

The Art of Inspiring
Communities in
2020 - 2021



About Us



Image: *To live deliberately*, 2020 by Dave Laslett and Kasia Tons

Our vision is for artists and the communities of regional South Australia to thrive through engagement with the arts, and be recognised as valued contributors to the nation's cultural voice.

Country Arts SA aims to transform the way the arts are made and engaged with in regional South Australia.

- We keep regional South Australia at our core
- We generate local and national legacies by embedding artists in regional communities
- We embrace diverse experiences and perspectives, and address the barriers that keep people from getting involved in the arts
- We nurture, celebrate and showcase creativity from across regional South Australia
- We embrace diversity and act with integrity, transparency and generosity

Investment 2020-21

Federal Government	13%
State Government	59%
Local Government	7%
Earn Income	21%
Total Investment	\$9.1M

Euphoria

Commissioned by Country Arts SA, Euphoria was developed over two years in consultation with communities across regional South Australia and informed by the real lives and experiences of people living in regional and remote areas. Joining forces with State Theatre Company South Australia to co-produce playwright Emily Steel's remarkable work, Euphoria had its world premiere at the Chaffey Theatre in Renmark in 2021



Photographer: Chris Herzfeld / Camlight Productions

18 locations

41 performances

"The students who came to the performance from Roxby really enjoyed the story and were in awe of the actors' work. For nearly all of them, it was the first time they had seen a play." - **Berlinda Carroll, Roxby Downs Area School**

"The show was AMAZING. Having grown up in the country the script nailed it and the actors did the script proud. I have already recommended the show to others."

"Euphoria is, quite simply, one of the finest pieces of new stage writing to grace [a] stage for a good many years". - **The Advertiser**

"Kudos to Country Arts SA for commissioning this play about such an important and prevalent subject and to all involved in bringing this play to the stage. Bravo!" - **Theatre Guide**

35 post show & engagement sessions

An audience of **6,560**



Photographer: Chris Herzfeld / Camlight Productions



Higgs Field at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre

Local & Live

Over 50 regional artists and crew, hard hit by state and national lockdowns, were given the opportunity to perform to local audiences and reach new followers via supported livestreams.

"Mount Gambier has so many talented artists, all in bands that showcase some fantastic genres. Local and live was fantastic! run and organised by a team of people who made it an easy and enjoyable experience! It's a great way to introduce the community to the bands and vice versa!" - **Liam Brown, Higgs Field**

Employment

In a year that saw the cultural sector disproportionality impacted by the global pandemic Country Arts SA employed 1,115 artists and arts workers:

24.03 FTE

683 from regional
South Australia

201 First Nations
People

220,199 people enjoyed new arts and cultural experiences that were supported, produced, developed, presented, and shared by Country Arts SA in 2020-21.

Country Arts Foundation

Officially established in 2021, the Country Arts Foundation fosters philanthropic giving towards the creation of ambitious and accessible arts experiences for audiences of all ages and interests, supports artists to live and work regionally and ensures rural and regional South Australian communities thrive.

Comprised of volunteer community leaders and philanthropists who raise much-needed funds for programs and artists, the Foundation is committed to establishing an endowment that will be self-sustaining and able to supply secure future funding. Its core focus is to bolster and maintain the vibrancy and culture of regional South Australia.



Image: Moments Like These by Eliza Wuttke, 2020

For more information visit
www.countryarts.org.au/support-us



Nukunu elder Lindsay Thomas /
Country Arts SA Strategic Plan launch /
Photographer: Kathy Gould / Hip Photography

Acknowledgment of Country

At Country Arts SA, we live and create on the lands of the First Nations people of South Australia and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We embrace the principle of 'First Nations First' and are committed to working together to safeguard, celebrate and present our First Nations' living cultures.

We launched our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan on Nukunu country focusing on our priority of First Peoples First.

Events

1,786 in total

1,369 at Country Arts SA's Art Centres

New Works

8 new works produced **3** First Nations

22 works presented **6** First Nations

Community

65,683 people took part in **82** community run events and projects supported by Country Arts SA in **38** locations statewide.

During NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week we presented Nunga Screen – a program of films created by First Nations artists. These free screenings for children and families attracted a total of **4,541** people to **73** screenings and workshops in **25** sites across the state.



Image: Unfolding by Lewis Major. Photographer: Chris Herzfeld / Camlight Productions

*"I have seen some outstanding performances...this was amazing. Especially **Unfolding**. I found it so beautiful, and it fed my soul and creative spirit. Thank you so much."* - Audience member for S/Words at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre