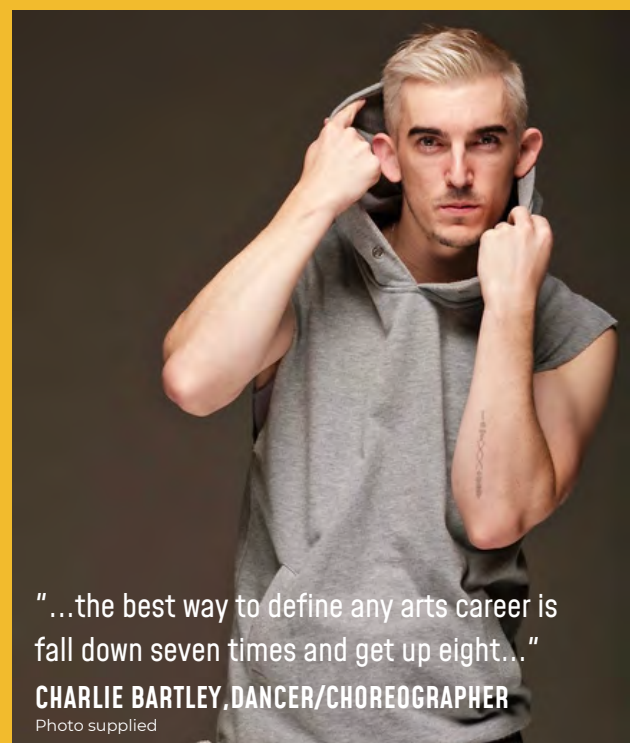
- NaDR participants have had the opportunity to learn from and meet key people in the performing arts sector, through ATYP and Taikoz, including ATYP Creative Director, **Fraser Corfield** and international dancer/choreographer, **Charlie Bartley**.
- In addition to this, performing artists with strong connections to regional NSW have given their time and shared experiences with participants — including international dancer/choreographer, **Charlie Bartley**; Mudgee-based writer/performer, **Tyrolin Puxty**; and our first NaDR creative producer, **Danielle Andrews** (now working with Screen Queensland after 3 years with us)
- Due to COVID, the number of performance opportunities in the first year of NaDR programming was limited. ATYP students did produce a series of **online radio plays** and the Taikoz ensemble performed at the **Dubbo Eisteddfod**.
- Highlights included awarding the **inaugural Richard Carney Scholarship** to **Jezikiah Brown**, and creating a mentoring opportunity with **Tyrolin Puxty** for **Antonia Amato** who is developing a film script.

NaDR PROGRAMMING CREATES A LEGACY

- Through the delivery of **weekly classes over 8 weeks** each term with ATYP and Taikoz, NaDR participants have forged **connections** with tutors in the performing arts and peers with a shared passion, **creating networks** that will continue to develop.
- **6 NaDR Ambassadors** have taken on leadership roles within the program, gaining confidence and developing skills in scriptwriting, performance, marketing and more.
- The benefit of online delivery meant some participants were involved in both ATYP and Taiko classes, **broadening their skills, networks, and future opportunities**.
- Some online sessions were recorded, providing a bank of information for use by future NaDR participants, bolstering Orana Arts' ability to provide sector-relevant information to regional youth regardless of where they're located.



"Best experience ever. Totally amazing!"
GEORGIE, TAIKO ENSEMBLE AMBASSADOR



"...the best way to define any arts career is fall down seven times and get up eight..."

CHARLIE BARTLEY, DANCER/CHOREOGRAPHER
Photo supplied



"You're forever learning something new. I'm learning every single day."

TYROLIN PUXTY, WRITER/PERFORMER

Photo supplied





IN THEIR WORDS

DANIELLE ANDREWS, 2020/21 CREATIVE PRODUCER

My job as a producer has been to nurture the students who come through with goals or aspirations and help identify their needs or stories they think should be heard by their communities. I've been mentored and supported in my time with Orana Arts, allowing me to grow into the person I am today. I've loved being able to do this for the next generation of performers.



ANTONIA AMATO, NaDR AMBASSADOR

If it weren't for COVID-19, I would never have been able to access and experience the amazing online workshops run by the ATYP tutors I had access to through NaDR, as I'm from a regional town four hours north of Sydney. I'm now developing a film project to communicate and celebrate the innate diversity of Australian youth, and to tell the real stories of adolescents growing up in the vastly different societies within Australia.



ASHLEIGH CHANDLER, NaDR AMBASSADOR

NaDR is a fantastic program that educates you on the different areas of the entertainment industry and offers an amazing support system. It's an encouraging environment that built my confidence to pursue a career in the performing arts.

It was great to connect and form friendships with different like-minded people from across the Central West. They're such a supportive network of people. Even in my final year of school, they were there to support me in making the next step in my acting career, offering to me a collection of new information and pathways. Especially during COVID lockdown, it was reassuring to know that NaDR drama classes were still there.



FRASER CORFIELD, ATYP ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ATYP's experience with the NaDR program was extremely positive. By working collaboratively, ATYP and Orana Arts can engage young people in Regional NSW with an interest in the performing arts and connect them with a broader professional arts community State-wide and nationally. ATYP can see the potential for the partnership with Orana Arts to continue to develop and deliver long-term benefits. We look forward to working with Orana Arts to expand our reach and engagement with young people in regional NSW over the coming years.