

National Cultural Policy Submission

1470038

Public

Organisation

Underground Theatre Company



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Underground Theatre Company is one of three remaining student theatre companies left in Queensland based out of UQ. We produce contemporary Australian pieces of theatre for a primarily university age demographic with the help of first time creatives who we train on the job.

The training we offer through our productions is critical for students in Brisbane now that the majority of tertiary institutions have gutted their performing arts programs. Universities are making these decisions based off of poor enrolments in courses which can be traced back to the decrease in senior high school students taking performing arts subjects. The secondary level down take is due to poor scaling of arts subjects within the ATAR system. If we can fix this flawed ATAR system then we will be able to boost admissions at a tertiary level and restore critical degrees such as technical production (offered exclusively by QUT up until 2024). Technical production graduates will be the most in demand for the Brisbane Olympics in 2032 and without them the event will not be able to go ahead.

Student theatre companies like ours are demanding our performing arts faculties to do more to protect what little practical training remains but this is decided by neoliberal university executives who treat our art like a commodity and not as a force for change in our world.