

SNUFF PUPPETS



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

WE HONOUR AND RESPECT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF COUNTRY. ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE ABORIGINAL LAND.



ARTISTIC REPORT

2025 saw a further deepening of Snuff Puppets roots into the Footscray community and building up of our Drill Hall as an artistic hub for Melbourne's West - a live venue, a shared workshop, a cinema and community hub.

The inaugural Snuff Saloons combined our beloved legacy puppets with variety acts and live music into a new model of performance, connecting a new generation of audience with our work and home.

We presented our first Skullies Cinema and hosted a TILDE Film Festival event on our 10-meter screen, and invited local community in for puppet workshops through Giant Puppets of the West.

Kasper Kills the Flies took us back to Germany for our 13th collaboration with Stefanie Oberhoff and Gütesiegel Kultur, where a sixteen-metre puppet faced down a swarm of flies.

We began a new collaboration with Fast Fashion, co-creating an award-winning new work for the Melbourne Fringe.

Find Your Voice Collective debuted ten new workshop-built giant puppets at Port Fairy Folk Festival, and we presented roaming gigs from Port Adelaide to Geelong, Frankston to Dandenong.

Our puppets joined rallies for trans rights, clean air, safe bike routes and native forests.

We reached over 16,700 audience through 68 live performances, ran five Saloons attracting 1,300 attendees, held workshops hosting 617 participants, and were watched online by 19 million people.

We opened up our space to a growing circle of independent artists who built, rehearsed and performed here, cultivating creativity and facilitating the artistic community to support each other through challenging times.

Also in this year, Creative Victoria ended its decades long operational funding for Snuff Puppets. The cut threatened to destroy what's been built up here by hundreds of artists over 34 years.

Since announcing our de-funding, we've received lots of love, private donations, and positive media, and we stand more determined than ever to keep doing this important work, bringing hope and inspiration by connecting people together in shared artistic experiences.

We thank our artists, board, staff, funders, gig partners, Maribyrnong City Council, Crumpler and Snuff Lovers for making Snuff Puppets possible.

- Co-Artistic Directors Andy Freer & Nick Wilson

ABOUT

SNUFF PUPPETS

Snuff Puppets is a community of Naarm-based artists dedicated to the art and theatre of puppetry.

Since 1992, Snuff Puppets has been unleashing giant puppet spectacles worldwide.

Our work is a collision of sculpture, music and physical theatre.

From our home in the Footscray Drill Hall our artists and works have travelled to festivals in over 30 countries.

Our community People's Puppet Project workshops have created 40 new works.

We love performing for free with non-traditional arts audiences; reclaiming streets and public spaces for art.

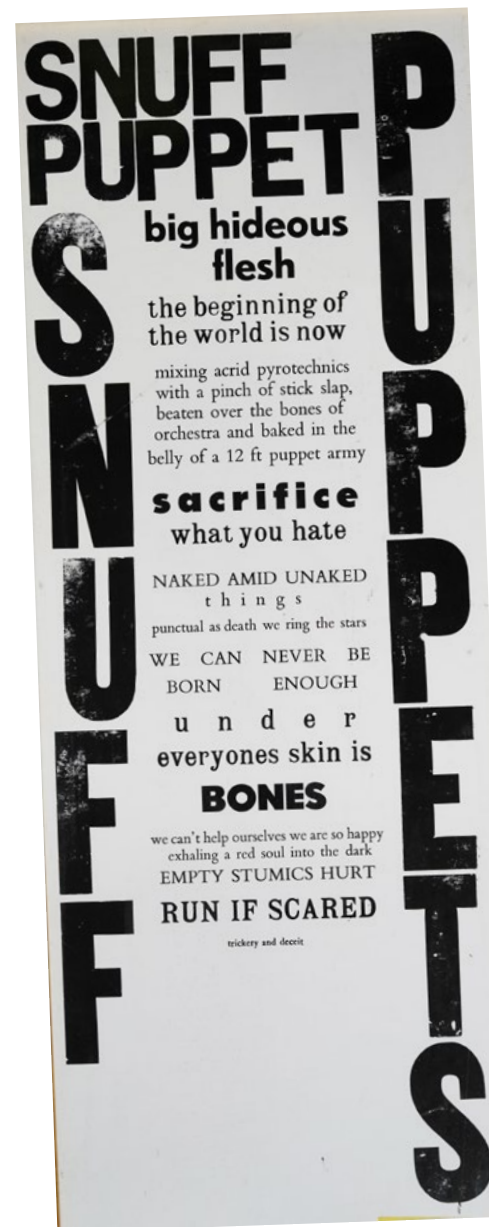
We create giant shows, outdoor roaming acts, community workshops, installations and viral videos.

