

September 2023

## INNOVATIVE IDEAS ACROSS ARTFORMS LEAD REGIONAL ARTS PROJECTS

The Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund provided \$167,770 in support of 10 arts projects across regional South Australia in the August 2023 Project Grants round.

The latest grant round supports a range of project types, including celebrating community history through Burlesque dance, using theatre to express the resilience of regional youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, public art which tells a rich cultural story and shining a light on transformative justice through photography.

The themes for this round show how regional South Australian artists are using their artform to respond to deeply personal experiences, and how depicting these through art can be a catalyst for liberation, awareness and connection.

Country Arts SA's Chief Executive, Anthony Peluso said, *"The Regional Arts Fund August round includes photography, film, visual art and live theatre which reflects the innovative talent and vigour of South Australia's regional artists. The artists supported by these grants will create new works based on their personal experiences, enriching their communities and providing new opportunities to engage with the arts. We look forward to seeing the outcomes and wish the applicants well as they grow their artistic practices."*

Successful initiatives in this round include:

### River Murray Connections

#### Loxton – Riverland

**\$11,000**

The mural is an innovative collaborative project between celebrated local artist Jarrod Loxton and experienced Ngarrindjeri artist and educator Shane Karpany. The mural depicts their interpretation of the Ngarrindjeri Dreaming story of the River Murray, showing connections between flora, fauna, country and its people.

### Mount Gambier

#### Women's Work

**\$17,800**

Live dance-theatre production 'Woman's Work' will premiere in Berrin (Mount Gambier) at The Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th, 2024.

Premiering alongside 'Woman's Work' the live show, will be a new short artistic documentary featuring six women from the local Women in Business and Regional Development (WiBRD) community. Each woman will create a portrait and share what "woman's work" means to them celebrating Women's Day 2024.

The Australian Government supports regional artists, arts workers and organisations to develop and expand their artistic practice through the Regional Arts Fund. Funding targets activities that will have long term cultural, economic and social benefits for individuals and communities. Funding through the Regional Arts Fund assists communities and individuals through the development of partnerships and cultural networks, by providing artists with professional development and employment opportunities, and by supporting arts and community development projects that provide local communities with opportunities to access exciting arts and cultural activities.

The Regional Arts Fund is administered on behalf of the Australian Government by Regional Arts Australia and organisations in each state and territory which include Country Arts SA. The next funding round will open

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February 2024 and closes mid-March 2024 for projects that commence after 1 July 2024. For more information about the Regional Arts Fund please visit [www.countryarts.org.au](http://www.countryarts.org.au). A list of funded projects is below.

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**REGIONAL ARTS FUND – AUGUST 2023**  
**LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**Quorn – Flinders Ranges**

**Fringe in the Flinders**

**\$25,000**

Fringe in the Flinders is a free-to-attend family-friendly event held in Quorn, in South Australia's mid north. The event takes a 'taste' of the Adelaide Fringe Festival to the Flinders Ranges, offering a program filled with entertainment and culture, including free public space activations featuring music, circus, aerial shows, comedy, street theatre and much more.

**Port Augusta**

**A Nightmare on Felt Street**

**\$15,350**

Regional filmmaker Brendan Godfrey will create the short film A Nightmare on Felt Street. The horror-comedy tells the story of an awkward puppeteer who returns home to deal with the death of his overbearing father - which becomes much more difficult when his dad's spirit takes over his favourite puppet and tries to kill him!

**Normanville – Fleurieu Peninsula**

**Mangata**

**\$19,535**

Photographer Amos Gebhardt will create a new body of work to exhibit at the Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh) opening in November 2024, as part of their 'Luminaries' series. 'Mangata' proposes a series of photographic and moving image portraits taken under moonlight, featuring activists who're building liberatory spaces in the present to imagine intentional futures. In literature and folklore, the moon has often symbolised ideas of imagination and transformation. Emblematic of the activists' quest, moonlight finds direction in the darkness, symbolising a place of becoming within the dream realm of night. Consistently unacknowledged within the dominant narrative of the heroic, these resistance activists are at the forefront of dismantling current systems of power as pathways to alternative world-making. From trans women of colour, to queer thinkers, community leaders, abolitionists and transformative justice workers, Gebhardt aims for these portraits to explore how the contemporary work of liberation is creating fertile ground for future ancestors.

**Karoonda – Murray Mallee**

**Community Craft Shop Mural**

**\$5,950**

Design and production of a painted wall mural on the community craft shop, approximately 10m x 3m. The mural will depict local flora and fauna, reflecting the strong connection to nature and wildlife in the community.

**Cummins – Lower Eyre Peninsula**

**Tye-ing us Together**

**\$20,000**

Mosaic Artist Michael Tye to work with the Cummins Mosaic group to transform the public space outside the historic Cummins Institute into an appealing community space for social interaction and relaxation.

**Mount Gambier**

**Hidden Carousel**

**\$23,135**

Hidden Carousel is an enchanting 1920s Speakeasy Burlesque show set in the intimate cabaret-style ambiance of Mount Gambier's local theatre. This project celebrates the rich history of the community, drawing inspiration from the legendary Jens Hotel and its connection to the underground tunnels.

**River Murray Connections**

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**Renmark - Riverland****Riverland Youth Theatre – War of the Worlds****\$15,000****Whyalla****D'faces of Youth – War of the Worlds****\$15,000**

War of the Worlds is an ambitious theatre project conceived by award winning playwright Fleur Kilpatrick (also the Artistic Director here at Riverland Youth Theatre). The show will be performed simultaneously in Whyalla (SA), Barmera (SA) and Bendigo (VIC) by youth ensembles from D'faces, Riverland Youth Theatre and Arena Theatre Company, respectively.

The premise of this new adaptation of War of the Worlds is that, on the night of an alien invasion, three regional theatre companies are presenting parallel versions of scenes from classics. As chaos begins to descend on Australia, these companies of young people find the only communication they have with the outside world is with each other. This script is a tribute to the resilience and friendship of the teens in these regional theatre companies, the ways in which they look after their friends and survived covid and everything else the 21st Century is hurling at them.

*End.*

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