

2023 A YEAR OF CONNECTION



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture



CONTENTS

2	Our Purpose
3	2023 at a Glance
4	Artistic Excellence
8	The Next Generation



OUR PURPOSE

The House that Dan Built (The House) is forging a national reputation for its groundbreaking investment in the voices of girls and women. The company specialises in connecting leading female composers, singers, and creative explorers with everyday Australians to celebrate female stories and unlock potential across NSW.

The House exists to support girls and women find their voice - to be heard, to connect, to share joy. Our program of activities is a strategic investment toward realising two specific complementary goals:

- Generate vocal performances suitable for programming by venues, festivals and events synonymous with **artistic excellence**.
- Unearth and propel the careers of **the next generation** of female composers, songwriters and performers locally, regionally, nationally.

2023 was about moving beyond a year-to-year project-to-project mindset. As we move beyond our 8 year anniversary we can see a future that exists beyond next year. The work we're doing with young and emerging artists, in regional communities, and developing new works of high calibre requires long term engagement. To ensure our ability to deliver long term engagement we need to plan strategically towards goals and opportunities that will exist in 5 years time.

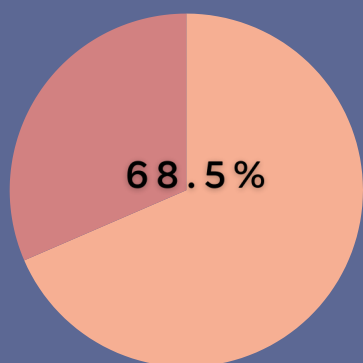


2023 AT A GLANCE



We worked with **1015** girl across NSW.
694 girls in regional NSW across **1600km**

Our **2nd** Performance Apprentice graduated with stellar marks in a **Cert 4** in music performance.



Of 550 AKIN participants surveyed, **68.5%** were exposed to music lessons for the first time in our regional workshops.



Workshop participants would attend again.

42 Number of original songs written by the Toy Choir
22 Performed for the public

153 women participated in our 2023 program.

49 from regional NSW



25 Public Performances
10 Regional Performances

97

artists employed

2 Full length commissioned works in development
+
1 completed

ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

In 2023 The House:

- Commissioned a new work - Femina Controllata Machina by Donna Hewitt
- Developed a commission - Reverence by Rose Riebl in regional NSW
- Performed a commission - 100 Women 100 Stories, written by 2 established and 4 emerging composers.

The House is proud to support these artists and excited to work with them on these projects.

100 WOMEN 100 STORIES @ SYDNEY TOWN HALL

100 Women 100 Stories surpassed all of my hopes and expectations, and I couldn't be more grateful for the overwhelming support and warmth from our incredible community. Over two days we learnt and rehearsed the brand new choral score for 100 Women. 100 Stories. Working on new music is often a challenge especially when you have a range of abilities in a room, but this weekend was one of learning and laughing while working through some really complicated and sophisticated music in a joyous celebration of women's stories and voices.



SALT 360

Salt360 is finally finished! Filmed over the covid years between lockdowns while public performances were impossible. This cinematic wide angle version of Salt has finally been completed, with a gorgeous edit and sound design (and of course, music!) we witness the girls as they grew into women. We look forward to presenting this work in the not too distant future!



TOY CHOIR @ THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

TOY CHOIR took over the Australian Museum on Wednesday 12th July! The choir guided the general public through an interactive tour of the museum in a special holiday event, Nights at the Museum - Museum Through My Eyes. The girls wrote joyful songs inspired by the exhibits and brightened the day of people in the crowd, performing for over 150 people!



BUNDANON RESIDENCY

We developed the second stage of Donna Hewitt's AI Opera - FEMINA CONTROLLATA MACHINA in the serene valley of Bundanon. It was a week full of discussions on the possibilities, fears and potential threats surrounding the emerging epoch of artificial intelligence. We recorded new tracks and even got to play with an EEG brain scanner!



100 CAPES - DENILIQUN

100 Capes. 100 Stories. was installed in the spectacular Peppin Heritage Centre in Deniliquin where it was on display for two months. Three Deni local ladies made capes and were interviewed as part of this large scale project in 2020, so bringing the project and music back to the town was a delight.