Snuff Puppets are deliberately anarchic, and rebellious. Our work tackles important, awkward and taboo topics.

We blur the traditional lines between audience and performer; creating other worlds that are unfamiliar, and sometimes uncomfortable and scary.

Snuff Puppets' experimental, handmade and joyful work celebrates the creativity in everybody.

**art for
everyone**



Handprinted poster, circa 1992

***"a mix of wonder,
fascination and awe... and
some fear... so much fun."***
- President of AVAC, Mai Nguyen

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS & SHOWS

GIANT PUPPETS OF THE WEST

Snuff Puppets continued building on their collaboration with Australian Vietnamese Arts and Culture.

More than 100 students, teachers and family members from the Association for Vietnamese Culture Studies in Braybrook attended a community puppet workshop at the Drill Hall, sharing cultural stories and exploring how giant puppets are made.

Participants had the chance to meet the puppets, talk to our puppeteers and discuss ideas for the forthcoming performances in 2026. We commemorated the Year of the Snake by gathering all the children inside our 22-meter Red-Bellied Black Snake's skin, and operating it together.

The event was attended by many Vietnamese community members, and Assistant Federal Treasurer the Hon. Dr. Daniel Mulino who addressed the group.



Footscray Drill Hall

Supported by Creative Australia

SNUFF SALOON





COMMUNITY

SNUFF SALOON

Wild Saturday nights filled our Footscray Drill Hall. First of the month, August to December.

1,300 Saloonatics come to the sold out series — around half from the surrounding suburbs, more than half identifying as LGBTQIA+, and a quarter practicing artists.

Live music and Snuff Puppets performances ran all night across two stages, with bean bag and cabaret seating. Chris Ferric's live drawing was projected above the dancefloor. The Saloon bar featured a Saloonatic mocktail and cocktail.

Tickets prices were kept as low as possible due to the cost of living crisis.

Guest Acts

August: Maria Moles, High Pass Filter, sausage women, Jetstir, Mr. Moonface
September: Sanctum Studio, nū, Dick Threats, Niow, Captain Ruin, Kuya Neil, DJ Mr Geoffrey.
October: Sanctum Studio, Solar

Logos Sect, DJ Emelyne, Ghost, Yumi Umiumare x Rama Parwata

November: Golden Scissor Puppets, Blood of a Pomegranate, Bacchus Harsh, Fat Fruit, Kavil (DJ).

December: BJ Morriszonkle & Nero Friktschn Feuerherdt, Carolyn Connors, Snuff Clubb Band (Carolyn Connors, Andrew Tanner, Renato Vacirca, Erkki Veltheim, James Wilkinson), DJ General Feelings

Snuff Puppet puppeteers: Nick Barlow, Liam Berg, Julian Chapple, Daniell Flood, Chloë Fazikas, Olivia Floate, Andy Freer, Mitch Jones, OPAL, Lachlan Plain, Rebecca Rutter, Nick Wilson. **Saloon Drawings:** Chris Ferric. **Creative Producer:** Annalee Koernig. **Artistic Directors:** Andy Freer & Nick Wilson. **Music Director:** James Wilkinson. **Lights:** Rachel Lee, Nick Moloney, Gina Ramsay. **Promo:** Daniell Flood. **Supported by:** Heaps Normal, Bodriggy, Crumpler. **Thanks:** Gaza Cola, Aheda's Kitchen.





Born In A Taxi



TILDE



Fat Fruit

OUR HOME SNUFF HUBB

We continued to transform the Footscray Drill Hall into a live performance and shared workshop space.

