

AMY HARDINGHAM

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I have extensive experience in arts for young audiences, arts education and theatre for young people. I have held leadership roles in the small to medium sector (Artistic Director/ CEO of Tantrum Youth Arts and Outback Theatre for Young People) and in a major organisation (Acting Head of Education, Bell Shakespeare). I have delivered national programs for Bell Shakespeare and Australian Theatre for Young People (Regional Manager).

I am a respected member of the cultural sector, recognised for my work in creating and producing performances for young audiences. I have knowledge of, and experience in a wide range of performance genres, and a passion for contemporary theatre for young audiences. The breadth of my knowledge is best exemplified by the range of creative work I have undertaken over the last two years while working as a freelance artist/ arts educator, including:

- For Urban Theatre Projects: Director, UTP Ensemble 2019, assistant director *Talkshow: Hypothetical* for WOWFest Casula 2018
- For Australian Theatre for Young People: Director of Foundation Commission production of *April Aardvark* by Nathaniel Moncrieff 2019
- For Sydney Opera House Creative Leadership in Learning: VR and immersive theatre project, *Underage Learning Perspectives*, with Liverpool Boys HS 2019
- For Bell Shakespeare: Co-director of Bell's production of *Macbeth* for high school students at the Sydney Opera House/ Arts Centre Melbourne 2019
- For Erth/ Chiara Guidi: Collaborator on creative development avant garde children's work *Terra dei Lombrichi* at Carriageworks 2018

I have extensive experience in the preparation and review of grant and funding submissions to support program delivery and development and in collecting, collating, interpreting and reporting on programs, services and income generating activities. I also have experience in fundraising, sponsorship and philanthropy through my role as Community Partnerships Advisor in the Development team at Bell Shakespeare. I am currently working at CreateNSW as an Engagement lead on the Creative Kids Initiative in the Strategic Projects & Engagement team.

I am a qualified Drama teacher who has worked both in schools, and as a University lecturer in contemporary performance. I am a recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts Kirk Robson award in acknowledgment of my leadership in the arts and community cultural development. In 2019, I was appointed to the Theatre Board of CreateNSW by the Minister for the Arts, and was selected to participate in Melbourne Theatre Company's Women in Theatre Leadership program under the mentorship of MTC Executive Director Virginia Lovett.

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

- Strong track record in developing and delivering dynamic and innovative arts programs for children, young people, their schools, families and communities.
- Strong team management skills and leadership experience.
- High-level relationship skills, ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively.
- Superior problem solving and change management skills and experience.
- Excellent stakeholder management and relationship development skills.
- Experience in developing and implementing strategic and business plans.
- Experience in designing and implementing innovative and acclaimed cultural programs.
- Experience in developing and managing network and partnership relationships.
- Advanced skills and experience in report writing.
- Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills.
- Experience in branding, marketing and audience development.
- Financial management skills and ability to generate earned income.

ARTS LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

BELL SHAKESPEARE

Acting Head of Education

2017 - 2018

- Overseeing the delivery of a national in-schools, in-theatres, and online program which reaches 80,000 students each year.
- Managed a small team and worked closely with other departments, including Development, Marketing and Production, and reporting directly to the Executive Director.
- Required to develop and provide high level support with the delivery of a range of learning experiences including workshops, residency, and learning programs for students, teachers and other audiences, and to prepare rosters, plans and schedules for programs to ensure effective, efficient delivery.
- In this role I was required to provide timely, high level advice on the design and delivery of digital learning products, including online teacher resources, a multi-camera livestream of the Education production from the Sydney Opera House to classrooms around the country.
- Highlights include delivering the Regional Teacher Mentorship Program and working with MBA students through UTS Shopfront to develop a strategic plan for the upscaling and national roll-out of the company's Juvenile Justice Program.

TANTRUM YOUTH ARTS

Artistic Director/ CEO

2013 - 2016

- Responsible for delivering four acclaimed annual Artistic Programs featuring a strong focus on high-quality contemporary theatre created by professional artists in collaboration with young and emerging artists.
- Highly relevant and innovative programming characterised by site-specific work, local stories, and dynamic community partnerships.
- Responsible for developing and maintaining an annual Sydney tour for one of the company's projects through relationships with atyp and PACT.
- Responsible for leading a highly successful team of six part-time staff, and working closely with a voluntary Board comprising professionals from finance, law, communications, HR, education and arts backgrounds.
- Responsible for developing and maintaining a wide variety of highly productive strategic partnerships with Local Government (Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Central Coast, Singleton), businesses, schools, and community service providers.
- Responsible for financial management. Successfully navigated Tantrum through a challenging period (company lost Australia Council funding in 2012) by restructuring the company, diversifying funding sources, tightening budgets.
- Responsible for a highly successful re-brand and repositioning of the company through successful communications, marketing, audience development and public relations strategies followed through with quality artistic programming.
- Responsible for grants, fundraising, sponsorship and generation of earned income (50% grants, 30% earned income and 20% fundraising, donations).

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Regional Manager

2008 - 2009

- Responsible for overseeing the creative direction and logistical implementation of the company's national regional outreach program.
- Managed a wide range of contracted artists and community partnerships.
- Managed on-the-ground delivery of long-term community-based projects with public performance outcomes in Tennant Creek, NT, and Palm Island, QLD.

OUTBACK THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Artistic Director/ CEO

2004 - 2008

- Responsible for the design and implementation of four highly successful annual artistic programs creating and producing theatre in collaboration with a range of contracted professional artists, community organisations and schools, and in a variety of diverse, non-traditional performance spaces.

- Responsible for developing and expanding relationships with industry partners and significantly increasing funding levels and diversifying funding sources.
- Key achievements include building a Board and incorporating OTYP in 2006 and developing and implementing the OTYP “Creative Producer/ Artistic Directorate” model in 2008, which has ensured sustainability.
- Responsible for developing, commissioning, directing, producing and touring Eyes to the Floor by Alana Valentine, which was developed over two years in collaboration with survivors of the notorious Hay Institution for Girls. The production premiered in the grounds of the Hay Gaol before touring to Griffith Regional Theatre.

EDUCATION & ARTS EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Drama Teacher, Newtown High School of the Performing Arts 2023 -
Drama, Film Studies and English Teacher, Mosman High School 2020 - 2022

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Teaching Artist, Creative Leadership in Learning Program 2019

- Facilitation of Teacher Professional Learning programs for School Leadership teams. These are ten-day “labs” which focus on applying the SOH Creative Learning Framework to teaching programs across the curriculum.
- Teaching Artist in Residence at Liverpool Boys High School. Project outcomes: meaningful Professional Learning for the teacher, with a focus on creative learning strategies, storytelling skills and creative project management; the establishment of a VR Studio at the school; the piloting of a PBL learning model for Years 7-10; and a high quality public outcome presented at the Sydney Opera House Amplified Festival.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Lecturer and Tutor, Creative and Performing Arts 2017 & 2018

- Lecturer and tutor for CAPA1020 An Introduction to Drama and Performance, CAPA1001 Creative and Performing Arts 1, CAPA2001 Creative and Performing Arts 2.
- The courses focused on contemporary live arts practice in the creative and performing arts – blending theory and practice in the student learning experience.
- Received student satisfaction on course rating of 4.5/ 5.

AUSTRALIAN THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Teaching Artist 2010 - 2012

Key teaching artist on a diverse range of theatre, writing and film programs including:

- Creative Thinkers Ensemble,

- Acceptance Mixed Abilities Young Adults Ensemble,
- Australian Business and Community Network Program,
- Australian Indigenous Mentorship (AIME) program

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- **Bell Shakespeare** (Community Partnerships Advisor, Development team - 2018- 2019)
- **Playwriting Australia** (Artistic and strategic support, grant writing, 2019)
- **Giant Dwarf** (Producer, *The Checkout* for Schools, 2017 - 2018)
- **Legs on the Wall** (Consulting, 2018)
- **UTS Shopfront** (Communications Officer, 2017)
- **Sydney Story Factory** (Mission Control and Volunteer Manager, 2017)
- **Seymour Centre** (Grant writing, 2016-2018)
- **Bighart** (Associate Producer, Namatjira project, grant writing, 2012)
- **Sydney Writers' Room** (Founder and Administrator, 2011)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- Appointed by the Minister for the Arts to the CreateNSW Theatre Board, 2019.
- MTC Women in Theatre Leadership Program 2019 - mentor Virginia Lovett.
- Recipient of a Skills Development grant from the Australia Council for the Arts, 2019.
- Volunteer Primary Ethics Teacher, Darlington Public School, 2017-2019.
- Board Director, Outback Theatre for Young People, 2009-2016 (Chair 2010-2012).
- Recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts Kirk Robson Award, 2009.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **Bachelor of Arts** (Performance Studies & History), University of Sydney, 2002.
- **Graduate Diploma in Arts Management**, University of Technology, Sydney, 2003.
- **Graduate Diploma Education** (Secondary - Drama), Charles Sturt University, 2008.