



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TANTRUM

Tantrum respects and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands that we live, work, and make art on. We recognise First Nations people as the first storytellers of this nation and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

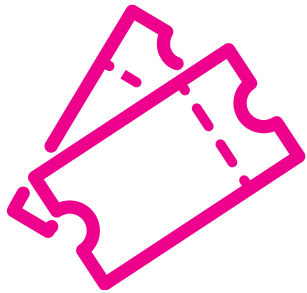
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Making Theatre! Lake Mac (2023). Photo by Lee Illfield.

2023 SNAPSHOT



5

new works developed



1060

young people engaged in
our programs

36



artists and artsworkers
employed



234

hours free creative
workshops delivered in
regional communities

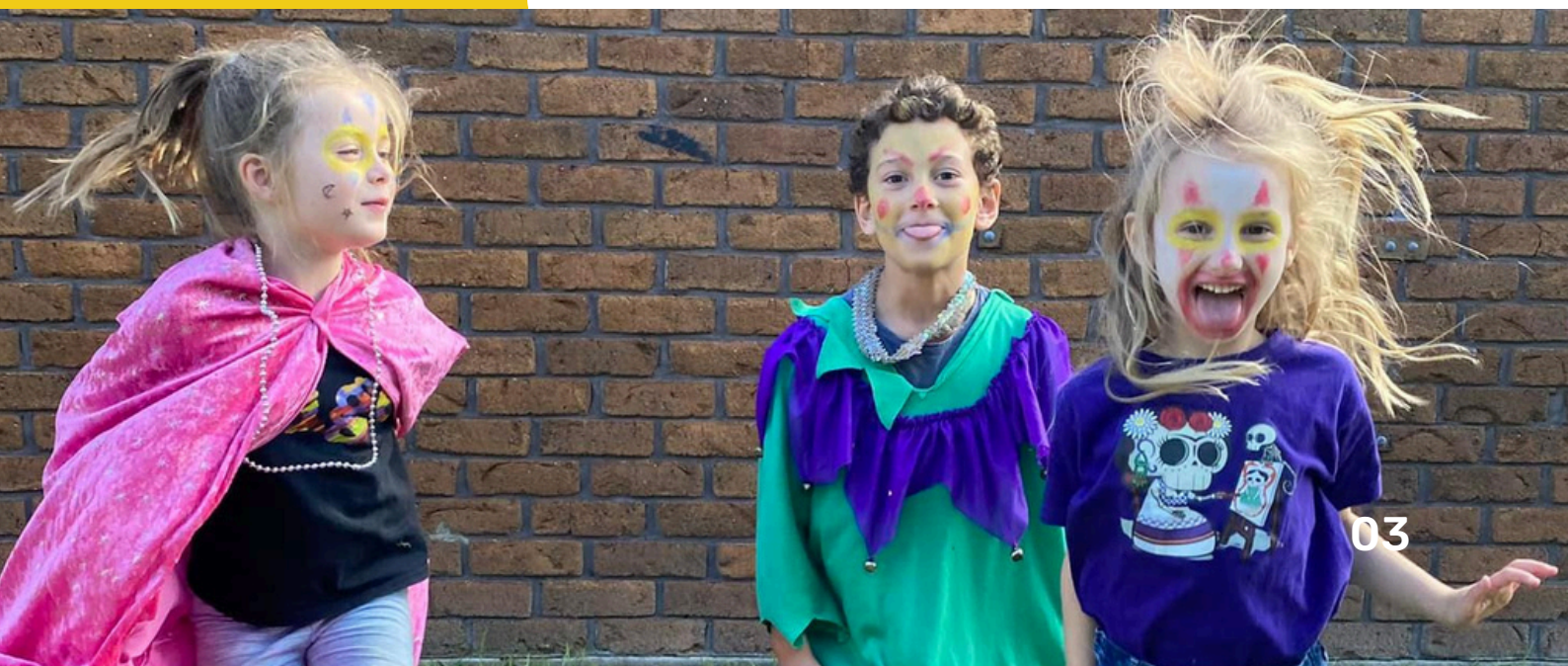
Chair's Report

There is so much to be proud of in reviewing 2023 at Tantrum Youth Arts. The year was marked by an exuberant flourish of activity where young artists featured centre stage and new initiatives took shape. Local young artists benefitted from a stable team of core staff throughout the year and the fresh projects were spurred on by the consistent work of the Tantrum team, and strategic initiatives stemming from our new Business Development Manager, Dr Clare Twist. Tantrum staff ran a successful matched funding campaign that enabled new projects such as **Party Party Boom Boom** to be devised and performed at the Civic Theatre. This project was highly successful and showcased the creativity of the Accelerate Ensemble. Tantrum's production of **Good Mourning** was also a highlight in the years' activities and illustrated the organisation's continued commitment to supporting young artists and their creative work.

Importantly Tantrum strengthened its service delivery in schools and increased its partnerships with government, professional and community organisations. These activities highlighted the broadening of the scope of activities and connections between Tantrum Youth Arts and the wider education and youth arts sectors. The Board supports these new partnerships and activities with a continued commitment to a sustainable future for Tantrum Youth Arts and recognises the mighty work of a small, deeply committed group of staff.

The Board thanks the Tantrum team for their energy and efforts to ensure young people in our region have access to high quality, rich creative opportunities, where their voices truly matter as they take to the stage.

Dr Christine Hatton
Chairperson



Executive Report

For Tantrum, 2023 was the year that young people **took the stage**.

Regional teens in the Upper Hunter and Lake Macquarie took the stage across two dazzling, week-long theatre making projects in partnership with Singleton Council and Lake Mac Arts – sparking creativity and amplifying youth voice across the regions.

Tantrum’s artists-in-residence took the stage in sharing their experimental new works with an audience of peers at **SHOWROOM**, our emerging artist industry day.

Young people from our Newcastle and Lake Mac workshops took the stage for friends and family with our **Comedy Knight** – the very first event curated by Tantrum’s **Noisemakers** Youth Advisory Group.

Local emerging artists took the stage in our production of **Good Mourning**, a poignant and uplifting new theatre work written by Newcastle-born playwright Sonia Dodd and Tantrum’s Associate Producer Hannah Armstrong, and produced as part of the Civic Theatre 2023 Season and New Annual.

And **Accelerate Ensemble** – our performance ensemble for young artists with disability – took the stage in a joyful, effervescent explosion of colour, music and rainbow slinkies in their first original stage show, **Party Party Boom Boom**.

2023 was a busy, beautiful, buoyant year of creative possibilities for the many young artists that Tantrum supports. In reflecting upon our year, we are incredibly proud to have provided so many young people with a creative platform to share their stories and their voices – loudly!

We are ecstatic and eternally grateful to have connected with a community of supporters in 2023, who believe in the value of arts participation and the rights of all to be creative. Our major **‘Take the Stage’** fundraising campaign was the centrepiece of our year in many ways, and cemented for us the ongoing importance of providing these creative opportunities for all young people.

Our team worked harder than ever in 2023 to create such opportunities and ensure they were the most positive, enriching and accessible experiences possible for our young participants. We recognise the dedication and skill of our incredible team and acknowledge that none of our work is possible without them. Our heartfelt thanks to Team Tantrum in 2023: Hannah Armstrong, Sarah Coffee, Barney Donaghy, Sorca Hubbuck, Jada Laurie, Meg O’Hara, Keltan O’Shea, Clare Twist.

Penelope Kentish
Creative Director

Tamara Gazzard
Executive Director



PUSH PULL TWIST! (2023). Photo by Tamara Gazzard

Good Mourning

22-23 September 2023

**The Playhouse
Civic Theatre**

As part of New Annual and the Civic Theatre's 2023 Season, Tantrum was immensely proud to present *Good Mourning*, a new Australian work developed by Newcastle-born playwright Sonia Dodd and our Associate Producer Hannah Armstrong.

Good Mourning tells the true story of four young siblings and their Dad's cancer diagnosis. This poignant and joyful work explores the complexities of loss and grief from the honest perspective of an eight-year-old, who reminds us that while death is scary, life is a celebration.

With previous presentations in Bathurst and Sydney, *Good Mourning* resonated loudly with audiences in its Newcastle premiere. An especially meaningful aspect to the project was the invitation for community members to share their handwritten stories of loss or grief, which became part of a striking installation in the foyer of the Playhouse before the show.

Created by

Hannah Armstrong
and Sonia Dodd

Directed by

Hannah Armstrong

Ensemble

Gabrielle Aubrey
Samuel Jenkins
Jada Laurie
Ben Rodwell

Lighting Design

Nik Lyons

Stage Manager

Kirby Hocking

This season of *Good Mourning* was supported by Lyndey Milan. Lyndey said, "Congratulations on your further development of this production which originally won the Blair Milan Touring prize, and for your dedication to youth arts in the regions. May you ever grow and succeed and continue the Blair Milan legacy."



9/10 audience
members rated
Good Mourning:



"Moving, nostalgic, beautiful"

- Audience Member

My best friend
and I believed the
saying that once you're friends
with someone for 7 years, you're

6 early-career artists employed
1 new work presented
225 audience members

The day before our
anniversary we had a fight that
led our friendship.

Good Mourning (2023). Photo by Katherine Williams

Residency + SHOWROOM

In 2023 Tantrum's Residency program supported three emerging artists in the development of their own new work. Tantrum provided these artists with studio space, technical and marketing support, and paired each of them with an industry mentor to further support the development of their artistic process.

The six-month Residency program culminated in *SHOWROOM* - a day of work-in-progress showings and networking opportunities for emerging artists in the Hunter. At this event, each of our resident artists presented a development showing of their work to an audience of peers, a critical opportunity for these artists to engage in reflection and seek feedback on their work. The resident artists and Tantrum's wider community were also given an opportunity to attend a Producing Masterclass on the day, delivered by **Critical Stages**.

As part of the program, Tantrum's resident artists had further opportunities to grow their creative and professional networks through attending **Shopfront's** ArtsLab Industry Day in Sydney. Here they connected

with other early-career artists, industry peers and organisations and engaged with a range of new works in development by Shopfront's own resident artists.

2023 Residency Artists and Mentors

- **Angela Kowalski**, mentored by Sarah Lock
- **Joshua Ingle**, mentored by Kit Webster
- **September Jones**, mentored by Lucy Shepherd

SHOWROOM Producer

Nel Kentish

Panel Convenor

Phoebe Turnbull

Panel Guests

Hannah Armstrong, Adam Deusien, Sonia Dodd, Janie Gibson

With special thanks to Robbi James of Critical Stages Touring for his Producing Masterclass.

“The most beneficial thing about the Residency was being able to explore and apply my own creative vision with use of audio and visual tech... It has laid the foundations to explore bigger art experiences”

- 2023 Residency Artist

A woman with wavy hair, glasses, and a red long-sleeved top is smiling and holding a large, crumpled yellow paper sculpture. The sculpture has several pieces of paper attached with handwritten notes. One note says "for search shoes on your shoes", another says "Clare's", and a third says "Gail". The background is dark with some colorful geometric shapes on the wall.

3 emerging artists supported
3 new works developed
50 audience members

Accelerate Ensemble

In 2023 Tantrum's training ground for young artists with disability - Accelerate Ensemble - entered its third year and took things to the next level with a successful major fundraising campaign, supported by **Creative Partnerships Australia's** Plus1 program, enabling the creation and presentation of their first original theatre work.

Established in 2021, Accelerate Ensemble is a partnership between Tantrum and the **Civic Theatre** - the home of live performance in Newcastle. **Civic Theatre Newcastle** provides an accessible workshop space for the Ensemble to meet each week and in-kind venue support for their creative presentations.

Since its inception in 2021, Accelerate Ensemble has been supported by the internationally acclaimed Geelong-based company Back to Back Theatre, who have worked with us to establish the ensemble, offering training and support to our participants and staff, and aiding in the production of new works.



6 emerging artists supported
108 hours of free professional development
1 new work created
157 audience members

Party Party Boom Boom

New Work Premiere

3 and 4 November 2023

The Playhouse, Civic Theatre

Created and performed by Accelerate Ensemble, this electrifying new work celebrated the art of celebration through original music, movement and storytelling.

Facilitated by co-directors Penelope (Nel) Kentish and Hannah Armstrong, through devising tasks, improvisation, song writing sessions and dance breaks, Accelerate Ensemble led the creative process to devise *Party Party Boom Boom*: a joyful work inspired by the Ensembles members' collective love of celebrations, dance and musical theatre, as well as their individual passions, hopes and dreams.

Party Party Boom Boom was created with the support of our community and all the generous donors to Tantrum's Take the Stage fundraising campaign in April 2023.

Co-presented by Tantrum Youth Arts,
Civic Theatre Newcastle

Performers

Amber Tull, Angela Kowalski, Jaye Cutting, Montana Blair, Savannah Bailey, Tomas Chiaverini

Directors

Hannah Armstrong, Penelope Kentish

Sound design, composition, DJ

Huw Jones

Lighting Design

Nik Lyons

Assistant Stage Managers

Keltan O'Shea, Heather Edmonds

creative
partnerships
australia



Civic
Theatre

Beyond Bank
AUSTRALIA

Lingard
Private Hospital

“The music and dance was so magical, I couldn’t help but smile the whole way through”

-Audience Member



“Colourful, Energetic, Explosive”

-Audience Member



**Watch the
highlights**

Noisemakers

The Noisemakers are a committee of young people, made up of Tantrum members aged 8 to 17. The Noisemakers are members who would like to have their voices heard extra loud on who Tantrum is and what Tantrum does.

In 2023, the Noisemakers were passionate about performance and art-making opportunities for young people and were instrumental in coordinating a number of events at Tantrum, especially for our young members.

In April, the Noisemakers held their first art exhibition as part of the City of Newcastle's Youth Week event. Supported by an **ADFAS Newcastle** Young Arts grant, *The Salt and Pepper*

Pig saw young people from Tantrum selling their original artwork and drawing custom portraits of passersby during a youth week takeover in Museum Park.

Then in June, our Noisemakers helped warm the Tantrum Studio with *Comedy Knight* - an evening of original, devised, laugh-out-loud comedy sketches by our workshop participants. The Noisemakers curated every aspect of this event, down to the medieval themed snacks on offer.

To cap off the year, the Noisemakers expertly and proudly MC'd our end of year performance for workshop participants, *Push Pull Twist*, at The Playhouse.



Workshops

In 2023, Tantrum continued to provide young people with a space to play with purpose. We applied our youth-led creative practice to support and empower young people to take ownership of the creative process. They investigated, interrogated and explored the world around them through play and performance making.

In 2023 we delivered weekly afternoon drama workshops during school terms in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie for young people ages 5-17. We also trialled a new offering for over 18s, with our PlayUp! workshops providing a low-pressure, maximum fun environment for young adults to play, experiment and get creative on a weekly basis.

Our school holiday programs grew in popularity in 2023, and we cemented our reputation in the community for providing unique youth-led creative opportunities in theatre making, film making, puppet making and more.

Our end of year performance for weekly workshop groups saw our young people devising their own short plays in response to the theme "Push Pull Twist" - a concept developed and championed by our Noisemakers youth advisory group.

"Thank you for making a safe space for young people to be themselves"

- Parent of Tantrum Workshop Participant 2023

82% of parents strongly agree

Tantrum workshops help their child feel **more confident** to share their ideas with others.

Tantrum OUTPOST

Outpost is Tantrum's outreach initiative that aims to establish free, creative workshop programs for young people in regional areas. We work in partnership with local government and community groups to create these important opportunities for young people to make noise in their communities through performance-making.

In 2023 we continued and deepened our engagement with young people in the Lake Macquarie area through our ongoing weekly workshops and free school holiday programs in partnership with **Lake Macquarie City Council** (see next pages).

We also kickstarted a thriving new partnership with Singleton Council, with a free school-holiday program at the Singleton Youth Venue in January. Based on the overwhelming interest of the local young people, Tantrum continued our engagement in Singleton throughout the year with weekly workshops and school holiday programming bringing new and accessible creative opportunities to regional youth.

Making Theatre! Singleton

School Holiday Project
9-13 January 2023
Singleton Youth Venue

Tantrum was thrilled to return to Singleton Youth Venue (after almost 10 years!) in January 2023 to collaborate with creative young people in a week-long theatre-making extravaganza.

Throughout the week, participants had the opportunity to work with professional artists from Tantrum including theatre makers, a film maker, sound designer and lighting designer to create their own original performance work.

Supported by Create NSW and the Office for Regional Youth, this Holiday Break project in partnership with Singleton Council saw 18 regional teens come together with Tantrum artists to connect, create and learn new skills.



**Watch the
highlights**

Making Theatre! Lake Mac

School Holiday Project
25-29 September 2023
Multi-Arts Pavilion, mima

Over a week in the September school holidays, Lake Mac teens had the opportunity to collaborate, create and present a new multimedia performance work at the Multi-Arts Pavilion, mima in Speers Point. Tantrum partnered up with **Lake Macquarie City Council** to provide a free week-long school holiday theatre-making workshop for 15 local young creatives, supported by Create NSW and the Office for Regional Youth.

Harnessing the unique multimedia capabilities of the 360 degree cube that is the MAP mima space, project participants had the opportunity to collaborate with a professional sound designer and video artist, as well as theatremakers and technicians, to create an evocative multi-artform work. They presented the work to a packed out audience of friends and family at the end of the week.



Making Theatre! Lake Mac (2023). Photo by Lee Illfield.

In-Schools

In 2023, Tantrum worked with schools across a vast geographic area: from the Upper Hunter, Hunter, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast and Sydney. We were inspired by the energy and creativity of the more than 700 students from years 3-12 that our artists had the joy of working with throughout the year.

Tantrum's skilled and passionate workshop artists helped bring Drama to life in classrooms through tailored workshops in devising/playbuilding, performance skills, verbatim theatre and improvisation.

Through new partnerships with **Wesley Mission** and the University of Newcastle's **Uni Steps** program we had the opportunity to apply our unique expertise and skillset in youth-led performance practice to new contexts including Drama for Wellbeing and Presentation Skills. We were excited by how these programs were received and look forward to further exploring how our practice can be useful in future cross-sector collaborations.

"I loved that students were pushed out of their comfort zone"

**-Teacher,
Uni Steps program**

17 schools visited
38 in-schools workshops
760 young participants

Opening Doors: Digital

Tantrum began the roll out of our innovative respectful relationships program, **Opening Doors: Digital**, to schools in the Hunter, Lake Macquarie and Central Coast in 2023.

Opening Doors: Digital addresses the issues of domestic violence and image-based abuse, and supports students to understand how to access help and what support is out there.

Based on Tantrum's acclaimed and long-running theatre-in-education program Opening Doors, this new digital version provides a unique, engaging and immersive approach to respectful relationships education in schools.

After initial pilot sessions and valuable feedback from teachers we undertook further development of the program in 2023 to make it simpler for teachers to implement in their classrooms.

The program will continue to be offered to schools free of charge into early 2024 thanks to the support of the NSW Government.



“A wonderfully thought out and important program that will serve young people well in allowing for conversations and reflections on serious and impactful topics.”

**– Teacher,
Dungog High School**

Proudly funded by





Photo by Eryn Leggatt

Our People

Staff

Executive Director

Tamara Gazzard

Creative Director

Penelope (Nel) Kentish

Business Development Manager

Clare Twist

Associate Producer

Hannah Armstrong

Marketing and Engagement

Coordinator

Sarah Coffee

Workshop Facilitators

Hannah Armstrong

Barnaby Donaghy

Sorća Hubbuck

Jada Laurie

Meg O'Hara

Keltan O'Shea

Board

Chairperson

Robert Oerlemans (to May)

Dr Christine Hatton (from May)

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Renee Bryant

Secretary

Alex Travers

Directors

Ethan Andrews (from May)

Claudia Chidiac (to May)

Joe Conneely (to Feb)

Paschal Daantos Berry (to May)

Abbey Dorman (from May)

Michael Giles (from April)

Peter 'Barney' Langford

Phoebe Turnbull (from May)

Our Supporters

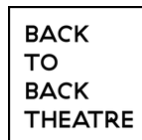
Government Partners



creative
partnerships
australia



Program Partners



Our Donors

We wish to express our gratitude to the generous individuals, businesses and organisations who supported Tantrum in 2023, including those who supported our 'Take the Stage' campaign.

Aaron Mulcahy
 Adam Deusien
 Adam Fergusson
 Adam Schultz
 Albert Lin
 Alex Mangano
 Alex Travers
 Alicia Savage
 Alison Walter
 Amy Hardingham
 Amy Morris
 Angela Ekert Gazzard
 Angela Kowalski
 Ann Taylor
 Barnaby Donaghy
 Barney Langford
 Ben Rodwell
 Brad & Jacqui Woodhouse
 Bree Harvey-Bice
 Brendan O'Connell
 Brian Adamthwaite
 Chloe Warren
 Christine Hatton
 Claudia Chidiac
 Dan Scaysbrook
 Daniel & Hayley Stoddart

Darren Twist
 David Gairdner
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 Peter Lobach
 Rachel Jackett
 Reid McManus
 Renee Bryant
 Rob Oerlemans
 Samantha Sutton
 Sarah Kabanoff
 Sharon Claydon
 Sonia Dodd
 Suzanne Curran
 Tamara Gazzard
 Tim Crackanthorpe
 Anonymous x 5





Take the Stage Fundraising Gala (2023). Photo by Katherine Williams.