REVERENCE

Over 9 choral movements, the traditional format of an operatic requiem, 3 female voices explore the harmony and dissonance of grief and womanhood.

The House spent a few weeks in Gunnedah with Rose Riebl and the Gunnedah Conservatorium. We worked on the music with local 18 young women completing the development of REVERENCE.



100 WOMEN 100 STORIES DEVELOPMENT SING DENILIQUN

What a glorious night to farewell the 100 capes with women from Deni singing their hearts out with Dan. Such a heartwarming event.

"I am haunted by the songs, now that I have started singing again I am not sure that I can stop."



EMERGENCE DEVELOPMENT

Danielle and The House Ensemble worked with Felicity Wilcox developing her new work Emergence. Emergence is a creative practice research project that explores gender in music. The operatic work will involve performers of diverse genders, who will collaborate with the research team on core themes to do with gender in music.



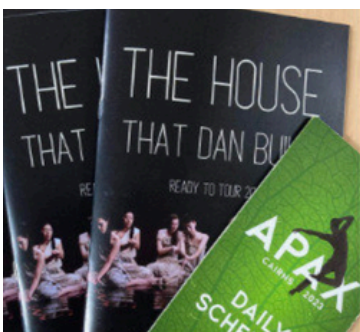
CITY OF SYDNEY CAROLS



Both The House Ensemble and Toy Choir performed at major Carols events in the City of Sydney - at Martin Place and QVB. Electricity might have lit up the tree but our beautiful performers lit up the audience's hearts with their renditions of carols and original holiday themed songs.

APAX & APAF - ARTS MARKETS

Danielle and Debbie hopping a flight to Cairns where we spent a week eating finger food and handing out "Ready to Tour" booklets. The Goal? Get our major works onto stages around the country! The response to the work was very encouraging, and we've had some great conversations with both big and small venues since. We'll keep details under our hats for now, but hopefully we'll have some very exciting news to share down the track.



FURTHERING OUR GOAL TO SUPPORT AND PLATFORM YOUNG ARTISTS

THE NEXT GENERATION

TOY CHOIR

In 2023 our long established music access program TOY CHOIR moved into our new city facility at Haymarket Creative, with girls learning, playing, singing and writing their own songs every Saturday morning. Our all-girl choir performed at The Australia Museum, in our 100 Women concert, and at the lighting of the Christmas tree in Martin Place and the QVB.

ENSEMBLE

Selected through audition, The House Performance Ensemble is made up of young women who have learnt their craft through years of engagement with our programs and young women who have demonstrated their talent and commitment. The 2023 Ensemble trained with Danielle, working towards the 100 Women 100 Stories concert as well as public Christmas performances in Martin Place and the QVB.



OUR APPRENTICE GRADUATES!

Our wonderful apprentice Tallulah Simpson has graduated with stellar marks, receiving a Cert 4 in music performance. She is our second apprentice to have graduated, following Soren Goulding last year. Tallulah is a longtime member of our ensemble, she has been teaching the Toy Choir this year, and sang a solo in Olivia Bryant's song "Bask" in the 100 Women 100 Stories concert. Congratulations Tallulah!

EXTRAVAGANZA

Now and then, a small idea catches fire and the next thing you know, you are building a show in a shearing shed with 40 young people and 15 artists from all over the state under the starlight of a balmy Autumn evening. Like all large scale projects, many lessons were hard won, but the delight and joy of singing original songs as the sun set will be burnt into our minds forever.

Our Extravaganza was absolutely JAM PACKED full of action and music! We set up a shop in Berrigan, bringing together creative young people aged between 12 and 24 to learn with industry professionals from various music and performance disciplines. By the end of the week, an original show inspired by the kids would be written and performed, in the incredible NORTH TUPPAL Shearing Shed!

The House Music and Arts Extravaganza is part of the holiday break program supported by the Office for Regional Youth in partnership with Create NSW.



