

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

Rob Scott



Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

I am 74 years old. I have worked for many years in the arts, firstly as a student of the visual arts and music, then I became a film maker and ran an independent production company and music recording studio. Following my interest in documenting youth causes I made a film with the Flying Fruit Fly Circus and settled in Albury Wodonga. Here I was involved with the regeneration of The Murray River Performing Group and the genesis of HotHouse Theatre. I retired after nearly 20 years as Technical Operations Manager at HotHouse but have remained active in projects of interest, mainly as a lighting designer and Production Manager.

I worked my arse off as HotHouse Theatre rose to great heights and created a new way of running a highly successful regional theatre company. The trajectory of the company's success was remarkable, and its work has been acknowledged as ground-breaking. During the growth phase, government and other financial support, as a supplement to generated box office and other income, was mostly sufficient to keep the company afloat, The company has found it more and more difficult over the past ten years or so to attract funding and also (especially through the Covid Period) to attract audiences.

My submission is simple:

1. Please consider restoring an ongoing level of funding to HotHouse Theatre so that it can revive its creativity and restore its position as an iconic regional theatre company.
2. Have you considered the option of offering a tax benefit for investment in new Australian theatre productions? I was involved in a number of film productions during the late 1970's that were made possible under the 10Ba tax incentive scheme. I am sure one of the biggest difficulties of raising finance for new productions could be overcome if such a scheme was introduced.

Thanks for your consideration

Rob Scott