



MEDIA RELEASE:

TERRAPIN JOINS THE NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

Thursday 10 June 2021

Terrapin today announced that it is joining the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework (NPAPF), representing a major increase in the stability of its funding and becoming only the second Tasmanian arts organisation to do so.

‘This is a significant acknowledgement of Terrapin’s contribution to Tasmanian cultural life in our 40th anniversary year,’ Terrapin Chair Fiona Barber said.

‘The funding will allow Terrapin to be even more ambitious in our goals and grow into the next 40 years of delivering world-class puppetry for Tasmanian, national and international audiences.’

The NPAPF will replace the Major Performing Arts (MPA) Framework, which governed funding allocated to a select number of performing arts organisations around the country. Shaped through extensive public consultation, the NPAPF retains elements of the MPA while expanding to include eight new companies, allowing the Framework to more clearly represent artistic knowledge, activity and diversity in artform across Australia.

Terrapin Artistic Director Sam Routledge said being accepted into the Framework demonstrates the unique ability of Terrapin to reach and deliver contemporary art and culture to diverse audiences, particularly families and intergenerational audiences in Tasmania’s regions.

‘It raises the artform of puppetry to sit alongside opera, ballet, contemporary dance, mainstage theatre and classical music in its importance to Australian culture,’ Mr Routledge said.

‘Puppetry has a compelling power in understanding and unlocking our enormous capacity for empathy.’

The company reaches upwards of 15,000 Tasmanian children each year through its annual schools touring program, providing world-class performing arts experiences to children in regional and remote locations. In October 2021, Terrapin will travel to Flinders Island, performing new work *Scaredy Cat* and running shadow puppetry workshops for primary students.

Beyond its island home, Terrapin has significant national and international reach in its touring program.

The company performs at regional festivals including The Unconformity in Queenstown and MONA FOMA in Launceston, Australian international arts festivals like Brisbane Festival and Darwin Festival, and international cultural venues including the Aichi Arts Centre, Japan, the Lincoln Center and Kennedy Center, USA and the Edinburgh International Children’s Festival, UK.

Terrapin is committed to developing and producing dynamic new Tasmanian work, providing a platform for emerging and established local artists and a medium for touring their work nationally and internationally.

It has nurtured writers, such as Trawlwoolway, pakana/palawa playwright Nathan Maynard, to create works written specifically for puppetry, leading innovation and diversity in the artform.



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Terrapin Executive Producer Belinda Kelly emphasised the impact of the announcement for Tasmanian performing arts professionals.

‘This should give further confidence to Tasmanians wanting to pursue a career in the performing arts that the best is yet to come from the arts and cultural output of this state,’ Ms Kelly said.

‘Our sector is growing in confidence and the work that we produce here is as unique as the place it is made in. Just like Tasmanian exports in other industries, the world is looking to us for what we make.’

About the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework

The National Performing Arts Partnership Framework is aimed at developing and rewarding artistic excellence, increasing the creating of new Australian work, developing First Nations arts and improving access to the arts for Australians in regional and remote communities. It provides up to eight years of stable funding for member organisations.

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