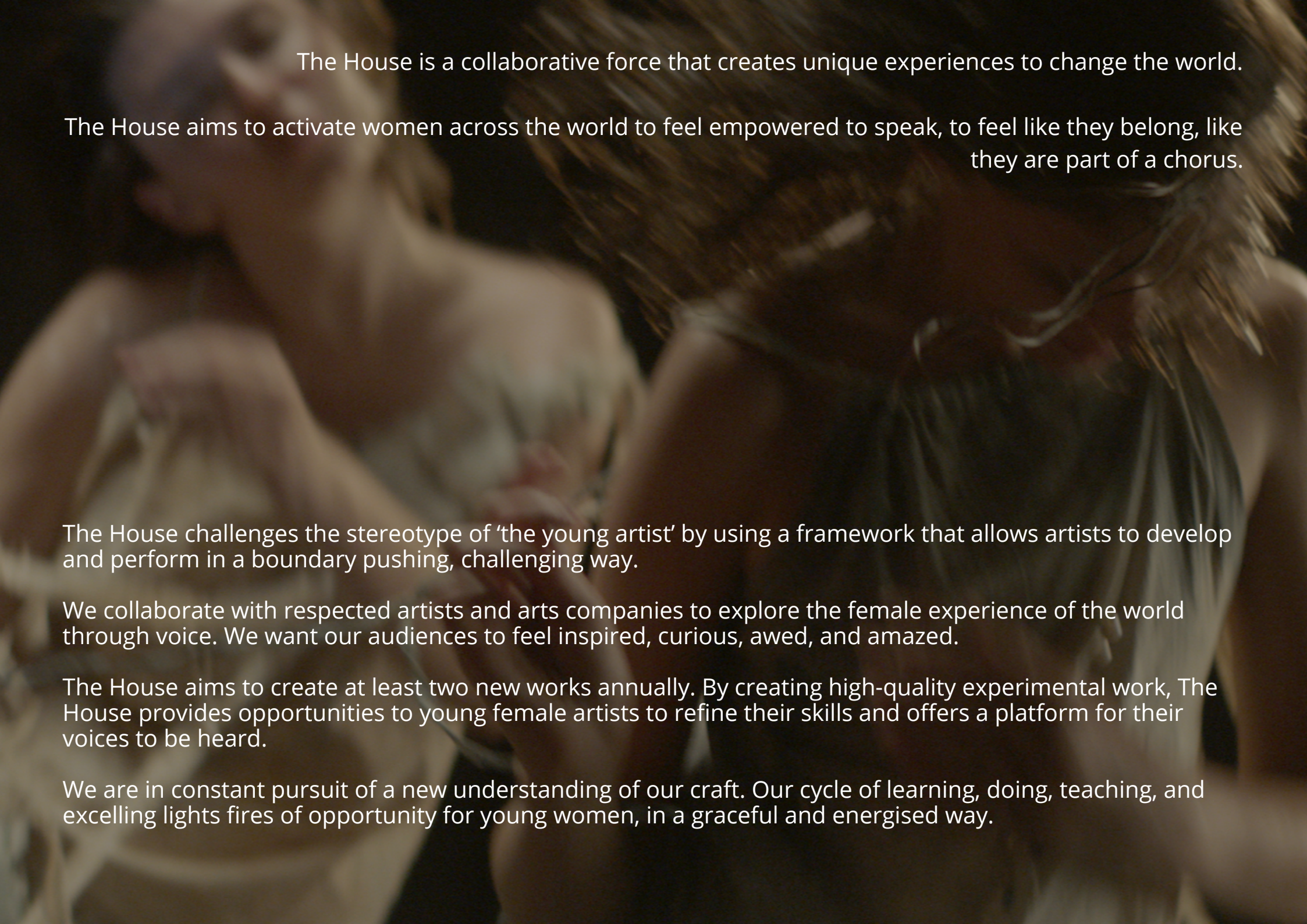




**THE  
HOUSE**  
THAT DAN BUILT

2023

Investing in girls and women now,  
for a voice tomorrow.



The House is a collaborative force that creates unique experiences to change the world.

The House aims to activate women across the world to feel empowered to speak, to feel like they belong, like they are part of a chorus.

The House challenges the stereotype of 'the young artist' by using a framework that allows artists to develop and perform in a boundary pushing, challenging way.

We collaborate with respected artists and arts companies to explore the female experience of the world through voice. We want our audiences to feel inspired, curious, awed, and amazed.

The House aims to create at least two new works annually. By creating high-quality experimental work, The House provides opportunities to young female artists to refine their skills and offers a platform for their voices to be heard.