DJ WORKSHOP - DENILIQIN

Karmel Jäger is a Sydney-based professional DJ artist who led a high impact 3 day workshop for young people to jump behind the decks. The young musicians learnt how to spin tunes, loop beats and present their own set at a community showcase at The Storyteller. It was such a blast!

The Deniliquin Summer Holiday Workshop is part of the Holiday Break Program supported by the office of Regional Youth.



WORKSHOPS - BRONTE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Our team of creatives embedded themselves at Bronte Public school for three weeks, running classes for students aged 5 to 12 how to play the ukulele and write songs!

AKIN WORKSHOPS - DENILIQVIN & GUNNEDAH

Our program of regional outreach continued in 2023 with workshops in Gunnedah and Deniliquin, engaging girls at local schools and regional conservatoriums, teaching singing and song writing and fostering a much-needed sense of value and agency. These outreach workshops enable us to reach girls in communities where there are limited opportunities to engage with the arts and quality music education.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP - GUNNEDAH

Our team of creatives travelled out to Gunnedah and met our local emerging artist Sewa Emojong in town! They ran workshops in drama, singing, animation, songwriting, acting, and play-building for young people in partnership with the Gunnedah Conservatorium. The participants had a wonderful time culminating in a successful showcase with a generous audience at the end of the week!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP - DENILIQVIN

Jayden Selvakumaraswamy & Karmel Jäger hit the road to visit Deniliquin once again & met our local emerging country singer Zara Lindeman in town. This musical team facilitated a five day school holiday workshop program, teaching young people to DJ, sing, write lyrics, sound-scape and song-write.

The team celebrated with an incredible end of week showcase at the STORYTELLER bar. There were many new songs and DJ mixes created across the week and the kids had a blast!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP - BROKEN HILL

Our team of graduated apprentices embarked on an exciting adventure to the breathtaking landscapes of Broken Hill.

Our mission? To inspire and empower local young talents with the magic of music and animation!

The result? A fantastic week where Broken Hill young people were taught how to write a story, turn it into a song, and animate a video clip! The participants had an absolute blast, and their hard work culminated in a beautiful showcase that left everyone a little teary.

"The House does a really amazing thing in creating community, especially between younger women and older women, they create a connection that often gets lost. [The House] understands that everyone in the room has something artistically valuable to say."

Iris Simpson, in reflection of 'Reverence'

"Valuable insight into this sector and opportunity to witness the relentless drive and passion of a group of inspiring women. I have a lot of admiration for what they are doing!"

Kate Young, Board Observer - Westpac

The top 10 composers (those with the most pieces scheduled) were all historical white European men. Together they account for 27.5% of all scheduled works, nearly four times more than ALL works by women combined.

Excerpt from study conducted by The Donne

"More than anything, I want to live and work as a fulltime artist - something that seemed like an impossible dream before the Festival, now feels within reach. For the first time, I've set a goal to get gallery representation by the end of 2023. The reception my piece got at the Whispers & Roars Festival made it clear that it really is possible to make a living off my art."

Ysabel Darling, artist of Whispers and Roars Festival

In this recent season more than three quarters (76.4%) of all pieces scheduled were written by dead white men.

Excerpt from study conducted by The Donne

"The artist fee fully covered my time and energy as a creative preparing and participating in the festival. I have made some fabulous creative friends who are continuing to engage with me and my work (and I with there's) which may turn into interesting collaborations in the future. Working with such an organised driven team brought a new level of confidence to my work and organisation to my promotion and composing schedule."

Jennifer Hankin, artist of Whispers and Roars Festival

Beethoven and Brahms together accounted for roughly as many performances in 2022 as all women composers combined (7.5% vs 7.7%).

Excerpt from study conducted by The Donne

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The House would like to thank the generosity of the following donors, who have supported us and made our achievements possible this year.

The Pronk Foundation •

The Murphy Foundation

Kate Butler • Pam McKee • Julie Thomas

Jacqueline O'Brien

Diane Volk

Alya Meyer

Rowan Bate

Gabriella Rooney

Edward Spowart

Fiona Press

Katrina Douglas

Bradley Castellano

Mark King

Bernie Heard

Patricia Meagher



CITY OF SYDNEY
Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture

