

## Evolution of Disability Arts in Australia

**QUT Ethics Approval Number 2021000382**

### Research team

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### Why is the study being conducted?

This research project aims to create the first archive documenting, analysing and theorising disability arts in Australia. Australian disability arts are recognised globally for its innovation and impact. However, the historical legacy this celebrated contemporary work builds upon is largely undocumented.

This project aims to address this gap by studying archival records, conducting oral history interviews, and then co-designing a disability arts archive with artists and other stakeholders. This is stage 1 of the research project will focus on accessing previously unavailable records and documents showing full spectrum and volume of work by artists with disability, and diversity of legacy of practice, often assumed to be small and recent to be considered as part of the online disability arts archive.

It should benefit scholars, arts organisations, artists, and government by creating a comprehensive, co-curated, culturally respectful record to inform present and future policy initiatives designed to make the arts industry more inclusive of people with disabilities.

You are invited to participate in this research project because you have been involved in disability arts in Australia, as an arts organisation supporting arts and media makers with disabilities.

## **What does participation involve?**

Your participation in this project is voluntary. If you do agree to participate, you can withdraw from participation at any time during the project without comment or penalty. Your decision to participate will in no way impact upon your current or future relationship with QUT (for example your grades, or your future employment at QUT).

Your participation will involve providing the research team with historical documents of your past and/or present practice in support of arts and media makers who identify as Deaf and Disabled. This may include, but is not limited to business, production, and promotion records such as

The archival material will mainly consist of business, production, and promotion records such as:

- Flyers, posters, programs, catalogues, memorabilia, merchandise
- Photographs, video recordings, audio recordings of performances, concerts, exhibitions
- Photographs, video recordings, audio recordings of events held in parallel with the above – launch events, sponsor events, artist talks, etc.
- Plays, musical scores, artworks, craft works, films, television programs
- Reviews, commentaries, critiques, testimonials, participant case studies and stories

In general, these types of materials will have been public and published by your organisation at the time. Accordingly, the research team anticipates that there would be no barrier – confidentiality, commercial in confidence information, copyright, or image consent issues, for example – that would preclude you sharing these sorts of historical documents with the research team for use in an archive if you choose to.

The archival material may, in some cases, also include other records such as –

- Organisational vision, mission, value, and strategy statements, program overviews
- Acquittals, evaluations

These documents may or may not have been public or published at the time. In such cases, we will advise your organisation to consult with appropriate staff within its governance and legal structure as to whether confidentiality, commercial in confidence arrangements, image consent issues, copyright issues, or other issues preclude or present a barrier to sharing the historical document with the research team, or if permissions need to be sought before sharing the historical document with the research team for use in an archive.

The research team does not seek to acquire hard copies of documents, images, recordings, or other historical materials. The research team seeks to acquire or create electronic copies – links to scans or scans. The research team is happy to work with your organisation to digitise document to create links to scans / scans if there is a document you may wish to consent to share but to date have only held in a hard copy format. This is something we would be more than happy to discuss with you.

The research team is also happy to discuss repositories, and what we might be able to recommend or who in our networks we might be able to connect you with, if you have been looking for locations to store hard copy collections your organisation has gathered over the years, given this research project is not a hard copy acquisition project.

### **Do you have any accessibility or cultural access requirements?**

The research team recognises that participants may have accessibility requirements to support their inclusion in this research. That may include an Auslan Interpreter, computerised translation, or other forms of support.

The research team also recognises that participants who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, or people from culturally or linguistically diverse background, may also require interpreters and support workers who are able to provide support in an appropriate language and cultural framework.

The research team encourages participants to let us know their disability and/or cultural access requirements when expressing interest in participating in the oral history interviews.

### **What are the possible benefits for me if I take part?**

It is expected that this research project may benefit you directly, but sharing information about your organisation's work in the disability arts archive. The outcomes of the research, however, may also benefit academic researchers and other institutions to gain better understanding of disability arts in Australia.

### **What are the possible risks for me if I take part?**

You should not provide any confidential documents or commercial in confidence documents where you do have the correct consents as required by your organisation or by law to share these documents.

QUT provides for limited free psychology, family therapy or counselling services for research participants of QUT research projects who may experience discomfort or distress as a result of their participation in the research. Should you wish to access this service please call the Clinic Receptionist on **07 3138 0999** (Monday–Friday only 9am–5pm), QUT Psychology and Counselling Clinic, 44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, and indicate that you are a research participant. Alternatively, Lifeline provides access to online, phone or face-to-face support, call **13 11 14** for 24 hour telephone crisis support. If you are aged up to 25, you can also call the Kids Helpline on **1800 551 800**.

### **What about privacy and confidentiality?**

Any data collected as part of this research project will be stored securely as per QUT's Management of research data policy. Data will be stored for a minimum of 5 years, and can be disclosed if it is to protect you or others from harm, if specifically required by law, or if a regulatory or monitoring body such as the ethics committee requests it.

Data collected during this research may be made available to researchers, in anonymised form, for future research projects investigating d/Deaf and disability arts in Australia.

The research project is funded by Australian Research Council and they will have access to the data obtained during the project.

### **How do I give my consent to participate?**

We would like to ask you to sign a written consent form (enclosed) to confirm your agreement to participate.

**What if I have questions about the research project?**

If you have any questions or require further information please contact one of the listed researchers:

**Chief Investigator:** Bree Hadley [bree.hadley@qut.edu.au](mailto:bree.hadley@qut.edu.au)

**What if I have a concern or complaint regarding the conduct of the research project?**

QUT is committed to research integrity and the ethical conduct of research projects. If you wish to discuss the study with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the QUT Research Ethics Advisory Team on 07 3138 5123 or email [humanethics@qut.edu.au](mailto:humanethics@qut.edu.au).

**Thank you for helping with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.**