The hall now has two stages, a bar, cabaret seating, forty theatre lights and a Funktion One sound system.

Independent artists hired the space at affordable rates for shows and rehearsals, and used the workshop free of charge to build props and sets. We choose our guests, keeping the hall a home for alternative art rather than commercial events.

Creative producer Annalee Koernig joined us to manage public events in the hall.

Public events:

[Born in a Taxi](#) — artist-run physical theatre company, *No Former Performer Has Performed This Performance Before*

[TILDE](#) — trans and gender-diverse film festival screening with live acts

[Fat Fruit](#) — F**k Christmas fundraiser by the queer and body-positive performance company

Artists hosted:

[sausage women](#) — puppet building, and a completed mentorship funded by Maribyrnong City Council

[Na Djinang Circus](#) — First Nations-led circus company, rehearsal space

[Famous Artist Sebastian Berto](#) — fashion garment making

[Julian Chapple](#) — prop building

[Women's Circus](#) — classes and backstage space

[Memetica](#) — puppet building

[Daniele Poidomani](#) — Crumpler curtains

[James Wilkinson](#) and [Dave Franzke](#) — no-input mixing session, making music from sound equipment's own feedback



Footscray Drill Hall

COMMUNITY

SKULLIES CINEMA

Snuff Puppets partnered with the Sleepless Footscray Festival to present Skullies Cinema — two free film nights at the Footscray Drill Hall.

We screened a dozen of our short films, shot in Footscray and around the world, introduced live by Skullies on our huge 10 meter wide movie screen.

The studio was open for people to walk through and see hundreds of puppets up close.

The nights were free and open to everyone. Films were PG-rated with no dialogue, making them accessible to non-English speakers and deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences.

The nights were an early blueprint for what would become Snuff Saloon.



COLLABORATION **WASTE WORLDS**

Snuff Puppets and Fast Fashun took home 2025's Melbourne Fringe Artform Shaker Award for their collaborative installation *Waste Worlds*.

The two groups joined forces for this accessibility-focused and ecologically conscious interactive work at the Abbotsford Convent Laundry.

The work imagined a future world overtaken by clothing waste, and prioritised embedding access through tactile elements, performative audio-description, and auslan interpretation.

Across three days, 405 participants transformed textile scraps into outfits for a non-stop six-hour runway, under the watch of a gigantic clothing-waste monster.

Presented by Melbourne Fringe.

In Association with Vitae Veritas.

Supported by Melbourne Fringe Radical Access Commission and Yarra City Arts



INSTALLATION COCHLEA

Darebin's FUSE Festival hosted a three-day public showing of our inflatable installation Cochlea inside the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, over three days.

The work filled the main hall, with a steady stream of audience entering the structure to listen to voices of transgender, non-binary and gender diverse locals.

The three roaming puppet Ear Bones enticed public inside the building and the installation from outside in the street, enticing in foot traffic as well as festival crowds.

It was Cochlea's first indoor presentation outside of our own Drill Hall, and looked great under the theatrical lights and soaring ceilings of the NTHAC.



COLLABORATION



KASPER KILLS THE FLIES

COLLABORATION

KASPER KILLS THE FLIES

A gigantic battle for survival.

Flies from all over the world swarm into town — settling on walls, crawling across squares, perching on roofs. The buzz is unbearable.

In response, a sixteen-metre-high Kasper arrives with a giant fly swatter, determined to end the chaos.

What follows is an aerial dance of death with a message of collective resistance. The audience may ask: do we resemble the flies, aiding our own self-destruction?

Kasper Kills the Flies premiered at the Internationales Figurentheater-Festival Erlangen Nürnberg Fürth Schwabach in May 2025, followed by the Moers Festival in June 2025.

The production is a collaboration between Stefanie Oberhoff of Gütesiegel Kultur (Stuttgart) and Snuff Puppets (Melbourne).

Gütesiegel Kultur and Snuff Puppets have worked together for eight years

across 13 productions in Kinshasa, Melbourne, Stuttgart, Wuppertal, Berlin, Münster, Moers, Kraków, Osnabrück, Gdynia, Tennant Creek, Cal Rosal, Tokyo and Erlangen.

Concept / Construction &

Performance: Stefanie Oberhoff, Nick Wilson, Erin Hall, Rebecca Rutter (Fizzy Fingers), Andy Freer, Jule Bröcker, Anne Brüssau, Helga Lázár, Bella Titov, Frederic Ehlers, Pino Lordes Fels, Lal Lucie Keusch, Anne Bellmann, Anni Krausche, Ronja Rienecker, Lucile Hoffmann, Silvan Hahn, Justin Kabangu, Claudia Sill, u. a.

Acrobats: Belina Sörensen, Bella Titov, Till Nollmann

Composition / Live Music: Johannes Werner, Christoph Ogiermann, Mireila Vendrel de Alamo, Huguette Tolinga

Erlangen Choirs: Kantorei St. Matthäus Erlangen, Erlanger Kneipenchor



Internationales Figurentheater-Festival Erlangen Nürnberg Fürth Schwabach

COMMISSION CRUMPLER WOMB

Snuff Puppets completed a commission to design and create a pop-up shop to substitute for their flagship Gertrude St store while it underwent renovations.

Building on a decades-long creative relationship, the two companies collaborated on ideas for a unique and unexpected artistic retail experience, installing the '*Crumpler Womb*' inside a vacant nearby store.

Customers pushed through a double-walled inflatable structure which completely obscured and re-defined the walls of the space, creating a cavern-like bodily atmosphere of saturated red light, in which the bags popped out from the walls under small individual lamps.

WORKSHOP

FIND YOUR VOICE COLLECTIVE

Ten new giant puppets, created with Find Your Voice Collective, made their debut at Port Fairy Folk Festival.

The puppets were designed, built and operated by artists from the collective, a group of artists who identify with disability, based in Warrnambool.

Snuff Puppets worked alongside the group throughout the project, sharing our methods of puppet making and performance.

The result was a rabble of original characters, each one drawn from the imagination of its maker.

The puppets roamed the festival grounds and met audiences face to face, led by the group's iconic trumpet and an original soundtrack composed for the show.





ROAMING GIGS



Beasts of Oz

ROAMING GIGS

Dock Festival

Seagulls, Port Adelaide

Port Macdonnell Bay Festival

Seagulls, South Australia

Moonee Valley Festival

Magpie & Mozzie

Melbourne University Faculty of Fine Arts & Music

Seagulls

Big Picture Fest Block Party

Skullies, Frankston

Melbourne University Health Week

New giant Lungs with smoke joined the Human Body Organs!

Fringe Flavours

Magpie, Lyrebird, Seagulls, Melbourne

Geelong Arts Centre Wonder Children's Festival

Beasts of Oz, Geelong

RMIT City North Shared Futures Festival

Beasts of Oz, Melbourne

Spooktober

Brain & Eyeball, Melbourne

Thick N Juicy

Butcher, Skullies Cow & Guts, Melbourne

Art for Takayna

The giant Koala and Magpie roamed through the Bob Brown Foundation's exhibition at Abbotsford Convent in November as part of Forest Festival Day.

Vespertine Garden

Snail, Dandenong

River Landings Community Event

Joseph Road Precinct Action Group hired the Seagulls, Footscray

COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

Trans National Day of Action

Chris Ferric brought Betty Musgrove's Bunnies to the State Library of Victoria for the rally to protect trans youth. The Bunnies led the crowd in a dance.

Maribyrnong Truck Action Group

Kelly Boom stood with protesters demanding the Westgate Tunnel stacks be filtered for clean air.

Critical Mass Footscray

Two Skullies joined a mass bike ride through Footscray in support of safer bike routes.

March for Forests

Caito Zacharias took three Snuff Puppets to the Bob Brown Foundation's march for native forest protection in Coburg.



March For Forests



Critical Mass Footscray



Filter The Stacks

**19 million
Youtube
views in
2025**

ENGAGEMENT DIGITAL

Million worldwide watched our art work online.

Our award-winning Youtube channel enjoyed 19 million views in 2025, up from 15 million last year.

YouTube subscribers increased by 33,000 to 576,000.

Facebook followers remained steady all year at over 33,000 & Instagram hovered around 28,000.

Our Instagram and Facebook content enjoyed 340,000 views, a 100% increase on 2024.

Snuff Puppets featured on ABC TV's The Art Of..., a series exploring the work of Australian artists and makers. Season 2, Episode 4: [The Inner Child](#). Streaming on ABC iview.



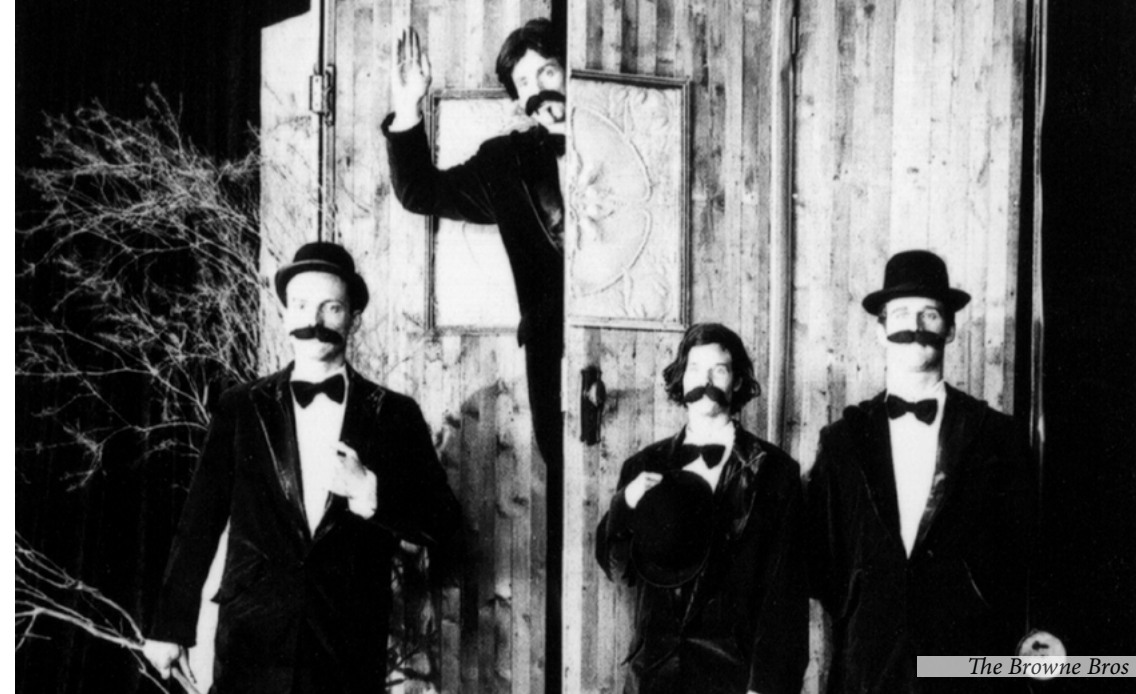
PEOPLE ARTISTS + STAFF + BOARD

Snuff Puppets Artists

Nick Barlow
Liam Berg
Ro Bright
Julian Chapple
Nick Christie
OPAL
Chloë Fazikas
Chris Ferric
Olivia Floate
Erin Hall
Mitch Jones
Lachlan Plain
Aidan 'Jet' Min
Daniele Poidomani
Rebecca Rutter
James Wilkinson
Caito Zacharias

Snuff Puppets Staff

Andy Freer – Artistic Director/CEO
Nick Wilson – Artistic Director
Daniell Flood – Digital Artist/Marketing
Annalee Koernig – Creative Producer
James Wilkinson – Music Director
Hugh Nguyen – Accounts Manager



Snuff Puppets Board

Rose Bruhn – Chair
Richard Dinnen – Acting Treasurer
Ava Pham – Secretary
Ben Anderson
Olivia Blair
Daniell Flood
Andy Freer
Dr Peta Clancy

Snuff Puppets is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, City of Maribyrnong & Crumpler



CREATIVE
VICTORIA



Arts &
Culture





SNUFFPUPPETS.COM