We are in constant pursuit of a new understanding of our craft. Our cycle of learning, doing, teaching, and excelling lights fires of opportunity for young women, in a graceful and energised way.

**2023** is all about investing in girls and women now, for a voice tomorrow.

The House will present REVERENCE, a Requiem for Piano and Voice by Rose Riebl, in a two week season at The National Art School and Melbourne's Abbotsford Convent.

A new choral work, 100 STORIES, 100 CAPES will be performed by a 100 woman choir at The National Art School, showcasing the macro collective experience of Australian women through intimately told life stories.

THE HOUSE MUSIC AND ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA will be a one week intensive school holiday camp in the NSW Riverina town of Berrigan. A team of creatives and arts educators will work with 50 children, teaching songwriting and composition skills, and producing a family and community concert.

100 STORIES, 100 CAPES will tour as an immersive choral installation, bringing work connected to the community, back to the community. The installation will accompany our annual AKIN regional songwriting workshops, creating networks and pathways for girls and emerging composers.

In development towards a 2024 season, will be Donna Hewitt's FEMINA CONTROLLATA MACHINA, exploring the way women are shaped by, and shape themselves for, artificial intelligence algorithms which are overwhelmingly biased towards a white male norm.

In **2023**, we will expand our program of apprenticeships, mentorships and performance opportunities for girls and women right across NSW to elevate their voices and showcase new work.

Our spreading-joy project, the TOY CHOIR, will continue in Sydney and Gunnedah, offering girls their first taste of singing and writing their own songs.



# IN PERFORMANCE

# REVERENCE



Commissioned and produced by The House That Dan Built, REVERENCE is the first full length opera written by Rose Riebl, one of Australia's leading and most exciting pianists and composers.

The House will present REVERENCE in partnership with The National Art School and Abbotsford Convent for a two week season.

REVERENCE, a Requiem for Piano and Voice confronts the contemporary avoidance and delegitimisation of grief at a time when as a community we have much to grieve over.

Since the primordial *om*, humans have had a deep and profound attachment to the voice and its power to evoke and communicate profound emotional experiences. REVERENCE takes its seed from the ancient text, *Antigone*, which has connected with generations, and speaks directly and potently to current anxieties and forces of change. This work is an exploration of a woman's refusal to be silenced; her power, confusion, rage, grief and defiance in the face of a rigid patriarchal system of dominance and control.



NATIONAL  
ART  
SCHOOL

Abbotsford  
Convent.

**IN PERFORMANCE**

# 100 STORIES, 100 CAPES

100 STORIES, 100 CAPES will realise a choral community engagement and collaborative composing process that began in 2020. A cross-generational choir of 100 women will perform compositions by Jessica O'Donoghue, Yunyu Ong, Pru Montin, Audrey Ormella, Leahannah Crimmins and Aija Draguns, inspired by the experiences of 100 women and girls from across Australia.

This large-scale choral work showcases the macro collective experience of Australian women through intimately told life stories. The intergenerational dialogue and wisdom that is passed from women to girls often remains hushed and hidden behind doors. While confined to their houses during the 2020 lockdown, the young women of The House interviewed the 100 women of all ages in remote, regional, metropolitan and urban communities in every Australian state.

**NATIONAL  
ART  
SCHOOL**



Australian Government

Australia  
Council  
for the Arts 



ON TOUR

# THE HOUSE MUSIC AND ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA

THE HOUSE MUSIC AND ARTS EXTRAVAGANZA will be a five-day school holiday residential camp in the community of Berrigan. A team of artists will work with young people from across the NSW Riverina teaching skills in singing, songwriting and composition, creating a community performance of young people's work.

The House will bring a full creative team to work with 50 young rural students aged 10-15, over 5 days and nights. This camp will engage the students with professional artists from all over NSW. Together they will create and perform a 30 minute outdoor concert for families and the greater community.



Create NSW  
Arts, Screen & Culture



**ON TOUR**

# 100 STORIES, 100 CAPES

100 STORIES, 100 CAPES will tour as an immersive choral installation of 100 suspended capes in the air, illuminated by 100 specially designed lanterns/speakers. In an act of bringing work connected to the community, back to the community, The House will visit NSW communities where the women who contributed interviews and cape construction live.

This choral work will be enjoyed in a gallery experience, where audiences will hear the macro collective experience of Australian women through intimately told life stories.

In conjunction, we will deliver singing, instrument playing and songwriting workshops to girls and young women in each community, sharing opportunities between generations of women, and performances by local girls.



Australian Government

Australia  
Council  
for the Arts



**IN DEVELOPMENT**

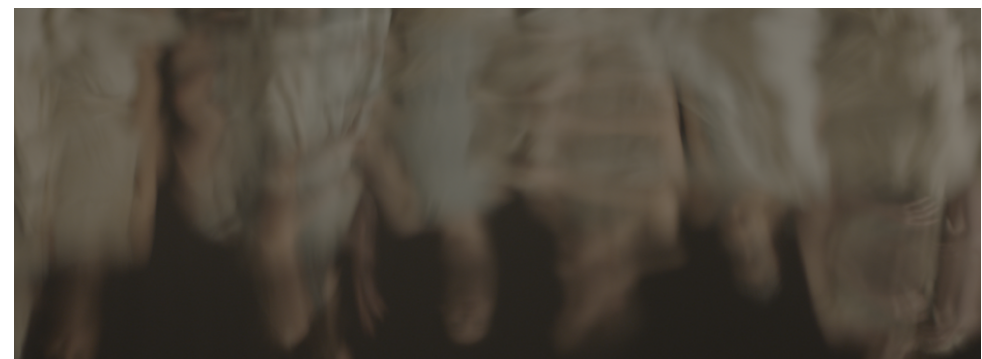
# FEMINA CONTROLLATA MACHINA

In development towards a 2024 season, Donna Hewitt's FEMINA CONTROLLATA MACHINA (WOMAN CONTROLS MACHINE), explores the way women are shaped by, and shape themselves for, artificial intelligence algorithms which are overwhelmingly biased towards a white male norm.

The House will use sound production and artificial intelligence technologies to explore a new form of choral work and new processes of making that work. At the nexus of process, innovation and technology the work will put female artists in control of sound engineering and AI; both spaces where women have traditionally been largely absent.

This electronic opera explores the possibilities, fears and potential threats surrounding the emerging epoch of artificial intelligence, deep-fake technology and the potentially omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent algorithms of global social-media and technology companies.

Six emerging artists will collaborate with Donna Hewitt and Danielle O'Keefe to build skills, interrogate a concept and create a 60 minute showing that harness the creative possibilities of emerging-technologies.





## EDUCATION

# TOY CHOIR



Founded and directed by Danielle O'Keefe, TOY CHOIR is an independent youth ensemble dedicated to excellence in choral ensemble work and the development of young artists in singing, songwriting and performance. Girls aged 10-18 are taught rudimentary music skills through a spreading-joy project, learning to explore their own musical identity through singing playing, and writing their own songs.

The TOY CHOIR is going from strength to strength, having played at Sydney Festival, worked with Sydney Chamber Opera, opened Mardi Gras with Paul Capsis, facilitated workshops in regional NSW for budding songwriters of all ages, flash mobbed all over Sydney, and released their own TOY CHOIR USB of original music. The TOY CHOIR is capable of achieving the impossible because of our cross-age rehearsal room and our Learn-Do-Teach-Excel cycle.

## EDUCATION

# AKIN

The AKIN Program is a Regional NSW Workshop and Community Engagement Project. AKIN creates opportunities for arts participation in targeted rural communities, for girls aged 10-18. We want to create an opportunity for every girl who puts her hand up saying 'I want to learn to use my voice'.

The 2022 AKIN program teaches girls how to sing, play, and write original songs. Over the course of a day, each girl participating will have created a story, learnt how to structure it, and write it as an original song. This regional workshop will see an all-female team of emerging musicians accompany a team of professional artists to selected locations, to facilitate these city-country cross-aged workshops.

# PROCESS



The House invests in girls and women by elevating their voices through creative endeavours. The House identifies and engages girls from diverse cultural backgrounds who show passion, commitment and aptitude for the arts. We overcome barriers to participation, providing scholarships, transport, access to musical instruments and space. We build support teams of teachers, families and elders around participants.

We foster long-term engagement, confidence and skill through the rigour and methodology of musical practice. At the heart of The House is The Ensemble, a group of young women who train with Artistic Director Danielle O'Keefe and collaborate with emerging and established artists to create new works.

The House champions young women as the amazing artists and leaders that they are now. We provide a safe space for women of all ages to share their stories and learn to use their voice. A key part of our model is The House's learning cycle which allows each artist to teach her own skills to others, and learn other's skills.

The House has a core mission to empower young women and give their voices a platform to be heard through the arts. The potential for intensive community engagement through including choruses of local girls is a unique opportunity for peer-to-peer learning of new skills. The House understands the importance of engaging with each unique regional audience, and the company is passionate about improving access to high-quality choral performance for regional audiences.